

Parish of St. Gerard, Castle Vale

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

Parish Priest: **Father Soji Olikkal**

E: stgerardscv.rc@gmail.com

Presbytery: 2 Renfrew Square, Castle Vale,

Birmingham T: 0121 747 7390 W: www.stgerardschurch.co.uk

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

12th January 2020

Year A

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“Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you”

Today we celebrate our final Mass with Fr Soji. As a Parish please pray for Fr Soji as he takes on his new role. We thank him for being with us for the last 5 years and will remember him fondly here at St Gerard's. Our new Parish Priest will take charge on 13th January with his first Mass on Monday evening at 7.00pm. Please join him as a Parish to welcome him. There will be an informal Parish meeting after Mass next Sunday in the Parish Centre over coffee where there will be opportunities for the Parish to share their wishes for the Parish with Fr Mathew.

Mass Times

Sunday 12th January

Confessions 9.15-9.45am

Mass 10.00am

With Children's Liturgy

Monday 13th January

Mass 7.00pm

Tuesday 14th January

Mass 7.00pm

Wednesday 15th January

No Mass

Thursday 16th January

No Mass

Friday 17th January

Whole School Mass 9.00am

Mass 7.00pm

Saturday 18th January

No Mass

Sunday 19th January

Confessions 9.15-9.45am

Mass 10.00 am

With Children's Liturgy

**Parish Meeting in Church
Centre after Mass**

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

Recently died: Bill Diggins: 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, 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 Mathew 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 5th January 2020

Gift Aid £ 85.00

Non Gift Aid £133.72

Total Offertory £218.72

Piety £ 10.00

Christmas Raffle £346.00

Total Banked £574.72

Thank you for your continued generosity

**Next Sunday there will
be a Second Collection
for Pax Christi.**



St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

'We Live, Love and Learn Together with Jesus'



Twitter: @StGerardsBham

School website:

www.stgerard.bham.sch.uk

Whole School Mass will take place in Church every Friday 9.00am. Please join the children to celebrate this Mass.

- ◆ **Parish Safeguarding Officer** is Hayley MacIlwraith 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 Mathew** 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.

Parish Notice Board



St Gerard's Parish Christmas Raffle: Thank you to all that supported our Christmas raffle and particular Thank you to those that organised it. There are still a few unclaimed prizes if you could check your tickets?

◆ **HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020 from Fr Soji:** May I take this opportunity to thank everybody in the parish: Parishioners, Friends, Visitors who have helped in many ways to build up this Parish to such a loving and caring community. May the Lord bless you and your loved ones and richly reward you all and grant you a Healthy, Peaceful, Prosperous and Blessed New Year. May His Mother Mary be with our parish always.

◆ **Church Garden:** A job for the New Year. 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:** 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>.

◆ **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.

◆ **Church Centre:** 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. 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 23rd January 12.30pm.

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS'

We are all encouraged to celebrate, live, and share God's Word during this year 2020. Based on St Matthew's Gospel Prayer:

Living God you walk beside us and speak to us throughout the Scriptures. Your Son Jesus Christ listens to our hopes and fears and shows us how to live for one another. Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds so that we may be you witnesses throughout the world. Amen

Our Lady of the Assumption Pray for us

St Matthew Pray for us

St Jerome Pray for us