

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

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1st June 2025 - Seventh Sunday of Easter

Mass Book: Page 275.

DAY	LITURGY	TIME	INTENTION
Saturday 31st May			
Feast, Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Confessions Vigil Mass	From 4-4.30pm 5pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 1st June			
7th Sunday of Easter	Confessions Holy Mass	From 9-9.30am 10am	Seamus Egan
Monday 2nd June			
Eastertide	NO MASS		
Tuesday 3rd June			
Saints Charles Lwanga and his Companions, Martyrs	Church open for private prayer Holy Mass	6pm 7pm	Diane Mattias RIP
Wednesday 4th June			
Eastertide	Holy Mass Church open for private prayer	9am 9.30am-10.30am	No Intention
Thursday 5th June			
Saint Boniface, Bishop, Martyr	Holy Mass Church open for private prayer	9am 9.30am-10.30am	William & Simon Doherty RIP
Friday 6th June			
Eastertide	School Mass Holy Hour with Confessions Holy Mass	9am 6pm 7pm	Doherty Family No Intention
Saturday 7th June			
Eastertide	Confessions Vigil Mass	From 4-4.30pm 5pm	No Intention
Sunday 8th June			
Pentecost Sunday	Confessions Holy Mass	From 9-9.30am 10am	People of the Parish

Fr Sean's Words.

Next Sunday we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came down upon the Apostles and Our Lady, transforming them with courage and joy. In the days leading up to Pentecost, we are invited to join spiritually with the Apostles in the Upper Room, praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on ourselves, our parish, and the whole Church. Though there aren't nine full days left, we can still treat this final stretch as a kind of novena, each day offering our hearts anew to God in expectation and trust.

You might like to pray this simple prayer each day:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and they shall be created—and you shall renew the face of the earth. Amen.

It is a great joy to announce that four children will be welcomed into our parish family at Pentecost. Please keep them and their families in your prayers as they take this important step in their journey of faith.

Over the last few weeks, I have been speaking with parishioners who attend the Saturday evening Mass about its discontinuation, in line with the wishes of Bishop David and the Dean of the deanery. If I've not yet had a chance to speak with you and you would like to share your thoughts, please do get in touch with me as soon as possible. Next Saturday (Pentecost Vigil) will be the final evening Mass. After that, we plan to have a Mass on Saturday mornings instead.

Finally, if you haven't yet joined our parish WhatsApp group, I warmly encourage you to do so. It's a simple and effective way to stay connected and up-to-date with parish news, prayer intentions, and community life.

NEWS

Annual Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Will be held at Maryvale Chapel and shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Postcode B44 9AG). The novena of daily masses will begin at 7pm on Thursday 19th June and conclude on Friday 27th June on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

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 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.
- **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).

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.

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. **Cluster masses will be held at:** The Erdington Abbey on Thursday 26th June at 7.00pm.

Sunday Offering

25th May 2025

Attendance 133

Gift Aid £229.43 None-Gift Aid £94.95 **Total £459.38**

Kids' Corner

"That they may all be one." – John 17:21

Jesus wants us to be united by love! As his followers we are all part of God's one big family. Love is like the glue that unites his family together. Just as God loves us, we should try to love one another.



Game – LOVE BINGO!!

Try to complete these acts of kindness during the week. If you do them all, make sure to let Fr Sean know next week.

- 1) Help tidy up at home—even if it's not your mess.
✓ Done []
- 2) Pray for someone you find it hard to love.
✓ Done []
- 3) Pick up litter in your school or park.
✓ Done []
- 4) Make a thank-you card for a teacher or parent.
✓ Done []
- 5) Give a compliment, something like: "I like your drawing!"
✓ Done []
- 6) Tell someone: "Jesus loves you!"
✓ Done []
- 7) Give someone you love hug.
✓ Done []



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 - <i>Fr Sean</i>	fr.sean.gough@rcaob.org.uk
Sue Byrne - <i>Finance</i>	pt.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk
Sue Perkins - <i>Lead and Admin</i>	stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk
Hayley Macilwraith - <i>Safeguarding and Health and Safety</i>	sg.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk hs.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk
John Wardell - <i>Premises and Facilities.</i>	Bm.stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Pastoral Council

Anna - <i>Leadership</i>	07825738227
Shirley Harris - <i>Service and Stewardship</i>	07530481693
Sue Perkins - <i>Evangelisation</i>	07971076835
Benedict Chadzutsa - <i>Word and Worship</i>	07710474075
Sarita Forrester - <i>Social and Community</i>	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

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