

**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](http://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 <a href="mailto:stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk">stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk</a>
Sue Byrne	Finance <a href="mailto:Pt.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk">Pt.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk</a>
Sue Perkins	Pastoral Lead and Parish Administrator <a href="mailto:stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk">stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk</a>
Hayley Macilwraith	Safeguarding and Health and Safety <a href="mailto:sg.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk">sg.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:hs.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk">hs.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk</a>
John Wardell	Premises and Facilities. <a href="mailto:Bm.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk">Bm.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk</a>

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](mailto: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: <a href="mailto:yth.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk">yth.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk</a> . – 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](http://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](mailto:stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk)

**Presbytery:** 2 Renfrew Square, Castle Vale, Birmingham B35 6JT **T:** 0121 747 7390

**W:** [www.stgerardschurch.co.uk](http://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 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025 Year C Volume 1 Page 176

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death.

#### Mass Times

##### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April

##### Fifth Sunday of Lent

*Holy Hour and Confession*  
9.00am

*Mass 10.00am for Robert Sloan RIP with Children's*

*Liturgy*

##### Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April

*Holy Mass 9.00am*

##### Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April

*Holy Mass 9.00am*

##### Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April

*Holy Mass 9.00am*

##### Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April

*Holy Mass 9.00am*

##### Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April

*School Mass 9.00am*

*Celebration of the life of*

*George Harris: 10.45am*

*followed by Sutton*

*Coldfield Crematorium at*

*12.15pm.*

*Stations of the Cross*

*6.00pm*

##### Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April

*No Mass*

##### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April

##### Palm Sunday

*Confession 9.30am*

*Mass 10.00am For Ricky*

*Woolgrove with Children's*

*Liturgy*

Today will be the last Sunday that Fr Mathew will be celebrating Mass here for us as Parish Priest of St Gerard's. Coffee will be served after Mass today so we can all say our goodbyes and thanks for all that he has done for us and with us over these past 5 years.

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

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### Easter Triduum Services:

**Maundy Thursday: 17<sup>th</sup> April:** Mass of the Lords Supper 7.00pm

**Good Friday: 18<sup>th</sup> April:** Walk of Witness: 11.00am-12.15pm: starting at The High Street, Castle Vale along Yatesbury avenue to the Retail Park. Please come together as a community to reflect, pray and share this message of hope and redemption. Celebration of the Passion of the Lord 3.00pm.

**Holy Saturday: 19<sup>th</sup> April:** Easter Vigil: 8.00pm

**Easter Sunday: 20<sup>th</sup> April:** Mass 10.00am

#### Erdington Cluster Masses

St Mary and St Johns-Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May @ 7.00pm

The Abbey-Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June @ 7.00pm

**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.

**Weekly Reflection:** Based on the psalm for Sunday 6 April, Fifth Sunday of Lent "He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him."

"We left our houses due to the war, at the beginning of 2012," says Salim, a Syrian man displaced with his family. They were away from their home for many years. Now Salim and his family have finally been able to return home, thanks to help from our local experts. "We were so happy with the work [to restore the building]," he declares. "We dream that our neighbourhood will be back as it was. It was very beautiful. It was like a big park, with all its gardens, with its people. We have high hopes for the future." Signs of hope are everywhere. As Pope Francis writes in the Bull of Indiction for this Jubilee Year, "Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring." (Spes non confundit, #1) . Can we dream of peace in a time of war? Can this Holy Year be a time for all of us to make a commitment to build peace?

"May the Jubilee remind us that those who are peacemakers will be called 'children of God' (Mt 5:9). The need for peace challenges us all and demands that concrete steps be taken." (Spes non confundit, #8)

**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 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**GA** £ 58.00

**NGA** £93.19

**Total** £151.19

**Attendance 62**