



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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TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

20th September 2020 Year A Volume 2

Look upon us O God, Creator and ruler of all things and that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart.

Fr will celebrate private Mass every day at 9.30am

Public Mass Times

Sunday 20th September

10.00 am

Baptism

of Matilda Hughes

10.45am

Sunday 27th September

10.00am

Baptismal Preparation 1

10.45am

After Mass today we will be welcoming Matilda Hughes into our St Gerard's family. This is our first Baptism since COVID restrictions. Please keep Matilda and her family in your prayers today.

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 and must be attended before Baptism can be confirmed.

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.

Altar Flowers

Please consider donating towards flowers in remembrance of a loved one.

Thank you

There is no obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. 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 any one time is 55. Face coverings must be worn, covering both nose and mouth. Please bring your own if possible.

Hand gel will be provided and should be used on entering and leaving the church. Please observe the one way system in place 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. 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 should be no congregational singing. At the sign of the peace, there will be no handshake or physical contact.

There will be no offertory procession during the Mass. There will be collection baskets at the exit point.

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.

Offertory Collection 13th September 2020

Gift Aid	£ 24.00
Non Gift Aid	£ 61.00
Total Offertory	£85.00
Total Banked	£85.00
Mass attendance:	21

Thank you for your continued generosity



Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Stephanie Brady and John Quilty: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

The sick: Peter Murphy, 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

**Fr Mathews induction as Parish Priest of St Gerard's
This induction Mass has been arranged for Sunday 11th
October at 10.00am. Please do your best to attend, if
safe to do so, to welcome Fr into our Parish.**

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 maybe 9.30-11.30 emptying pots baskets and maybe a bit of weeding.

Church Cleaning

We are planning a deep clean of our church ahead of Fr's Induction celebration. 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.