



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 NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.

Public Mass Times

Sunday 18th October

10.00 am

Baptismal Preparation 1

10.45am

*Retiring Collection for
APF World Missions*

Sunday 25th October

10.00am

Baptismal Preparation 2

10.45am

We are currently unable to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Church however, 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. At this time of new beginnings, fresh starts please consider the gift of Reconciliation that is given to us and think about taking up the offer.

There is no obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. 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. 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. There will be collection baskets at the exit point. There will be an opportunity to light votive candles on the way out of 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.

Altar Flowers

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

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who attended Fr's Induction Mass last week. It was wonderful to see so many parishioners, school staff and friends of Fr's, including the Bishop of the Syro Malabar Eparchy, joining us to formally welcome Fr Mathew as our Parish Priest. Please continue to keep Fr Mathew in your prayers as he settles into his role. Fr is keen to understand how he can serve you all better so be sure to let him know!

Also thank you to all those that were able to join us on Friday evening to celebrate the Feast of St Gerard. This was a very special evening where we were blessed to share Fr Alex's first celebration of Mass at St Gerard's following his recent ordination and in tradition we all received a personal blessing from Fr Alex.

All in all a wonderful week for our Parish. Thank you

Offertory Collection 4th October 2020

Gift Aid	£48.00
Non Gift Aid	£69.52
Total Offertory	£117.52
CAFOD	£17.50
Other 2nd collections	£50.00
Total Banked	£185.02
Mass attendance:	40

Blessing of the Graves— unfortunately due to COVID restrictions there will be no blessing of the graves this year. Fr would be happy to bless some water and provide suitable prayers for family use if requested.

APF World Mission Sunday— Fr Mathew is a missionary from India, here in the UK, offering his services to us as Parish Priest, we would like to fully support the work of APF and will be extending our retiring collection for the next few weeks for those able to contribute. Thank you

Offertory Collection 11th October 2020

Gift Aid	£44.00
Non Gift Aid	£11.15
Total Offertory	£55.15
CAFOD	£25.00
Votive Candles	£8.84
Total Banked	£88.99
Mass attendance:	57

Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Tommy Hughes: Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he 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

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. 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.

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

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



Please keep our children and staff in your prayers as our school continues to keep our children safe and well in these uncertain times. It is a real joy to see and hear them enjoying their playtimes which is a welcome reminder that all is well and God is good.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

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. Any volunteers?

Church Cleaning

As you are aware our church has to be cleaned before and after any service. If anyone is able to help after Mass on Sundays please let one of the stewards know. Thank you

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