



## 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

**Presbytery:** 2 Renfrew Square, Castle Vale, Birmingham B35 6JT T: 0121 747 7390

W:www.stgerardschurch.co.uk



### TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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*O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance.*

**Fr will celebrate private Mass every day at 9.30am**

#### Public Mass Times

##### Sunday 6th September

10.00 am

##### Sunday 13th September

10.00am

##### Baptismal Preparation 1

10.45am

We currently have only one public Mass on Sunday morning at 10.00am. As congregation numbers increase and as government restrictions allow we will look to reinstate weekday masses. We are currently unable to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Church. If you would like Fr to hear your confession he would be happy to do this after Mass one Sunday or in an outdoor space. Fr will shortly be resuming Baptismal preparation classes for those parents wishing to have their child Baptised. These classes will run for 2 consecutive weeks after Sunday morning Mass. Whilst the same restrictions on numbers of people in our Church at one time apply, it is now possible for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals to be conducted in Church.

#### Who's Who?

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

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

**Young Persons Officer** is Eleanor Perkins: **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.

There is no obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. Instead 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.

The maximum number who can be accommodated in our Church at one time is 100. All those attending must be worn, covering both nose and mouth. Please bring your own handkerchiefs. A hand sanitiser station will be in place and take care to avoid any contact with the sanitiser.

Hand gel will be provided and should be used before and after Mass. A hand sanitiser station will be in place and take care to avoid any contact with the sanitiser.

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**Deacon Alex's Ordination Ceremony Saturday 12th September at St Chads Cathedral**  
Along with three other candidates Deacon Alex will be ordained next week. Please keep him in your prayers. We look forward to welcoming him to celebrate Mass at St Gerard's in the near future.  
Please join us by watching [#online. https://buff.ly/31uPFmF](https://buff.ly/31uPFmF)

#### Offertory Collection 30th August 2020

|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Gift Aid                | £ 35.00         |
| Non Gift Aid            | £ 49.59         |
| <b>Total Offertory</b>  | <b>£ 84.59</b>  |
| <b>Donation</b>         | <b>£1000.00</b> |
| <b>Total Banked</b>     | <b>£1084.59</b> |
| <b>Mass attendance:</b> | <b>22</b>       |

Thank you for your continued generosity



#### 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, 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.

**St Gerard's Catholic Primary  
School**

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



Twitter: @StGerardsBham

**FINANCE**

**Gift Aid envelopes and Gift Aid  
donations**

*Offertory collection boxes are available at the back of the Church for those parishioners registered for them. If you would like to take a box of envelopes for regular use then please enquire with one of the stewards or visit the Presbytery and Fr will be able to arrange for you. Please complete a Gift Aid declaration if you are a taxpayer. Thank you to those parishioners who regularly pay their offerings by way of Standing Order. As you would expect our 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.*

**PASTORAL**

**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.

**Baptisms;** A parent of the child to be baptised must be baptised, attend Sunday Mass regularly and undertake 2 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.

**PREMISES and HEALTH AND SAFETY**

We are pleased to announce that our Church Hall has been rented on a full time basis by Upcycle. Many of you may be familiar with Upcycle who have relocated from their previous premises to be in the centre of the Castle Vale community whom they serve. Upcycle opened their doors last week. Please pop in and see what they have to offer. Not only is the rental income important for our parish sustainability, we hope to be able to work closely with Upcycle extending the services that we can offer to the residents of Castle Vale.

**SAFEGUARDING**

At this current time it continues to be in everyone's safety for only Fr to be present on the Alter during public Mass. Reading Lists, Eucharistic Ministers Lists and Altar Servers and Choir will be resumed once social distancing measures are withdrawn.

**SOCIAL**

It is very much hoped that we may see our Thursday afternoon tea club returning by the end of the year in the old bar area which once renovated will be used as our Parish area. We hope to transform this area into a Café style room for our social gatherings and maybe open it to the public as a Café a couple of mornings a week for income. We are currently exploring various avenues for funding in order to make this happen and ask that you keep our intentions, and the needs of our community in your prayers. A big thank you goes to the New Testament Church of God on Castle Vale who have made a very generous donation of £1000 towards this work and who wish to join with us in running activities from our church centre.

**Lord, I thank you for this new day. I know that you love me, You look at me at this moment and want this day to be a brand-new beginning with "a future full of hope". Whatever I have to face today, one thing I know is that you will be there with me as my best friend, helping, consoling, strengthening, healing and guiding me.**

**Lord Jesus, I give you my hands to do your work.**

**I give you my feet to go your way.**

**I give you my eyes to see as you do.**

**I give you my tongue to speak your words.**

**I give you my mind that you may think in me.**

**I give you my spirit that you may pray in me.**

**Above all, I give you my heart that you may love in me your Father and all humankind.**

**I give you my whole self that you may grow in me, so that it is you, Lord Jesus, who live and work and pray in me this day. Amen**

**PARISH ADMINISTRATION**

If anyone knows of a plumber that could have a look at the two toilets in the presbytery then please let Fr know as both have a small problem.

**Church Gardens**

After the lovely job that we did on the gardens for the spring summer we could do with a "gardening morning" preparing for the forthcoming autumn winter season. It is hoped to spend a few hours Saturday 19th September maybe 9.30-11.30 emptying pots baskets and maybe a bit of weeding. If you could lend a hand please let me know.

**Church Cleaning**

Again we are planning a deep clean of our church on Saturday 19th September. If enough volunteers this could be done at the same time as the gardening or alternatively afterwards at say 11.30-1.00. If you could lend a hand then please let me know.

**For both of the above please only volunteer if you are well and not shielding. Social distancing measures will apply.**