

**Missio**-Next Sunday there will be a second collection for Missio. Since 2019 we as a parish have generously supported Missio with annual collections and the collections made through the red boxes. We collected nearly £3,000 from the red boxes over that 5 years and so although Frances is no longer able to act as Missio treasurer we are keen to continue with the red box collections. Sur has agreed to act as treasurer for now and has recently emptied the boxes that had been brought into church. These are ready at the back of church for collection. If you feel able to take a red box and collect regularly then please see Sue who will be able to assist you. Thank you to all that support the very important work of this charity.

**Based on the gospel for Sunday 13th October, Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mark 10:17-21**

In our first reading from the Book of Wisdom, we see the value of the virtues of Prudence and Wisdom which should far outweigh the value of earthly treasures. We are not to understand that earthly treasures are evil or sinful in and of themselves but are to recognize that they don't really belong to us individually. All good gifts are given to us by God and are to be used by those possessing them for the common good. If we pray for and assimilate the virtues of Prudence and Wisdom, we will come to understand that earthly treasures are gifts from God and are meant by God to test us to see if we will make proper use of those gifts. We are, of course, grateful to God for his many gifts and it is good for us to accumulate enough treasure to provide for ourselves and our families, but we only need so much, and our excess should be put to use on behalf of those less fortunate. So, the "golden thread" that we will see binding our readings together this week is not that wealth is evil, but that detachment from wealth is a virtue and a means of our entering the Kingdom of God. Some are called to renounce all earthly possessions and make vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and put their trust totally in God. Others, who live in the secular world, are called to use earthly treasure as God requires; to provide for themselves and their families and for those less fortunate.

In our Responsorial from Psalm 90, we ask God to: "*Prosper the work of our hands...that we may gain wisdom of heart.*" We ask that the prosperous work of our hands may lead us to the recognition that all good gifts come from God, and that recognition should lead us to the virtues of Prudence and Wisdom. Others, seeing our prosperity Wisdom and Prudence will, hopefully, be converted from love of worldly treasures.

Our second reading from the Letter to the Hebrews reminds us that even the thoughts of our hearts are not concealed from God and "*we must render an account*" to God for the manner in which we assimilate the virtues of Prudence and Wisdom and make proper use of God's generous gifts.

Our gospel passage is particularly interesting because the young man who desired to inherit eternal life could represent many of us. He was a good man who desired eternal life and led a good life. And he recognized the goodness of Jesus who looked at the young man with love, because he had kept the commandments throughout his life. Jesus looks at all of us with love if we truly try to keep to his teaching and abide by the commandments. But Jesus saw something else in this young man that was still necessary. We don't know about the young man's background, but I would like to think that he was in a position where he could renounce his wealth without detriment to his family. Jesus would not ask him to give away his wealth and put his family in poverty. I would like to think that this young man was being called to follow Jesus as an apostle. We don't know the outcome of this story but maybe, upon further reflection, the young man did as Jesus suggested; he gave away his wealth and followed Jesus totally as Peter and the other apostles had done.

But Jesus goes on to say how difficult it is for the wealthy to enter the Kingdom of God because their wealth is their god. It is impossible for that wealthy person to enter the kingdom on his own, but nothing is impossible for God. God may inspire that wealthy person to the virtues of Prudence and Wisdom, as Jesus may have inspired the young man above. God may inspire that person to recognize his possessions as God's gracious gifts and to inspire him to put them to proper use rather than to hoard them for himself.

This was certainly a volatile time in the first century. Many people were coming to believe in the words of Jesus and began to follow him, but many others did not, and there was much dissension within families and communities. Parents were often pitted against their children, brothers against brothers, sisters against sisters. Many who followed Jesus were separated from their families and ostracized from their communities. Many had to ask: Do I give up everything to follow Jesus? Will I no longer have family or any personal possessions? But Jesus assured the apostles that anyone who is separated from family, home, relatives, etc. because he chooses to follow Jesus will have it all restored many times over because his home and his family will now be the church: "*In this present age.*" We have a worldwide home in the church and millions of brothers and sisters. It will not be without turmoil because there will be persecutions, but there will be "*eternal life in the age to come.*"



**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 EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
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**Prison Sunday**

**“ I was in prison and you came to visit me “**

Our prisons are in crisis. There are record numbers of people behind bars. At the same time, too many people are released with no home, no job, no family and no hope. The ripple effect of this crisis is felt well beyond the prison walls. The lives of hundreds of thousands of families and children are affected as they ,too, serve a hidden sentence.

**Mass Times**

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

**Twenty Seventh Sunday in**

**Ordinary Time**

*Rosary 9.30am*

*Mass 10.00am for Michelle Bird*

*RIP (1st Anniversary)*

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October**

*Mass 10.00am*

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October**

*Mass 10.00am*

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

**Feast of St Gerard**

*School Mass 9.00am*

*Mass 7.00pm*

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October**

*Mass 10.00am*

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

*Mass 10.00am*

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October**

*No Mass*

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

**Twenty Ninth Sunday of**

**Ordinary Time**

*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 justice, both within and beyond our parish community.

**Feast of St Gerard- Our Patron Saint- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

School Mass 9.00am and Parish Mass 7.00pm. Please come along and join together as a parish to celebrate the Feast of St Gerard. Our cluster parishioners have been invited and we plan to have light refreshments after evening Mass, If anyone feels able to provide small cakes, biscuits, finger foods etc they would be much appreciated. Let us mark this special day for our parish as we always days with community prayer, worship and thanksgiving.

*Fr Matthew will be on holidays from after Mass on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October until Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November. During this time there will only be Sunday Mass. The Saturday Vigil Mass will resume once Fr Mathew returns. Fr Gerry Lennon has agreed to celebrate Mass on each of the 3 Sundays that Fr Mathew is away.*

**Blessing of the Graves:**

Oscott Cemetery- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 3.00pm

Erdington Abbey- Sunday 3rd November at 1.45 pm

Witton- Sunday 10th November at 2.30 pm

New Hall-Sunday 17th November at 2.00 pm

Rectory Road- Sunday 24th November at 2.00 pm

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

GA	£36.00
NGA	£86.25
Fr Hudson's	£12.00

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

GA	£83.00
NGA	£69.16
CAFOD	£72.00
Votives	£47.50

**Attendance: 58 & 59**

**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.