

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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25th May 2025 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

Mass Book: Page 267.

DAY	LITURGY	TIME	INTENTION
Saturday 24th May			
<i>Eastertide</i>	<i>Confessions</i> Vigil Mass	<i>From 4-4.30pm</i> 5pm	<i>People of the Parish</i>
Sunday 25th May			
6th Sunday of Easter	<i>Confessions</i> Holy Mass	<i>From 9-9.30am</i> 10am	<i>Raphael Pidowe RIP</i>
Monday 26th May			
<i>Memorial, St Phillip Neri</i>	NO MASS		
Tuesday 27th May			
<i>Feast, St Augustine of Canterbury</i>	<i>Church open for private prayer</i> Holy Mass	<i>6pm</i> 7pm	<i>No Intention</i>
Wednesday 28th 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 29th May			
Solemnity, Ascension of the Lord	Holy Mass <i>Church open for private prayer</i>	7.30am <i>8.30am-9.30am</i>	<i>No Intention</i>
Friday 30th May			
Solemnity of the Dedication of the Church	NO MASS		
Saturday 31st May			
Feast, Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	<i>Confessions</i> Vigil Mass	<i>From 4-4.30pm</i> 5pm	<i>No Intention</i>
Sunday 1st June May			
7th 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 Thursday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, a very important day in our calendar. Forty days after Easter, Jesus ascended into heaven to return to the Father, completing his earthly mission and opening the way for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The Ascension reminds us that our true home is in heaven and that Christ, now reigning in glory, intercedes for us and sends us out to be his witnesses in the world. Because of its great significance, **the Ascension is a Holy Day of Obligation**—one of the few weekdays where Catholics are **obliged** to attend Mass, just as we would on a Sunday. These days are set aside to celebrate key moments in our faith, and attending Mass on them is an opportunity to grow in holiness and stay closely united to the Church's life. To make it possible for people to attend Mass before work **Mass on Thursday will be at 7.30am**, and it should be finished by 8.15am. It is half-term so there will not be a school mass. I know this is an early and possibly awkward time, but I will be travelling to a family wedding later that day and will not be able to celebrate an evening Mass. For the same reason, there will be no parish Mass on Friday.

If the 7.30am Mass doesn't work for you, don't worry—Masses will be available in nearby parishes. For example, Erdington Abbey will be celebrating Mass at 10.30am and 7.30pm.

I also want to let you know that I have been asked by the Bishop to discontinue our Saturday 5pm Vigil Mass. This is part of a wider diocesan approach to rationalising the number of Masses across parishes, especially where attendance is very low. At our vigil, we often only have a couple of people attending, and there are several nearby churches that offer vigil Masses with larger congregations. I've already begun consulting those who currently attend the 5pm Mass, and I will continue to do so. In particular, I'm asking: Would you be able to attend the 10.30am Sunday Mass instead? If you work on Sunday mornings, do you drive, and if not, might you be able to find another way of getting to one of the nearby Saturday vigil Masses? I want to be sure that everyone who currently comes to the vigil feels supported and is helped to find a way forward.

Thank you as always for your understanding, your flexibility, and your faithfulness.

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 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).

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

18th May 2025

Attendance 91

Gift Aid £128.59 None-Gift Aid £28 **Total £192.59**

Kids' Corner

This week, we're getting ready for a very special feast day: **The Ascension of the Lord**, which we celebrate on **Thursday!** After Jesus rose from the dead at Easter, He spent **40 days** with His friends. He talked with them, ate with them, and helped them believe that He really was alive again! Then, Jesus took His disciples to a mountain. He told them: **"I am going back to my Father in Heaven. But I will always be with you, and I will send the Holy Spirit to help you!"** And then something amazing happened...

☀️ **Jesus was lifted up into the sky** and disappeared! Even though Jesus has returned to Heaven **with His body**, He is still truly with us: in the **Holy Eucharist**, through the **Holy Spirit**, and in His **Church, which is His Body**. Because the Ascension is such an important part of our faith, **Thursday is a Holy Day of Obligation**. That means it's a special day when **all Catholics are expected to go to Mass**, just like on a Sunday.

The Ascension reminds us that Jesus is alive, reigning in Heaven, and that one day **He will come again in glory!**

Prayer

Lord Jesus,
you returned to Heaven
to be with your Father,
but you never left us alone.
Thank you for loving us,
for sending the Holy Spirit to help us,
and for preparing a place for us in Heaven.
Help me to follow you each day,
and to share your love with others.
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 - <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

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