



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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Third Sunday of Advent

15th December 2019

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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 15th December

Confessions 9.15-9.45am

Mass 10.00am

For Bridget Rowan

With Children's Liturgy

RCIA course 11.00am

Monday 16th December

No Mass

Tuesday 17th December

Whole School Mass 9.00 am

Requiem Mass of Thomas David Berry at 1.00pm

Wednesday 18th December

Mass 6.30pm followed by Reconciliation Service

Thursday 19th December

No Mass

Friday 20th December

No Mass

Saturday 21st December

No Mass

Sunday 22nd 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: Thomas David Berry: Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him May he 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.

Today, in Fr Soji's absence, we welcome Fr Biju to celebrate Mass with us.

Offertory Collection from last week will be announced next week



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@googlemail.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.
- ◆ **Church cleaning:** We are planning on cleaning the church on Monday 23rd December if anyone is free to join us.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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 after 6.30pm mass. Please make an effort to attend reconciliation in readiness for Christmas.