

Organ Recitals at St Chad's Cathedral every Thursday through summer : 40-minute Organ Recitals every Thursday 1 August to 5 September at 1:15pm. Hosted by Thursday Live. Featuring an array of organists. All welcome.

Oscott College Tours Return: St Mary's College, Oscott is happy to announce the return of its popular College Tours. Take a walk through the public halls of the college, visit the chapel, library and newly renovated museum and finish with homemade cake and a cup of tea. Tickets are £15 per person. Want to take things at your own pace? Why not visit us on one of our free-flow afternoons. Take in all the public areas and talk to our friendly volunteers who are on hand to answer any of your questions. Take a few minutes to sit and admire the peace and beauty of the chapel or take the time to discover more in our new exhibition. Tickets are £8 per person.

Warm Welcome every Tuesday

The Erdington Abbey have a Warm Welcome every Tuesday 11am-2pm at the Parish Hall : Everybody is welcome to come for refreshments, sandwiches and lunch and access food parcels when available. There is also a craft group, fortnightly chair pilates and occasional benefit/energy advice and art classes. There is no charge for this, only a donation asked if possible.

Our Cluster Mass Tuesday 17th September: Things to do! Church cleaning-inside and out- Altar servers-Flowers- Choir/Music/Refreshments/Childrens Liturgy to do offertory?- Which jobs may you be able to assist with? See Sue to put yourself forward. Thank you in advance.

Gospel Reflection for Sunday September 15th 2024, 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Mark 8:27-35

This Sunday's reading, at the halfway point of Mark's Gospel marks a turning point in Jesus' ministry. In what seems a blinding moment of insight, Peter acclaims Jesus as the Messiah and then, almost immediately, forgets what he said and begins to argue with him!

From this moment on Jesus speaks more and more about his mission ending in suffering and death, while around him opposition to his mission hardens and grows. What I think we are witnessing here is a change happening within Jesus. It is always a mistake to imagine that Jesus always knew exactly who he was or that, from the start, he understood the implication of his mission to preach the Kingdom of God. If we believe that Jesus was 'fully man' then we accept that as he grew and worked his knowledge and self-awareness grew and developed. With development of any kind comes questions, doubts and fears, and the Gospels never shy away from acknowledging that Jesus had these. At the start of his ministry Jesus was known primarily as a miracle worker and storyteller. His miracles were met with wonder and his stories and parables, taken from nature and the ordinary experience of people, were easily understood and well received. His companions were upbeat, enjoying success and approval. When Jesus sent them out in pairs to the towns and villages he planned to visit, they returned with great joy, recounting the welcome they received and the success they had.

However, in his times of prayer and reflection, early in the mornings or when he 'escaped' alone into the hills, something was changing within him. His own relationship with the Father began to reveal a 'Kingdom of God' that looked very, very different to what was expected. His 'new' awareness was of a Kingdom marked by peace and forgiveness rather than judgement and punishment of enemies. His awareness was of a Kingdom where everyone was invited and everyone was equal, rather than a Kingdom centred on Jerusalem and Temple worship.

His growing awareness was that the 'Messiah' would not lead armies into battle, but would reveal a God of Love, gentleness and forgiveness. His growing awareness was that the 'Messiah' was for the whole world – Jews, yes, but also Samaritans, gentiles, the poor, the sick, sinners, the excluded, the despised. This awareness was as new for Jesus as it was for anyone else. He was, we must remember, a man of his times, a committed and practising Jew, educated in the Law of Moses and the teaching of the Prophets, and he too grew up expecting the Messiah to come in power and glory, leading armies of angels into battle against God's enemies. It must have taken time, prayer and reflection, as well as fears, doubts and questions before he realised that the Kingdom he saw within himself was the true Kingdom of God and that he had no option but to preach it, and keep preaching it, come what may. Possibly the stories in the Gospels telling of the temptations of Jesus, the Father speaking to him at his baptism and again at the transfiguration, give us tiny windows into this inner life and growing awareness within Jesus.

