



Parish of St. Gerard, Castle Vale

part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham—Registered Charity No. 234216

Parish Priest: **Father Soji Olikkal**

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Second Sunday of Advent

8th December 2019 Year A Page 85

“Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those that are set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company.”

Message from Fr: By God’s Grace I have been doing my priestly ministry here at St Gerard’s parish for the last 5 years. The Lord has taught me beautiful things because of my ministry here to you. I am sorry to announce that I will be moving from the parish in the middle of next month. I am going to continue my missionary works. At the moment I do not know where I will be going. The Archdiocese will be making an announcement about clergy provision for St Gerard’s in the next few weeks. Please wait for this further announcement. Please do not worry about the future, you will still get Sunday Mass. As one last thing, I am grateful to you for the love and the support that you have given me. I cannot thank you enough. Please continue to pray for me as you can be assured of my continued prayers for you.

Mass Times

Sunday 8th December

Confessions 9.15-9.45am

Mass 10.00am

For St Gerard’s Parish

With Children’s Liturgy

RCIA course 11.00am

Monday 9th December

Solemnity of the Immaculate

Conception of the Blessed

Virgin Mary

Mass 6.30pm in the Chapel

Tuesday 10th December

School Mass 9.00 am

Wednesday 11th December

No Mass

Thursday 12th December

No Mass

Ladies that lunch 12.30pm

Friday 13th December

No Mass

Saturday 14th December

No Mass

Sunday 15th December

Confessions 9.15-9.45am

Mass 10.00 am

With Children’s Liturgy

RCIA course 11.00am

Lord, make those who are not well, get better and grant those who have died eternal rest in your heavenly home. Amen

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

The sick: Frances Irwin, George Irwin, Sue O’Driscoll, Jean Chambers, Linda Conroy, Debbie Johnson, Perry Desmond, Philip Fox, Kevin Hollis, Kathy Beatie, Father Gabby Maguire & all the sick priests of the diocese. May the Lord grant them the healing they require.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

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

Communion to the Sick and Housebound:

If you know of anyone who is unable to go to Mass, and would like Communion, please contact Father Soji who will endeavour to arrange.

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, to remember a birthday or anniversary, envelopes available at the back of church.

Flower Intentions: If you would like to have flowers placed on the Altar for a particular intention envelopes available at the back of church.

Thursday 12th December-Santa’s on his way Afternoon Tea 12.30-2.30 hosted by Ladies that Lunch. Invite a friend, neighbour to come along for an afternoon of food and entertainment.

Please join us for festive celebrations in the parish centre.

Offertory Collection last week

Gift Aid:	£ 61.50
Non Gift Aid:	£113.88
Total Offertories	£175.38
Total Banked:	£175.38

Thank you for your continued generosity

Today there will be a Second Collection for the Poor Parishes of the Diocese



St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

*'We Live, Love and Learn Together
with Jesus'*



Twitter: @StGerardsBham

School website:

www.stgerard.bham.sch.uk

Parish Notice Board



St Gerard's Parish Christmas Raffle: If anyone is able to donate prizes for our Christmas raffle then please bring them into Church over the next few weeks and leave them on the table at the back of church for Sarita and Bernie to collect. Thank you! The Ladies are collecting for a hamper to go towards one of our prizes if anyone could donate groceries. These too can be left at the back of church.

- ◆ **Parish Safeguarding Officer** is Hayley Macllwraith who can be contacted on **07840 866201**
- ◆ **Parish Administrator** is Sue Perkins who can be contacted on **07971 076835** or **stgerardscv.rc@gmail.com**
- ◆ **Young Persons Officer** is Eleanor Perkins who can be contacted on **07852 404992** or **emp010697@googlegmail.com**
- ◆ **When Father Soji** is away, in any emergency, please contact **Fr. Leonard Cox** on **07790 827184**
- ◆ **Newsletter;** If you would like news or events advertised in Sunday's newsletter, please contact the Parish Administrator no later than Thursday.
- ◆ **Baptisms;** A parent of the child to be baptised must be a baptised Catholic and attend Sunday Mass regularly. If you require your child to be baptised then please introduce yourself to Father at Mass on Sunday and he will discuss requirements and arrangements.
- ◆ **Sacrament of the sick;** Please approach Fr to receive sacrament of the sick before being admitted to hospital for treatment. If you are unable to attend mass, Fr will be happy to visit you in your home.
- ◆ **Church Garden:** If anyone is able to lend a hand in removing some of the bushes then please let Sue know.
- ◆ **The Sun tokens:** The Sun have teamed up with Collins Big Cat to offer schools a free pack of books worth more than £600. Tokens will be available from Saturday 23rd November if anyone is able to collect and bring into church we will pass them on to school.
- ◆ **Tabor House:** With the cold nights setting in, Tabor House night shelter is providing a safe place for people experiencing homelessness in Birmingham. To support their work, you can buy a beautiful 2020 calendar online at <http://bit.ly/WASPSCalendar2020>. At £10 each, the calendars make excellent Christmas gifts and all proceeds go to the project.
- ◆ **Ladies that Lunch:** Santa's on his Way Afternoon Tea on the 12th December 12:30-2:20pm. Invite a friend, neighbour to come along for an afternoon of food and entertainment. Please join us for festive celebrations in the parish centre.
- ◆ **Church cleaning:** We are planning on cleaning once a month on the first Friday at 10.00 am if anyone is free to join us.
- ◆ **St Pauls Senior Citizens Christmas Party:** St Paul's would like to invite the senior citizens of your community to a Christmas Party at St Paul's on Monday 16 December, 1pm till 3pm. Please come along and join us for singing, bingo, buffet and a fun afternoon. We would appreciate it if you could telephone the school on 0121 454 0895 to book a ticket.
- ◆ **Parish Health and Safety Officer:** We are looking to appoint a Health and Safety Officer. If anyone feels able to take up this role or would like further details then please contact Sue.
- ◆ **Prepare the Way Advent Concert 2019:** Jo Boyce and CJM Music performing this at St Thomas More Church, Sheldon on Sunday 8th December 2019. 6.30pm start. Tickets available 01675466254 or online. There are a few parishioners attending if anyone requires a lift?
- ◆ **Walk with Me Booklets** – A journey of Prayer for Advent- Please take a copy from the back of church
- ◆ **Penitential Services for Advent**– Please see the list on the noticeboard for dates and times of Penitential services in the local parishes. Our parish Penitential service will be on Wednesday 18th December at 7.00pm.