



Parish of St. Gerard, Castle Vale

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

Parish Priest: **Father Mathew Pinakkattu** : 07788790928 Email: stgerardscv.rc@gmail.com

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SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

26th July 2020 Year A Volume 2 Page 108

O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundations, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure.

Please visit the Archdiocese of Birmingham website for links to live streaming of daily masses from various churches in Birmingham. <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/>

“Face one day at a time”

Welcome back! Please enjoy being in God’s house for the celebration of Mass and please continue to make good use of our Church garden and reflective space for daily prayer – weather permitting! Let’s pray and give thanks to the Lord for each other as we all are keeping safe during this dangerous pandemic time. Lovely to have you back and may God’s blessings be always with us all. We thank you to all who helped us in many ways...

The fundamental characteristic of this “lock down” time is uncertainty. We are not certain about tomorrow, about the future. But we should face one day at a time and don’t look too far ahead, that is the advice the Gospel gives us.

“Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own” (Matthew 6, 34). Yes, live with the troubles of the day and not be worried about tomorrow.

Jesus taught us to pray for the daily bread, not for the bread for our tomorrow or future. “Give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6, 11). As Christians we should trust in God for our tomorrow. Word of God reminds us, “the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3, 22-23). Be thankful to God for his new love and mercy every morning and thereby live happily each day.

God bless Fr Mathew

Recently died and 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.

The sick: Dave McDermott, Noel O’Reilly, Janice Pidgeon, Kath Taylor, Stan Oliver, Frances Irwin, George Irwin, Jean Chambers, Linda Conroy, Debbie Johnson, Perry Desmond, Philip Fox, Kevin Hollis, Bernie Bergin, Kathy Beatie, Tina Parkes, Father Gabby Maguire & all the sick priests of the diocese. May the Lord grant them the healing they require.

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 are available at the back of church or email Fr Mathew.

Offertory Collection 19th July 2020

Gift Aid	£ 67.00
Non Gift Aid	£ 19.00
Total Offertory	£ 86.00
Total Banked	£ 86.00
Mass attendance:	34

Thank you for your continued generosity



Notice– Gift Aid envelopes and Gift Aid donations

Offertory collection boxes for this year are now available at the back of the Church for those parishioners registered for them. If any parishioners would like to take a box of envelopes for regular use whilst our attendance at church is uncertain then please enquire with one of the stewards at Mass or visit the Presbytery and Fr will be able to arrange for you. Please complete a Gift Aid declaration if you are a tax payer. Thank you to those parishioners who pay their offerings by way of Standing Order as these continued to be received whilst our church has been closed. As you would expect our offertory collections have been substantially reduced during these uncertain times and as our only source of income and no financial support from the Government for churches we still have to cover our bills.

A standing order form is available on our website if you wished to set this up.

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



Pope Francis's Prayer to Mary during Coronavirus Pandemic:

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen. Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Who's Who?

Parish Safeguarding and Health and Safety Officer is Hayley Macilwraith : contact on **07840 866201**

Parish Administrator is Sue Perkins: contact on **07971 076835** or stgerardscv.rc@gmail.com

Young Persons Officer is Eleanor Perkins: contact on **07852 404992** or emp010697@googlemail.com

Parish Finance Committee is made up of Fr, Sue Perkins, Sue Byrne, Therese and Frank.

Pastoral Committee is currently being led by Shirley Harris

Social Committee is made up of Beulah, Sarita, Bernie, Rosaline and Sue.

Premises Committee is still to be established. Interested in joining this committee? Speak to Sue Perkins.

Baptisms; A parent of the child to be baptised must be baptised, attend Sunday Mass regularly and undertake 3 preparation meetings. If you require your child to be baptised then please speak to Father for details of forthcoming preparation meetings.

Communion to the Sick and Housebound: Anyone who is unable to go to Mass and would like Communion or would like to receive sacrament of the sick before going into hospital? Let Fr Mathew know and he will endeavour to arrange.

CHURCH RE-OPENS

Do not suppose we are going "back to normal". These arrangements are far from normal and have many restrictions.

- ◆ No one is obliged come to Mass. There is no obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. Instead of attending Mass on Sunday you are encouraged to attend on other available days, or to watch live streamed Masses.
- ◆ Some people MUST NOT come to Mass. If you are shielded, self isolating, ill, have symptoms of Covid 19 or are generally infirm and maybe over 70, you should stay at home.
- ◆ Numbers in Church will be STRICTLY LIMITED. The maximum number who can be accommodated in Church at any one time is 50-60 .
- ◆ Inside church face coverings must be worn, covering both nose and mouth. Please bring your own if possible, otherwise we shall supply.
- ◆ Hand gel will be provided and should be used on entering and leaving the church.
- ◆ Please observe the one way system in place in Church and take a seat as directed by the stewards. You must remain in your seat for the duration of Mass. Small children must remain with parents during Mass.
- ◆ In case of a medical emergency please remain in your seat and make a steward aware. A First Aider, with appropriate protective equipment will deal with the emergency.
- ◆ In any other emergency again please stay seated and follow the stewards instructions.
- ◆ During Mass there may be some music, provided by Nancy and her family or recorded music, but there will be no congregational singing.
- ◆ At the sign of the peace, there will be no handshake or other physical contact.
- ◆ Offertory and Collection .There will be no offertory procession during the Mass. Collecting bags will not be passed from hand to hand. There will be collection baskets at the exit points for the usual collection of Gift Aid envelopes and for loose cash.
- ◆ Fr will bring communion to you in your seat. Please remain seated and outstretch your arm to increase the distance between yourself and Fr. If you require a blessing, please indicate this in the usual way with your right arm across your chest.
- ◆ After the final blessing please leave the Church immediately. There will be an opportunity to light votive candles on the way out of church.
- ◆ Feel free - if the weather permits - to engage in socially distanced chatting outside the Church building or in the car park, maintaining social distancing.
- ◆ As the church has to be thoroughly cleaned after each Mass and requires a minimum of three stewards and a first aider on duty, we are unable to offer any midweek Masses at this time.