Without doubt he would have turned to his closest friends to share something of what was happening within him. We know that he often took his apostles away by themselves to teach them, share his vision of the Kingdom of God with them, and also seek their support, companionship and understanding. At the transfiguration he took his three most trusted friends, Peter, and the brothers James and John with him up the mountain. During the 'agony in the garden', on the evening of his arrest, the same three friends are there with him – though sadly asleep! Is not the fact that they were asleep while he agonised about his fate a clue that they did not really understand the urgency or the implications of what was happening? And is not the confrontation between Jesus and Peter in this week's Gospel not a clear sign that Peter simply did not 'get' what Jesus was saying. Jesus statement, "...You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." is doing no more than stating the reality and the frustration of Jesus with his closest companions. It would be easy to criticise or condemn Peter's (and the others) lack of understanding and empathy. However, the 'new' reality Jesus was talking about; the 'new' Kingdom of God being revealed to the world was truly mind-blowing. Jesus was telling them that everything they expected to happen, everything they expected the Kingdom of God to bring them, was wrong! ... and ... and they were being asked to believe this based only on what Jesus was telling them. Is it any wonder that the Gospels tell us over and over that it was only after the Resurrection that his followers began to understand what he was saying to them?



Parish of St. Gerard, Castle Vale
(Part of the Erdington Cluster which includes The Abbey, St Peter and St Paul's
and St Mary and St John's)
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TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it."

Mark 8:35

Mass Times

Sunday 15th September
Twenty Fourth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am

Monday 16th September

No Holy Mass

Tuesday 17th September

Funeral Mass of Michael Patrick

Doyle RIP 11.30am

Cluster Mass 7.00pm

Wednesday 18th September

Mass 10.00am

Thursday 19th September

Mass 9.00am

Friday 20th September

School Mass 9.00am

Saturday 21st September

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 22nd September

Twenty Fifth Sunday of

Ordinary Time

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am



Parish Mission Statement

We, the members of St Gerard's R.C. Church, are baptised in Jesus Christ, empowered by the spirit, nurtured in community, and nourished by prayer, word, and sacrament. Therefore, for the greater glory of God, we proclaim for all people the saving message of the Gospel, and joyfully share our time, talent, and resources, in works of mercy and justice, both within and beyond our parish community.

Parish Pastoral Council.

Thank you to those who have come forward to offer their time to take up a position on the Parish Pastoral Council. The first step is for me to collect contact details i.e. telephone numbers and email addresses of those that have agreed to serve on the council and then I will share some information and gather suggestions for a date/time for our first meeting.

Please provide your details to me if you feel that I may not already have them. I will be lurking after Mass today and next Sunday so can collect them then. I hope that we will be able to hold our first meeting before the end of September

Popes Intentions for September: We pray that each one of us will and take to heart the cry of the earth and of victims of natural disasters and climatic change, and that we all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 17th September Mass 7.00pm- First Erdington cluster Mass here at St Gerard's-See overleaf how you may be able to help us get ready for this Mass! Please support your parish with your attendance.

Friday 4th October Mass 7.00- Cluster Mass at St Mary and St Johns, Erdington. 6.30pm Rosary and 8.00pm healing prayers.

Saturday 5th October at 12noon, St Chad's Cathedral: Altar servers and their families are invited to join this year's annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Guild of St Stephen.

Wednesday 16th October Mass 7.00pm- Feast of St Gerard- Mass here at 7.00pm- we have invited our cluster parishes to join us for this celebration so we hope as many parishioners as possible are able to join us.

Thursday 21st November 7.00pm Mass at SS Peter and Paul, Erdington

Thursday 20th December 7.00pm- Cluster Mass at Erdington Abbey

Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: **Michael Patrick Doyle:** Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

The sick: Sarah Purcell, Theresa Floyd, Pat Bonner, Kath McMullen, Margaret Ludlow, Rose Cogan, Andrew Trueman, Eileen Morrissey, Frances Irwin, George Irwin, Debbie Johnson and all the sick priests of the diocese. May the Lord grant them the healing they require.

Mass Intentions: on behalf of a family member, a friend or a deceased loved one, to remember a birthday or anniversary, envelopes are available at the back of church or email Fr Mathew.

Offertory

8th September 2024

GA £64.00

NGA £32.96

Catholic Ed £19.43

Attendance: 69