

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: Thankyou 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.

Altar Server Chaperone: Cynthia Chadzutsa **SOCIAL: Committee:** Beulah, Sarita, Bernie, Rosaline and Sue

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? You would be very welcome. We will very shortly be establishing our Parish Council and within that a Pastoral Council which will require a number of volunteers to take on various roles. 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?



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.

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 5th January 2025 Year C Volume 1 Page 115

O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy, that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory.

Mass Times

Sunday 5th January

Feast of the Epiphany

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am

Monday 6th January

School Mass 9.00am

Receiving the body of Cornelius

O'Regan 4.30pm

Tuesday 7th January

Funeral Mass for Cornelius

O'Regan 11.30am

Wednesday 8th January

Mass 10.00am

Thursday 9th January

Mass 10.00am

Friday 10th January

School Mass 9.00am

Saturday 11th January

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 12th January

Baptism of the Lord

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am

Based on the gospel for Sunday 7 January, Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord: Matthew 2:1-12 **"We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage."**

Preaching on the feast of the Epiphany, St Oscar Romero spoke of the Magi searching in the darkness for a mystical light, shining as a sign of God present to all the nations, through his Son who would bring universal salvation and wellbeing. At a time of increasing conflict in El Salvador it was, he said, time to heed Pope St Paul VI's call "No to violence! Yes to peace". Journeying to pay homage to the infant King, the Magi may have followed the path taken by Mary and Joseph from Nazareth. Today this would take them through a land aching under years of conflict, a Holy Land which is not a place of peace. Bethlehem is now partly surrounded by a wall, once depicted by the artist Banksy with Mary & Joseph on one side, the stable with the star above on the other. A wall seen by some as an essential means of protection, by others a sign of occupation and a barrier to freedom. As we witness the latest conflict in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, let us hope that one day the light of true peace and reconciliation may emerge from the darkness of war. May there be peace and justice for all for whom Abraham is one father in faith, in the Holy Land where the Prince of Peace was born, taught, and died for us all.

Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, may your light shine for all the nations, to follow the path to reconciliation and peace. May all people live together in freedom and without fear, walking side by side on the road to Bethlehem and throughout the Holy Land. Amen.

"Do not fear for I am with you" Isaiah 41:10, "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength" Isaiah 40:31, "God works for the good of those who love him" Romans 8:28, "Come to me all who are burdened, and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28, "Take heart, I have overcome the world" John 16:33, "I know the plans I have for you..... plans to give you hope and a future" Jeremiah 29:11.

Jubilee Year 2025, "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

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

1/12/24 £194.86

8/12/24 £362.50

(£95.00 donation)

15/12/24 £164.40

22/12/24 £564.95

(£346.94 Xmas raffle)

29/12/24 £149.07

(£40 donation)

Thank you all for your generosity.