

New Lectionary-Advent 2024- Taking donations for anyone who would like to contribute to this cost (£695). A label detailing the list of sponsors will be printed in the front of our new lectionary. Thankyou to those that have made very generous offers. We have also had to purchase new mass books to reflect the changes, which we will be doing over a phased period, but this is at a cost of over £2000 in total so any donations really would be really appreciated.

Today Fr Mathew will bless our new lectionaries at the beginning of Mass.

A new Lectionary will come into use in parishes in England, Wales and Scotland from Advent 2024.

The Vatican's Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments gave its seal of approval on a new Lectionary proposed by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales in July of last year.

Published by the Catholic Truth Society (CTS), changes to the new lectionary, which includes the scripture readings for Mass and the sacraments, will see the English Standard Version: Catholic Edition (ESV-CE) of the Bible and the Abbey Psalter replacing the Jerusalem Bible with the Grail Psalms.

Other changes, according to Liturgy Office, will include the provision for Saints who have been inserted into the Universal Calendar since the last Lectionary was published in 1981. There will also be the readings for the National Calendars. In addition, some of the revised liturgical rites, such as Marriage, have additional readings.

The Lectionary is changing as part of the continuing process of revising liturgical translations, notes CTS. The process began with the Roman Missal in 2011 and has continued to work through all the other liturgical rites.

First Sunday of Advent : GOSPEL READING Lk 21: 25-28, 34-36

The readings today mark the beginning of Advent, the time of waiting. The readings talk about the need to be prepared. We believe that Jesus is coming into our hearts and the world. This first week prepares us to be people of hope and believe that darkness will not prevail and that the light of the world will overcome it.

Jesus' words to His disciples in today's passage from the Gospel according to St. Luke speaks of the second coming of the Son of Man and calls us to prepare for His second coming. Jesus insists that His followers should be prepared, remaining awake and vigilant, in order to not be caught by surprise when Jesus returns.

If we are prepared, the return of Jesus will be a joyous day, for on that day our "redemption is at hand." Therefore, the Second Coming is something to look forward to. If we are unprepared, Jesus' return will be the cause of great fear, for it will be the day of our judgment. Therefore, we should focus our lives on what really matters: knowing, loving, and serving God.

Reflection:

If He were to return today, would He find you ready? What needs to change in your life for you to be ready for that encounter? Perhaps this Advent is a time to make those changes.

Statement on Second Reading of Assisted Suicide Bill

Following the decision of MPs to vote in favour of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill at the Second Reading today (29 November), Bishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues, said:

"We are disappointed that MPs have voted in favour of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill progressing through parliament. We believe that this bill is flawed in principle and also contains particular clauses that are of concern. We ask the Catholic community to pray that members of parliament will have the wisdom to reject this bill at a later stage in its progress."

Advent/Christmas Fundraising

CAFOD World Gifts- Please pick up a leaflet showing the wonderful gifts we can buy for someone in this country that benefits someone in another country- remember our World Gift Village from a few years ago? Maybe we could start a new village.

Christmas Bonus Ball draw. Please see Ailish if you would like to take a number.



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
Presbytery: 2 Renfrew Square, Castle Vale, Birmingham B35 6JT T: 0121 747 7390
Web: www.stgerardschurch.co.uk



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Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the Heavenly kingdom.

Mass Times

Sunday 1st December
First Sunday of Advent
Confession 9.30am
Mass 10.00am for Brian
Lightfoot RIP and Special
Intentions

Monday 2nd December
Mass 10.00am

Tuesday 3rd December
Confirmation Mass 6.00pm

Wednesday 4th December
Mass 10.00am

Thursday 5th December
Mass 10.00am

Friday 6th December
School Mass 9.00am

Saturday 7th December
Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 8th December
Second Sunday of Advent
Confession 9.30am
Mass 10.00am for Rev Fr
Michael Knight RIP



Please see the notice board or individual websites for Mass times in our cluster parishes.

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.

🌟 **Christmas Raffle:** Sarita and Bernie have kindly agreed to organise our Christmas raffle again this year. Any donations of bottles, chocolates, small gifts would be very welcome. Please leave these on the back of church over the next few weeks. Raffle tickets will be sold in the two weeks leading up to Christmas. 🌟

1st Sunday of Advent-Sunday 1st December. HOPE: We stay awake, watch and wait, for we do not know the hour or the day of your arrival. **Come, Lord, bringer of hope.** Create in us a desire for a world transformed to reflect your glory. **Come, Lord, bringer of hope.** Lead us in your ways, as together we make a change, to dispel the darkness of poverty. **Come, Lord, bringer of hope.**

About the Season

Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.

About the Readings

Each Gospel reading has a distinctive theme: the Lord's coming at the end of time (First Sunday of Advent), John the Baptist (Second and Third Sunday), and the events that prepared immediately for the Lord's birth (Fourth Sunday). The Old Testament readings are prophecies about the Messiah and the Messianic age, especially from the Isaiah. The readings from an apostle serve as exhortations and as proclamations, in keeping with the different themes of Advent

Confirmation Mass-Tuesday 3rd December. 6.00pm

Fr Knights Anniversary Mass-Sunday 8th December 10.00am

Thursday 20th December 7.00pm Cluster Mass at Erdington Abbey

Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Brian Lightfoot: 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

17th November 2024

Banked £148.56

24th November 2024

Banked £226.74

Next Sunday there will be a second collection for the Poor Parishes of the Diocese.