

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. Lent is a wonderful time to look forward to the Easter season, with new beginnings and a time for us to make our Lenten promises which may include making extra efforts for serve our church and our community? Thankyou to John Wardell who has been busy seeing to our grounds maintenance and looking at the small repairs that we can make to our Church , to Benedict who in addition to Stations of the Cross is exploring more opportunities for us to deepen our faith and to Anna who through our clustering is arranging for a trial youth group for our youth.

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

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 re regular events already happening. Website: www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jubilee-year



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.

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2nd Sunday of Lent

O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory.

Mass Times

Sunday 16th March

Second Sunday of Lent

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am for George

Harris RIP and Keith

Bayliss RIP with Children's

Liturgy followed by

Baptism of Oluwafikajoni

Owajeni

Monday 17th March

Mass 9.00am for George

Harris RIP

Tuesday 18th March

Mass 9.00am

Wednesday 19th March

Mass 9.00am

Feast of St Joseph

Thursday 20th March

Mass 9.00am

Friday 21st March

School Mass 9.00am

Stations of the Cross

6.00pm

Saturday 22nd March

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 23rd March

Third Sunday of Lent

Confession 9.30am

Mass 10.00am for with

Children's Liturgy



Second 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.

Based on the gospel for Sunday 16 March, Second Sunday of Lent

"God brought Abram outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and number the stars'".

Walking under the vault of heaven, we might observe how a light has travelled years to arrive at this moment – and in this way we are given a glimpse of hope. For Abram, the stars pointed to the future promise that his line would continue beyond him through God's faithfulness. Future generations, to whom we are included, would look to the stars and think 'back' to the covenant made lightyears ago. In the well-known Gospel scene of the Transfiguration the stars are not in heaven's vault but wrapped around Jesus whose clothing "became dazzling". God in Jesus brings the Light closer – indeed He is Light – and God's covenant with Abram has been fulfilled. Notice the movement we see in Scripture from looking up to the skies in Genesis with a lofty and far-reaching promise to the transformation of Jesus into dazzling light on Mount Tabor reaching the eyes of his friends. Surely these friends clung to this memory of the glorified Jesus as he walked to Calvary.

We, too, require glimpses of heavenly light to carry us through any difficulty, so that even against a blanket of darkness we rely on the historic faithfulness of God's people who hoped and dared to see the day that we now have the privilege to live.

Fr Ryan Service. Holy Trinity, Sutton Coldfield

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.

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Offertory 2nd March 2025

GA	£155.00
NGA	£37.86
Cathedral	£26.44
Racial Justice	£8.00
Votive Lights	£14.30
Total	£241.62