

Parish of St. Gerard, Castle Vale

Archdiocese of Birmingham, Registered Charity No. 234216

2 Renfrew Square, Castle Vale, Birmingham B35 6JT

Priest: Father Sean Gough

Email: stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk

Telephone: 0121 747 7390

Website: www.stgerardschurch.co.uk



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18th May 2025 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

Mass Book: Page 265.

DAY	LITURGY	TIME	INTENTION
Saturday 17th May			
<i>Eastertide</i>	<i>Confessions</i> Vigil Mass	<i>From 4-4.30pm</i> 5pm	<i>No Intention</i>
Sunday 18th May			
5th Sunday of Easter	<i>Confessions</i> Holy Mass	<i>From 9-9.30am</i> 10am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
Monday 19th May			
<i>Eastertide</i>	NO MASS		
Tuesday 20th May			
<i>Eastertide</i>	NO MASS		
Wednesday 21st May			
<i>Eastertide</i>	Holy Mass <i>Church open for private prayer</i>	9am <i>9.30am-10.30am</i>	<i>No Intention</i>
Thursday 22nd May			
<i>Eastertide</i>	Holy Mass <i>Church open for private prayer</i>	9am <i>9.30am-10.30am</i>	<i>No Intention</i>
Friday 23rd May			
<i>Eastertide</i>	<i>Holy Hour with Confessions</i> Holy Mass	<i>6pm</i> 7pm	<i>No Intention</i>
Saturday 24th May			
<i>Eastertide</i>	<i>Confessions</i> Vigil Mass	<i>From 4-4.30pm</i> 5pm	<i>No Intention</i>
Sunday 25th May			
6th Sunday of Easter	<i>Confessions</i> Holy Mass	<i>From 9-9.30am</i> 10am	<i>People of the Parish</i>

Fr Sean's Words. This morning, the Church rejoices as Pope Leo XIV is inaugurated as the successor of St Peter with the celebration of the Papal Inauguration Mass. Let us give thanks to God for our new Holy Father and pray that he may be filled with the Holy Spirit as he leads the Church with wisdom, courage, and love.

Today we also offer a special welcome the children making their First Holy Communion Commitment Mass. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Lord for the first time on 16th June 2025.

Our Year 5 children are also beginning their journey towards Confirmation. You may see them bringing special books to Mass each week as part of their preparation. They'll be taking part in some parish catechesis sessions too. Please pray for them as they prepare to be confirmed in October.

New offertory envelopes are now available. If you're a UK taxpayer, please consider signing up for Gift Aid, which allows the parish to claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give—at no extra cost to you. Setting up a standing order is also a simple and reliable way to support the parish. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

A date for your diaries: on Saturday 24th April, the group I led on pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela last year will be reuniting in Birmingham. The day will include a walk in Sutton Park at midday, Mass at 5pm at St Gerard's, and a meal out afterwards. You and your families are very welcome to join for any part of the day—but please let me know by Tuesday if you'd like to come. Email: fr.sean.gough@rcaob.org.uk.

Please note there will not be a mass on Tuesday morning this week as I will be away.

With every blessing, Fr Sean

NEWS

Kenelm Youth Trust Upcoming Events

Bookings : Visit the Kenelm Youth Service website to book.

Payment Help: If you have difficulty paying for you children, please speak to Fr Sean privately.

- **Jubilee Day – 5 July, 11:30am – 4:30pm:** Free celebration with games, workshops, talks, and a Diocesan Jubilee Mass led by Bishop Timothy.
- **Jubilee Pilgrimage Walk – 13 September:** 14-mile walk from St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, to the Shrine of Blessed Carlo Acutis. Shorter walk option available. Includes prayer time with Bishop Timothy.
- **Football Tournament – 7 June, 10am–4pm:** FREE football event for Years 6-12 at Olton Friary RC Church, including Mass and reflections. Register teams by 31 May.
- **It's a Knockout – 28-29 June:** Outdoor games, challenges, Mass, BBQ, and camping at Rough Close Woodlands for juniors (Years 5-7) and seniors (Years 8-12).
- **Theology on Tap – 16 May, 6–9pm:** For young adults (18-29) at The Blue Piano, Birmingham. Topic: The Papacy.
- **Serve!** Youth ministry roles available at Alton. Mission Team applications open for 18-25-year-olds. Visit website or contact Debbie Woodward or Libby Cox. The Erdington Cluster.

Join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Hednesford on Sunday 6th July. If you can't make it to Lourdes, this is a chance to share the experience locally. Refreshments from 1pm, confessions 2:15–3:45pm, Rosary at 3pm, and the Sacrament of the Sick. Bishop Timothy Menezes will celebrate. Please bring your own chairs. For details, contact Fr Jeremy Howard at 07868 542268 or fr.jeremy.howard@rcaob.org.uk.

Cluster masses will be held at:

1. St Mary and St Johns on Friday 30th May at 7.00pm.
2. The Erdington Abbey on Thursday 26th June at 7.00pm.

The Erdington cluster of local churches seek to work together in collaboration.

There will be a **cluster pilgrimage to St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham on Saturday 21st June 2025**. Please express your interest on the form at the back of church.

Sunday Offering

11th May 2025

Attendance 70

Clergy Training Fund £10

Gift Aid £34.04 None-Gift Aid £103 **Total £147.04**

Kids' Corner

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us a very special new commandment:

"Love one another, just as I have loved you."

That's not just a suggestion—it's a command!

Jesus wants His followers (that's us!) to love with the same kind of love He showed: kind, generous, forgiving, and brave. Jesus even

gave his life on the cross because he loves us.

When we love like Jesus, people will see that we are His disciples.



Action!!!

How can you show Jesus' love to someone this week?

Prayer

Jesus, help me to love like You—especially when it's hard.

Amen 🍏

Regular Notices

Hospital Chaplaincy. If you or a family member are in hospital and would like a visit, please inform the parish office.

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 Sean if you know of anyone who is unable to attend Mass and would like to receive a visit.

Baptisms. Baptism can only be organised after attendance at a preparation class. Please speak to Fr Sean after Mass to arrange attendance.

RIP. Please pray for those who have recently died.

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Please pray for the sick. Especially: 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.

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.

SAFEGUARDING

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocesan policies and procedures. Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is Hayley Macilwraith who can be contacted on sg.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively you can contact the Diocesan Safeguarding team on 0121 230 6240 if you have any concerns.

Parish Council Members

Chair - Fr Sean	fr.sean.gough@rcaob.org.uk
Sue Byrne - Finance	pt.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk
Sue Perkins - Lead and Admin	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

Parish Pastoral Council

Anna - Leadership	07825738227
Shirley Harris - Service and Stewardship	07530481693
Sue Perkins - Evangelisation	07971076835
Benedict Chadzutsa - Word and Worship	07710474075
Sarita Forrester - Social and Community	07462 876871



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

St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

Twitter: @StGerardsBham

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

Telephone: 0121 464 2613