

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.

Based on the gospel for Sunday 29th September, Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mark 9: 38-43,45, 47-48

"Anyone who is not against us is for us.

The disciples are indignant – someone “who is not one of us” has been casting out evil spirits in the name of Jesus. Surely he must be stopped! Jesus is quick to contradict them and in doing so shows us that we must be open to seeing God at work through those different to us, rejecting any form of “us” and “them” that brings only division and fragmentation.

There are many challenges our global family faces: inequality, racism, poverty and the climate crisis. It can be hard to know where to start. Today's gospel reminds us that we are not asked singlehanded to solve everything, but simply to respond to the needs we see before us. A cup of water offered may seem insignificant but, Jesus tells us, will not go unnoticed or unrewarded. When we join our efforts with those of others, we can respond with compassion to the needs of our global family and begin to build a more just world.

As we approach Family Fast Day next Friday, let's remember that God's Spirit is at work today, perhaps in unexpected places, and together we can make a real difference.

Prayer

God of unity, You have made us one family, sharing one common home. Help us to value the gifts of each person, turning away from conflict and division, to seek the peace and justice of your reign. **Amen.**

World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees: Sunday 29 September - God walks with His people

Pope Francis asks all of us to walk TOGETHER, with the most vulnerable, with Jesus.

All people of goodwill are invited to organise initiatives with migrants, refugees, vulnerable people World Day of Migrants and Refugees

The message from Pope Francis is clear as we mark this year's World Day of Migrants and Refugees; we, as Catholics, must welcome them. The theme of the special day this year is 'God Walks With His People' and we are challenged to join Him in this walk. I say 'challenged' because it is countercultural in our society at the moment to say that we welcome migrants.

Despite our rich history of benefiting from immigration, the rhetoric of politicians and commentators with the race-to-the-bottom legislation of recent years has led to a general belief that migrants are something sinister to be feared; this day reminds us that this is not the case. Migrants, refugees and other sanctuary seekers are our sisters and brothers, our neighbours and our friends. They are the very people that the Gospels tell us to welcome, to clothe, to visit, to feed, not to ignore, revile and resent. We must not be convinced to ignore this fundamental Gospel message by the messaging in the media.

In the Archdiocese of Birmingham we are honoured to have the opportunity to welcome people from all over the world. The Archdiocese supports various projects to show this welcome through practical assistance, such as Brushstrokes Community Project in Smethwick, St Chad's Sanctuary in central Birmingham, community resettlement schemes across the diocese and the newly formed Refugee Forum through Father Hudson's Care.

You can answer the call of Pope Francis to 'walk with His people' by supporting these projects, either financially or practically, by volunteering or promoting their work. Find details of all the projects on the Archdiocesan website.

Abigail Martin, CEO St Chad's Sanctuary



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 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven.

Mass Times

Sunday 29th September
Twenty Sixth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Confession 9.30am
Mass 10.00am for Prosper
Pidowe RIP

Monday 30th September

Mass 10.00am

Tuesday 1st October

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 2nd October

Mass 10.00am

Thursday 3rd October

Mass 10.00am

Friday 4th October

Mass 10.00am

Cluster Mass St Mary & St John
7.00pm

Saturday 5th October

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 6th October

Twenty Seventh Sunday of

Ordinary Time

Confession 9.30am
Rosary 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 for

Popes Intentions for October: We pray that the Church continues to sustain in all ways a synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 4th October Mass 7.00pm- Cluster Mass at St Mary and St Johns, Erdington. 6.30pm Rosary and 8.00pm healing prayers. Please try to attend part or all of this evening's events supporting our cluster parish.

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.

From Sunday 6th October- Month of October- Rosary at 9.30am before Mass @ 10.00. Fr will lead this on the 6th, 13th and 20th. As Fr will not be here on 27th please arrange for someone to lead.

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

Today there is a second collection for Fr Hudson's Care- that should have taken place last week to accompany the Archbishops letter.

Next week there will be a collection for CAFOD Family Fast. Please take an envelope from the back of church.

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 22nd September 2024

GA	£62.00
NGA	£ 90.02
Catholic Ed	£8.00
FHC	£8.00
Baptism	£90.00
Attendance:	54