

PARISH OF ST. GERARD

CASTLE VALE

Parish Priest Father Soji

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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Mass Times This Week

Sunday 24th April

Mass 10:00am
Aggie Maher RIP

Monday 25th April

Mass 7.00pm
Parish Council Meeting
after Mass

Tuesday 26th April

Mass 7:00pm
Angelina

Wednesday 27th April

School Mass in Church
9:00am

Thursday 28th April

Mass 7:00pm
Helen McCulloch RIP

Friday 29th April

No Mass

Saturday 30th April

No Mass

Please remember in your prayers:

The sick: Doreen Jones, Oscar Hughes, Phyllis Reidy, Pat Cook, Agnes Primus, Rita Wray, Jamie Morris, Nancy Medd, Margaret Coyne, Norman Oliver, Irene Westwood, Josephine & Bernadette Monaghan, Gillian Stanworth, and all the sick priests of the diocese.

May the Lord grant them the healing they require.

Recently died: Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

And all whose anniversaries occur this week.

Communion to the Sick and Housebound

If you know of anyone who is unable to go to Mass, and would like

Mass Intentions If you would like to have a Mass celebrated for a particular intention: on behalf of a family member, a friend or a deceased loved one, there are Mass Intention envelopes available.

Prayer Requests: we are happy to include the names of those who have recently died; or whose anniversaries may occur, as well as additions to the sick list. Please let us know if you wish for your relatives or friends' names to be included. Also we would be grateful for

Offertory Collection

Gift-Aid Envelopes	£82.00
Loose (Non Gift Aid)	£177.64
Clergy Training Fund	£24.40
Clergy Training Fund non-gift aid	£38.07
Donations	£85.00
Votive Lights	£18.80
Piety	£10.00
Total	£453.91



Thank you for your generosity

100 CLUB WINNERS

17th April

£30 D. Johnson (39)

£15 B. Creamer (90)

Congratulations!

PARISH NOTICE BOARD



- ◆ **Parish Council meeting** has been moved to this Monday at 7.30pm. All welcome to attend.
- ◆ **Second Collection next week** for the parish.
- ◆ **Sainsbury's Vouchers:** There is a basket at the back of Church for the vouchers. They are now printed with your receipt so please watch out for them. The school really appreciates them as they contribute greatly to the PE resources for the children.
- ◆ **Communion to the sick** will be given on the first Friday of the month. Kindly inform if anyone is in need to Frances Irwin or Fr. Soji.

Irish Oral History Archive and Aggie Maher

In 2008, Aggie Maher, along with other parishioners from St Gerard's, agreed to be interviewed by the Irish Oral History Archive. They loved Aggie's story so much that the Birmingham Irish Post published an extract from her interview which is below. Some of you may have read it, but for those of you who haven't, Aggie talked about her experience of the 1974 Birmingham pub bombings and the aftermath felt by the Irish community in Birmingham. Her story is below.

DOCUMENTING OUR DECADES

This week: Aggie Maher

Aggie Maher from Co. Westmeath in Ireland remembers the effect the Birmingham bombings had on her and others in the Irish community there after the tragic loss of life in November 1974.

I think we all protected one another. We would always stand up for one another, you know? But then of course all the Troubles and the Birmingham bombings didn't help, did it? I remember I was doing bingo teas up at St. Gerard's Club the night it happened. We used to volunteer at the bingo. We used to provide a cup of tea and a biscuit. We used to do it on a rota. There would be two of us to do it every Thursday night.

I remember Mark Flynn coming in and telling us: "There's a bomb gone up in Birmingham."

And then the next day having to go into work! I won't say we were refused to be served in a cake shop up on Reid Square, me and this other girl, Maire O'Rourke it was. But they didn't want to speak to us because we were Irish. We used to go in there and they just ignored us, me and this other girl. And then we said: "What are we going to do going into school?" Because we were the only two Irish people working in the school. So when we went in

someone just said: "Hello girls! How are you?" They said: "You're the same today as you were yesterday." And that was the end of the story.

The anniversary [of the bombings] that came around every year, that didn't help really. They got rid of the St. Patrick's Day parade. They were all stopped and that kind of thing, you know? We didn't come out of it too bad, because I'm in a community if you know what I mean.

My husband, he didn't work for Dunlops, but he worked at Dunlops. He was a painting contractor. But he knew a bloke


that worked in Dunlops and he was, what's the word you use, blacklisted like. Sent to Coventry or whatever, because he was Irish.

Interviewed by Sarah and Anne-Marie Hayes

Have you a story?

IF you emigrated from Ireland to Britain before 1960 and would like to be interviewed contact Glen Cumiskey as follows...

WRITE TO: Glenn Cumiskey, Director Irish Oral History Archive, 3 Icon Building, 15 Cluny Place, London, SE1 4QS
TELEPHONE: 020 7357 7517 or 079 67 054 246 (mobile)
E-MAIL: IrishOralHistoryArchive@googlemail.com



St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

'We Live, Love and Learn Together with Jesus'



Thurs 28th April: Year 3 Inspire Workshop

For more information visit our

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

USEFUL INFORMATION

- ◆ **Our Parish Safeguarding Officer** is Ann Nicholls.
- ◆ **Newsletter;** If you would like news or events advertised in Sunday's newsletter, please contact Father Soji no later than Wednesday morning. See overleaf for contact details.
- ◆ **Baptisms;** Parent(s) have to attend Sunday Mass regularly. Please contact Father Soji to obtain an application form and make arrangements.
- ◆ **Sacrament of the sick;** parishioners are asked to approach a priest to receive sacrament of the sick before being admitted to hospital for treatment. If you are housebound or are unable to attend mass, a priest will be happy to visit you in your home.