

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:

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| 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.

Sunday 30th March 2025 Year C Volume 1 Page 168

4th Sunday of Lent

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come.

Mass Times

Sunday 30th March

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Holy Hour and Confession
9.00am

*Mass 10.00am for Agatha
Maher and David Perkins
with Children's Liturgy
followed by Holy Hour
and Confession*

Monday 31st March

Holy Mass 9.00am

Tuesday 1st April

Holy Mass 9.00am

Wednesday 2nd April

Holy Mass 9.00am

Thursday 3rd April

Holy Mass 9.00am

Friday 4th April

School Mass 9.00am
Stations of the Cross
6.00pm

Saturday 5th April

Holy Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 6th April

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Confession 9.30am
Mass 10.00am with
Children's Liturgy
followed by Holy Hour
and Benediction



Message from Fr Mathew:

Good news for St Gerard's parish! Finally, the parish will have a full-time priest, Fr Sean Gough, a priest of the Birmingham Archdiocese. He will take charge of the parish on Saturday 12th April. Please find a few words from him below.

"Message from the new priest, Fr Sean: I feel immensely privileged to have been asked to serve the Catholic community of St Gerard's, Castle Vale, beginning on Palm Sunday. I have been a priest for 4 1/2 years now, and this will be my first appointment as the only priest in the parish. I am originally from Walsall in the West Midlands, and studied for the priesthood at Oscott College. I look forward to getting to know you very soon. Please pray for me and I will pray for you. Fr Sean."

This is also good news for me as I am also becoming a full-time Chancellor which is why I came to the UK. I am immensely indebted to all of you. The last five years with you have been unforgettable in my priestly life. I will only be a little way from you as I will be residing at a holy place, Maryvale, where Saint John Henry Newman spent the early years after his conversion to the Catholic Church. Many of you may be aware that I belong to the Syro-Malabar Eparchy (diocese) of Great Britain and recently we bought a property at 99 Old Oscott Hill, Maryvale, which will function as the Pastoral House of the Eparchy. I will miss all of you especially the children of our school. I assure you of my prayers and kindly request your prayers for me. May St Gerard intercede for us all!

Celebration of the life of George Harris: St Gerards Church Friday 11th April 2025 10.45am followed by Sutton Coldfield Crematorium at 12.15pm. God bless you George. May you rest in peace.

Holy Hour and Benediction

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. Holy Hour and Benediction is an opportunity for us all to journey through Lent together, making time for God and praying more deeply to make this Lent a fruitful one.

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- 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.

Erdington Cluster Masses

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

The Abbey-Thursday 26th June @ 7.00pm

Saturday 21st June 2025- Cluster pilgrimage from SS Peters and Pauls to St Chads- Please express your interest on the form at the back of church.

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 23rd March 2025

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| GA | £78.00 |
| NGA | £32.09 |
| CAFOD | £20.00 |
| Votives | £22.08 |
| Total | £142.17 |

Attendance 59