

**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 6 October, Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mark 10:2-16**

"Anyone who doesn't welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

The disciples try to keep the children from "bothering" Jesus. At that time, and still now in some places, children were considered less important; often overlooked and unheard. Jesus, though, does not view the children as an interruption or an annoyance. Rather, he welcomes them, embraces and blesses them as precious in God's eyes. As Jesus welcomes the children, he also has a clear message for the surrounding adults - the kingdom of God belongs to these very little ones you are dismissing.

Children have a gift of reminding us how to live in the world with simplicity, trust and wonder. In their openness and joy, they point towards the love and compassion of the coming kingdom of God.

Today is Family Fast Day, an opportunity to open our hearts to all our sisters and brothers in need. As we reflect on today's gospel, let's ensure we join Jesus in valuing the marginalised and excluded, and let's work to create a better future for children today.

#### **Prayer**

Father of all, we pray for children, across the world, made in your image and precious in your sight. Together may we build a world where all can flourish, be included and find joy.

#### **Amen.**

Most people will be familiar with the readings this week. The first reading from Genesis declares that God does not want man to be alone, so He creates Eve as a partner for Adam. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus responds to the Pharisees' question about divorce by emphasizing the sanctity and permanence of marriage. While both readings clearly affirm the sacredness of marriage, they also carry profound meaning for those who are single, priests, or consecrated religious.

For those not called to the vocation of marriage, these readings point to the deeper spiritual reality that we are all made for communion — not just with another human, but with God Himself.

In Genesis, the union of man and woman reflects the completeness that human beings seek. However, for those called to priesthood, religious life, or to be single, the longing for communion is fulfilled not in earthly marriage, but in a unique and profound relationship with God. Just as marriage reflects the love between Christ and His Church, the celibate life reflects the undivided devotion to Christ as the Bridegroom. Those who choose a life of celibacy embody a spiritual marriage, where Christ is the center and source of fulfillment.

For those who are not married, the invitation from Christ in Mark's Gospel is a call to reflect on how love and service are lived out in different ways. Priests and nuns, for example, are called to live out their vocation in self-giving love for the Church and the world; their lives echo the sacrificial love of Christ. For those who are single, whether by choice or circumstance, the Gospel and Genesis together offer reassurance that their lives are no less complete or meaningful. Being single offers opportunities to cultivate a deep relationship with God, to discover His unique call, and to engage in the work of the Kingdom in ways that may not be possible within the context of marriage.

Like those called to religious life, single laypeople can find joy and purpose in a life of service, prayer, and community, rooted in the love of Christ. Ultimately, both the married and the unmarried, the priest and the nun, are united by the same mission — to love God and others fully in whatever way they are called. The first reading from Genesis reminds us that it is not good for anyone to be isolated, and even those who are single are never truly alone, for they belong to a larger spiritual family. Whether through marriage or through celibacy for the Kingdom, all are called to relationships that give life and bear witness to the love of God in the world.

Both Mark's Gospel and the first reading from Genesis invite each one of us, regardless of our state in life, to reflect on how we are called to live in communion with God and others.

The core message is that we are each called to love, serve, and be united with God in a way that reflects His divine plan for humanity.



**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  
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**TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**6<sup>th</sup> October 2024 Year B Volume 2 Page 140**

Lord continue to bless our community in this time of transition. Help us on our journey to grow from a maintenance church to a missionary church. Give us the courage to be missionary disciples. Make our doors wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship; narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and prejudice. Kindle in us the fire of your love that all who come here will find joy, peace and love. Make this a house of prayer and a gateway to your kingdom.

**AMEN**

**Mass Times**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

**Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Rosary 9.30am*

*Mass 10.00am for Brendan*

*Michelle Duffy RIP*

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October**

**Memorial of Our Lady of the**

**Rosary**

*Mass 10.00am*

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October**

*Mass 10.00am*

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October**

**Feast of St John Henry Newman**

*No Mass*

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October**

*Mass 10.00am*

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

*School Mass 9.00am*

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October**

*Mass 5.00pm*

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

**Twenty Eighth Sunday of**

**Ordinary Time**

*Rosary 9.30am*

*Mass 10.00am for Michelle Bird*

*RIP (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)*



**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.

Well done to all those Altar Servers who represented our Parish so beautifully yesterday at the Mass of Thanksgiving of The Guild of St Stephen at St Chads Cathedral. We hope that the children got to feel part of the larger family of Altar Servers across the Birmingham Diocese and learn more about the Guild of St Stephen. We look forward to presenting those eligible with their bronze medals at the St Stephens day Mass this year.

*Thankyou to those parishioners that were able to attend the cluster Mass at St Mary and Johns on Friday evening, representing our parish. We hope that you enjoyed the opportunity to share Mass with our cluster parishioners and look forward to the next Mass on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November at St Peter and Pauls at 7.00pm.*

**Dates for your diary:**

**Month of Our Lady of The Rosary October 2024- October is a month dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. The Rosary is a pattern of prayer popular among Christians. At heart it is a series of meditations on some aspects, or mysteries, of the life of Jesus Christ and Mary, His mother. Rosary at 9.30am before Mass @ 10.00. Fr will lead this on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. As Fr will not be here on 27<sup>th</sup> please arrange for someone to lead.**

**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

**Last Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October was CAFOD'S family fast day. Today there will be a collection for CAFOD Harvest Fast. Please take an envelope from the back of church for your donations.**

**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.

**Offer 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**To Be Announced**

**Attendance: 51**