

**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.

#### **Gospel Reflection for Sunday September 22nd 2024, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Mark 9:30-37**

In this Gospel passage, Jesus teaches his disciples about true greatness. He tells them that whoever wants to be first must be the servant of all. He then places a child in their midst, showing them that welcoming the least among them is welcoming Him.

The Gospel challenges us to put others first. By serving and loving others selflessly, we follow His example and live out our faith. Instead of seeking power or status, Jesus calls us to serve others, especially those who are in need. This lesson on humility and service is fundamental to us. Serving others with humility, we follow the teaching of Jesus with a genuine care and love for others. Jesus shows us that real greatness is the act of serving others, especially those less fortunate.

Jesus' example of welcoming a child teaches us about humility and trust. Humility is different from timidity or lack of self-esteem. A person who is generous with his or her time and talents can still be humble if they recognize that all that they have comes from God. We are called to have faith like children, trusting God completely and welcoming others with love. This is how we live out our faith.

Let us pray that we can be humble, to serve others with love and to become more like children in our trust of God. True greatness lies in serving others.

**"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me."**

When he was just 4, Hussein Abdi Kahin's father was killed in mass genocide in Somalia. Separated from his mother, he was illegally trafficked to the UK aged 9 to work as a domestic servant. Fostered after starting school, his talent for athletics was spotted and nurtured, leading to multiple Olympic gold medals and other success. We know him as Mo Farah.

Waheed Arian was born in Afghanistan under Soviet occupation. Seriously ill as a child refugee in Pakistan, a doctor's lifesaving treatment inspired him to study medicine. Fleeing civil war he came to the UK aged 15, working and studying to gain a place at Cambridge University. He qualified as a doctor, works in the NHS and has founded a charity to support medical work in conflict zones.

Alan Kurdi was born in Syria during the Civil War. His family moved many times trying to escape the conflict. His final journey was in an overcrowded rubber boat, which capsized in the Mediterranean. He drowned aged 2 years and 2 months. Photographs of his lifeless body washed up on a beach became worldwide news.

UNICEF estimates there are over 10 million child refugees. For some their journey has a happy ending. But not for many others. Last year nearly 50 children drowned every month making the same perilous journey as Alan across the Mediterranean.

May all refugee children find a place of peace and happiness, where they can develop to fulfil their potential and make their contribution to the wellbeing of our world.

*Lord Jesus, may our world heed your words. May all refugee children be welcomed. Amen.*

#### **Jobs and Volunteering**

##### **Opportunities with the Archdiocese and other organisations**

##### **Holy Trinity and Sacred Heart Catholic Parishes, Sutton Coldfield - Parish Administrator/Finance Officer**

- To support and carry forward the day to day administrative / financial tasks from the Parish Priest
- To assist in the development of the Parish office and the creation of an administrative structure relating to the parish and the Parish Priest's/Clergy's work schedule
- To provide a central focal point for the overall administration and finances of the Parish, and to be a conduit for information gathering.

Application deadline: Friday 27 September.



**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)  
part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham—Registered Charity No. 234216  
**Parish Priest:** Father Mathew Pinakkattu: 07788790928 **Email:** [stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk)  
**Presbytery:** 2 Renfrew Square, Castle Vale, Birmingham B35 6JT **T:** 0121 747 7390  
**W:** [www.stgerardschurch.co.uk](http://www.stgerardschurch.co.uk)



## TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 Year B Volume 2 Page 133

*O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life.*

### Mass Times

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**  
**Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary**  
**Time**

*Confession 9.30am*

*Mass 10.00am*

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

*Mass 10.00am*

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September**

*No Mass*

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September**

*No Mass*

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September**

*Mass 10.00am*

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September**

*School Mass 9.00am*

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

*Mass 5.00pm*

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September**

**Twenty Sixth 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.

Tuesday evening we shared a historic Mass with our neighbouring parishioners. The first Erdington cluster Mass hosted by us here at St Gerard's. We did ourselves proud. Thank you to all those who cleaned, prepared and served at this Mass. Please note the dates below for the upcoming cluster Masses. It would be great if we could support those parishes as they did for us on Tuesday.

As we reflect on today's Gospel reading, what would be your answer be to "How can I serve others today and in the future?". Could it be becoming more active in the running of our Parish? See Sue if you were willing to take on any small item. More hands make light work as they say!

***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:

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

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> November 7.00pm Mass** at SS Peter and Paul, Erdington

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm-** Cluster Mass at Erdington Abbey

**Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they 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

15<sup>th</sup> September 2024

GA	£59.00
NGA	£57.91
Catholic Ev	£35.00
100 club	£150.00
Piety	£32.00
Attendance:	65