

PASTORAL COUNCIL 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.

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

"With Christ at our side and St Gerard as our guide, we live, love, learn and pray together"

Twitter: @StGerardsBham

School website: www.stgerard.bham.sch.uk

Telephone: 0121 464 2613



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 Council:	
Fr Mathew	Chair stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk
Sue Byrne	Finance Pt.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk
Sue Perkins	Pastoral Lead and Parish Administrator stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk
Hayley Macilwraith	Safeguarding and Health and Safety sg.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk hs.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk
John Wardell	Premises and Facilities. Bm.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk

Thank you to all the Parish Council and Pastoral Council members who have taken up their responsibilities so willingly and started to think about how we can improve and extend our offerings in each of the areas here at St Gerard's. God calls us to be disciples, and this work is a real demonstration of those serving God and the Church. With Lent approaching it is a wonderful time to look forward to the Easter season, with new beginnings and a time maybe for us to make our Lenten promises which may include making extra efforts for serve our church and our community?

Easter Raffle: Sarita and Bernie will be running this lovely raffle again this year. Any donations would be appreciated.

Red Boxes-Missio. For those that haven't had their boxes emptied recently please bring these into church and I will arrange.

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 Pastoral Council Area	Lead	Responsibilities
Leadership	Anna – 07825 738227	Erdington Clustering Parish Register
Service and Stewardship	Shirley Harris-07530 481693	Altar Server Chaperone: Cynthia Chadzutsa Flowers/Altar Cloths, Liturgical Colours, Cleaning, Eucharistic Ministry, Piety, Votive Lights, Remembrance Book
Evangelisation	Sue Perkins-07971 076835	Youth Ministry: yth.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk . – Faith Chadzutsa Children's Liturgy Leaders and Helpers: Sue, Grace, Will, Anna, Sarita Legion of Mary, RCIA, Sacramental Preparation, Vocations- Sue Perkins
Word and Worship	Benedict Chadzutsa-07710474075	Liturgical preparation- readings, bidding prayers, Christmas, Easter, Advent, Lent, Church Anniversaries, Feast Days, Community prayer, Rosary, Stations of the Cross- Ben Chadzutsa Rotas- Yvonne Kinahan Choir- Rosaline Bacchus
Social and Community	Sarita Forrester -07462 876871	Social and Community events, Raffles, Fundraising, Refreshments, Sick List and Visiting the housebound, SVP, Outreach, Pilgrimages

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

The Archdiocese is recruiting for the following four positions:

Operations Director, IT Manager, Finance Manager and Gift Aid Officer. If you think you have the skills, please do apply.



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 9th March 2025 Year C Volume 1 Page

1st Sunday of Lent

Day of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments

Mass Times

Sunday 9th March

First Sunday of Lent

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am with

Children's Liturgy for

George Harris RIP

Monday 10th March

Mass 9.00am

Tuesday 11th March

Mass 9.00am

Wednesday 12th March

Mass 9.00am

Thursday 13th March

Mass 9.00am

Cluster Mass 7.00pm at

St Peters and St Pauls.

Friday 14th March

Lent Fast Day

School Mass 9.00am

Stations of the Cross

6.00pm

Saturday 15th March

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 16th March

Second Sunday of Lent

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am for with

Children's Liturgy



First Sunday of Lent

The annual observance of Lent is the special season for the ascent to the holy mountain of Easter. Through its twofold theme of repentance and baptism, the season of Lent disposes the faithful to celebrate the paschal mystery. The faithful are listening more intently to the word of God and devoting themselves to prayer, are prepared through a spirit of repentance to renew their baptismal promises. We will be providing lots of opportunities for us all to journey through Lent together with Stations of The Cross, Adoration, Reconciliation services and additional confessional dates. Please use these opportunities to make this Lent a fruitful one. Please support our community with these opportunities for us to devote ourselves more to prayer and repentance. Thank you to Ben who has taken up his Parish Council role and responsibilities starting with Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings at 6.00pm during Lent.

Lent is a 40-day fast — a reference to the time Jesus spent being tempted in the desert. It's a time when we can prepare our hearts for the remembrance of Christ's death. Our observance of Lent culminates in the solemn celebrations of Holy Week when on Palm Sunday we follow Christ from his triumphant entrance into Jerusalem to the foot of the Cross as sorrowful bystanders to His Passion, before rolling back the stone of the empty tomb and the joy of the Resurrection.

The six-week period is dedicated to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in preparation for this great celebration of Christ's Paschal Mystery in the Easter Triduum.

Pope Francis. This Thursday 13th March marks the 12th anniversary of the election of Our Holy Father, Pope Francis. Please remember him in our prayers as he remains in hospital.

Upcoming events: St Patricks feast day celebration (singing/dancing/food) Friday 14th March @ St Peter and Pauls Parish Hall. 7.30pm. Tickets £5 adults £2.50 children.

Erdington Cluster Masses

St Mary and St Johns-Friday 30th May @ 7.00pm

The Abbey-Thursday 26th June @ 7.00pm

Upcoming events: Passion Play "Born for this-The way of the Cross" presented by St Edmund Campion school @ The Abbey Church. Monday and Tuesday 7th and 8th April @6.00 pm. No booking required.

Monday 14th April - Cluster Youth Activity Day- during the Easter school holiday for 8–13-year-olds from across our cluster. This is aimed at enabling our young people to feel part of the cluster community through positive activities. The Junior Vincentians of St Edmund Campion school will act as Youth Leaders and a member of our parish will be there to supervise.

Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: **George Harris:** 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 2nd March 2025
To Be Announced
Attendance: 58

Next Sunday there will be a
second collection for CAFOD
for Lent Family Fast Day