

PASTORAL: Committee is led by Sue Perkins.

Hospital Chaplaincy: If you or a family member is in hospital and would like a visit by a Priest or Eucharistic Minister, please inform the parish office.

Baptism: A parent of the child to be baptised must be baptised, **attend Sunday Mass regularly** and undertake the preparation meetings. Please see Fr after Mass to discuss your request. You will be required to attend a preparation course before confirming any date for baptism so please bear this in mind in preparing for the child's baptism.

Marriage: Please contact Fr Mathew initially to discuss your request for marriage. This must be done before Fr can agree any dates with you as you may be required to attend preparation classes.

Mass Intentions: If you would like to have a Mass celebrated for a particular intention: on behalf of a family member, a friend, a deceased loved one, to remember a birthday or anniversary, envelopes are available at the back of church.

Communion to the Sick and the Housebound: Please speak to Fr if you know of anyone who is unable to come to Mass and would like to receive Communion.



St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

'We Live, Love and Learn Together with Jesus'

Twitter: @StGerardsBham **School website:**

www.stgerard.bham.sch.uk

Readers Rota: Thank you to both our current readers and those new readers that have offered their service to our parish. A new rota covering January to June 2025 is available on the notice board at the back of church.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION: Sue Perkins:

stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk.

HEALTH AND SAFETY: Hayley Macilwraith

hs.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk.

YOUTH: To be appointed: yth.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk.

Children's Liturgy Leaders and Helpers: Sue, Grace, Will, Annie,

FINANCE/PREMISES: Committee: Fr, Sue Perkins, Sue Byrne and Frank.

SAFEGUARDING: The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies and procedures at all times. Our **Parish Safeguarding Officer** is Hayley Macilwraith who can be contacted on sg.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team on 0121 230 6240 if you have any concerns. **Altar Server Chaperone:** Cynthia Chadzutsa

"On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there."

Today's gospel story tells us something about Mary which may help us. William Barclay once said that, even when Mary did not understand what Jesus was going to do, and it seemed that he had refused her request, she still believed in him so much that she told the serving folk to do whatever Jesus said to them. Mary had a faith which could trust, even when she did not understand or know what Jesus was going to do. In everyone's life come times when we do not understand why something is happening, when we cannot find any meaning in it, or know what to do. Like Mary, may we put our trust in Jesus bringing before him the needs of the world confident in his abundant generosity. And may each of us "do whatever he tells you" Sharing our gifts and God's love with our global family.



Jubilee Year 2025, "Pilgrims of Hope"

The Jubilee Years, also known as Holy Years, started in 1300AD and recall the great jubilee of Israel: a time for land to be rested and debts to be cancelled, when God called people to be reconciled with one another and with Him. They now occur every 25 years, although the next will be 2033 – the anniversary of Christ's death and resurrection and the descent of the Holy Spirit. These Years, the Church explains, are years "of reconciliation between adversaries, of conversion and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, '...and consequently of solidarity, hope, justice, commitment to serve God with joy and in peace with our brothers and sisters'". On Christmas Eve Pope Francis opened the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica in Rome. This was the Solemn Opening of the Jubilee Year which will continue throughout 2025. During this Holy Year we are invited to become Pilgrims of Hope.

Please visit the diocesan web pages for more information and resources for the Jubilee in Birmingham. There are regular events already happening. Website: www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jubilee-year

Walk with Me Prayer: Lord God, our light and our salvation, we praise you for your gifts of life and faith. We thank you for the desire that you have planted in our hearts, our yearning to see your face. Help us to meet you in prayer, to walk in your ways, and to speak to others of our joy and consolation in your presence. Give us faithfulness in this present life so that we may come to know and praise your beauty, with all our brothers and sisters, in the life to come. Amen



Parish of St. Gerard, Castle Vale

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

W: www.stgerardschurch.co.uk



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.

Sunday 19th January 2025 Year C Volume 1 Page 127

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time-Peace Sunday

Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and bestow your peace on our times

Mass Times

**Fr Mathew will be away
from Tuesday until
Saturday evening
therefore please note the
mass times below**

**Sunday 19th January
2nd Sunday in Ordinary
Time**

Confession 9.30am
Mass 10.00am for Michael
Bolger RIP

Monday 13th January
Mass 10.00am

Tuesday 14th January
No Mass

Wednesday 15th January
No Mass

Thursday 16th January
No Mass

Friday 17th January
No Mass

Saturday 18th January
No Mass

**Sunday 19th January 3rd
Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Confession 9.30am
Mass 10.00am

Pax Christi-Peace Sunday

"Forgive us our trespasses: Grant us your peace"

Today we observe the 58th World Day of Peace. Pope Francis' World Peace Day message for this year is rooted in the biblical tradition of the Jubilee. The Jubilee or "acceptable year" was that one year in seven or one in forty-nine, of forgiveness and restoration, when all debts were forgiven, prisoners freed and a sense of community restored. However, it was often a dream rather than a reality.

The Message tells us that the concept of hope and forgiveness are at the heart of the Jubilee, a time for conversion that calls us not to condemn, but instead to bring about reconciliation and peace. We are invited to ask for forgiveness as a means of obtaining God's peace. And, God knows, we have much to be forgiven for. The Pope informs us that it is only from a genuine conversion on all levels- personal, local and international- that true peace will be able to flourish.

In the Bible, the term "conversion" appears over a thousand times and means to turn, return, bring back, restore. It is always specific, a turning away from something towards something else: from injustice to justice, from violence to peace, from darkness to light. And it is always a turning towards God. In the New Testament, it can be understood best in the context of the Kingdom proclaimed by Jesus. So let us turn now and ask for forgiveness.

*Lord God, creator of the universe, forgive us for the damage and destruction we have wreaked upon your beautiful world. **Lord have mercy.***

*Christ, our peace and joy, forgive us for our failure to work tirelessly for peace, justice and reconciliation in the world. **Christ have mercy***

*Lord Jesus, forgive us for the times when we failed to recognise your presence in our lives and tried to work without your help. **Lord, have mercy.***

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 he rest in peace. Amen.

The sick: George Harris, 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.

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Offertory 12/01/25

GA	£31.00
NGA	£74.94
Total	£105.94

**Today there is a second
collection to Pax Christi**