

PASTORAL: Committee is led by Shirley.

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, Sarita,

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.

Parish Council/Pastoral Council: Looking to do more to support our parish with its day to day operations? Maybe 2025 is the year to make that commitment? We will very shortly be establishing our Parish Council and within that a Pastoral Council. It is hoped that with more people willing to take on responsibilities it will make the running of our parish more efficient and lighten the burden on the few that are currently playing very active roles. Sue will initially be approaching the members of the Parish Council with a view to an initial meeting to establish requirements and appoint a Pastoral Lead who will then look to establish the Pastoral Council. Please see Sue or Fr if you think you could get involved?



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 12th January 2025 Year C Volume 1 Page

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

At Baptism, we receive the unmerited grace of God. We remain in God's grace when we lead our lives in submission to God's holy will. At this Eucharist, we pray, that like Jesus, we may constantly listen to the Father's voice and allow ourselves to be led by His Spirit, to live out our baptismal promises with faith, courage, and love.

Mass Times

Sunday 12th January Baptism of the Lord

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am

Monday 13th January

Mass 10.00am

Tuesday 14th January

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 15th January

Mass 10.00am

Thursday 16th January

No Mass

Friday 17th January

School Mass 9.00am

Saturday 18th January

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 19th January

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am

"He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire." *"Seeing and hearing John the Baptist in the wilderness, 'the people were in expectation.' Something new was happening, but the advent of Jesus Christ exceeded and transcended what they had anticipated. In Spes non confundit, the bull of indiction for this Jubilee year, Pope Francis invites us to be Pilgrims of Hope, 'a hope that does not disappoint' (Romans 5:5). In particular, Pope Francis calls us to be signs of hope for prisoners, the sick, the young, migrants and the elderly. As we progress through this new year, we should recall the dignity conferred on us at our own baptisms to be priests, prophets and kings, and remember that we have been empowered: 'He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.' Recalling this, may we use our gifts boldly and discern the ways in which we are called to be signs of hope to those we meet in our own lives. **Prayer:** God of Light, empowered with the fire of your Spirit, may we be signs and bringers of hope in the darkness of our world. **Amen.***

Back in the 1960s in Milan, the council were developing the metro system and were stopped in their tracks. They found an ancient crypt underneath the Cathedral. Among the ruins they found an octagonal shape that can clearly be seen with steps going down one side into what was a pool and with steps going up out of the other side. This was no ancient roman spa bath but a baptistry. In 387 a man called Augustine was baptised by Ambrose: and, of course, we remember that Augustine was 32 years old and how he famously kept delaying his baptism, struggling with a restlessness throughout his life, despite the fervent prayers of his mother, Monica. For those of us who are baptised, even if we were not plunged into the pools in the dramatic style of Augustine, the reality is the same. We entered that same pool of life, history and tradition: the same waters that Jesus entered in at the Jordan. But like those ruins buried deep under il duomo, hidden beneath the great sight of Milan's cathedral, our faith and hope need to be uncovered and renewed. Hope is like the baptistry in Milan. For years it was covered over, but it was always there, waiting to be restored. However, many years it is since our baptism, or if we are awaiting baptism – let us ask God to lift us into the living waters. In this Jubilee year, may God excavate our hope.

Father Ryan Service. Holy Trinity and Sacred Heart, Sutton Coldfield

Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Cornelius O'Regan RIP: Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. 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 5/01/25

GA £103.00

NGA £91.42

Total £194.42

Thank you all for your generosity.