



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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Fourth Sunday of Advent

22nd December 2019 Year A Page 90

“Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.”

Today we warmly welcome Monsignor Stephen Wright who will be celebrating Mass with Fr Soji. Please join us to extend our welcome with refreshments after Mass in the parish centre.

Mass Times

Sunday 22nd December

Confessions 9.15-9.45am

Mass 10.00am for parishioners

Con celebrated by Monsignor Stephen Wright

With Children's Liturgy

Monday 23rd December

Church cleaning 9.30am

Mass 10.00am in the Chapel

Christmas Eve

Tuesday 24th December

Service starts 7.00pm

Christmas Day

Wednesday 25th December

Mass 10.00am

With Children's Liturgy and placing of Baby Jesus in the manger

St Stephen's Day (First Martyr and Patron Saint of Alter Servers)

Thursday 26th December

Mass 10.00am in the Chapel

Friday 27th December

No Mass

Saturday 28th December

No Mass

Sunday 29th December

Confessions 9.15-9.45am

Mass 10.00 am

With Children's Liturgy

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.

Offertory Collection for 8th and 15th December 2019

Gift Aid

Non Gist Aid

Total Offertory

2nd Collection-Poor Parishes

Votive Lights

100 Club

Funeral fee donation

Total Banked

Thank you for your continued generosity



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: The draw will take place after Mass today. Thankyou to all who organised, donated and bought tickets, raising funds for our parish. Good Luck to you all.



◆ **Church Garden:** A job for the New Year or maybe over the Christmas holidays? If anyone is able to lend a hand in removing some of the bushes that have been cut down 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 at 9.30am if anyone is free to join us for an hour.

◆ **Parish Roles:** We are looking to appoint a Health and Safety Officer to undertake the necessary maintenance and checks of our Church and Presbytery. If anyone feels able to take up this role or would like to know more then please speak to Sue. Also we require an additional counter to count the weekly offerings as this job requires two people. Sue is happy to continue with this task but requires an accomplice. If you are interested let Sue know.

◆ **Readers and Eucharistic Minister rotas:** Rotas for the first six months of 2020 are printed at the back of church. Please take one. The list is also displayed on the noticeboard. As changes take place between people it is no longer intended to include names on the weekly notice sheet.

◆ **Children's Liturgy and Youth Group:** The children and young adults of both parish groups would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and thank you for the support that you have shown them and our Young Persons Officer as we got these two groups off the ground. They are all very excited about getting involved in parish activities in the New Year.

◆ **Church Centre:** Our church centre is currently vacant whilst we establish all repairs required for future use. A survey has been undertaken and once the report is available we will be discussing the centre with the Diocese. Currently we can continue to use the centre for parish events including refreshments after mass and our Ladies that Lunch afternoons, the next one being Thursday 17th January 12.30pm.

◆ **Parish Safeguarding Officer** is Hayley Maclwraith 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.

A message from Fr

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your prayers, kindness and generosity towards me during the year.

I wish you and your loved ones and families a peaceful, Blessed and joyous Christmas 2019.

May the Lord bring you full of love, blessings and good health in the New Year 2020.

Merry Christmas to you all.