



**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



**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**29th November 2020 Year B Volume 1 Page 82**

*Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom.*

**No Public Mass during lockdown.**

**Mass will be celebrated each day by Fr at 9.30am**

**For Flaherty family RIP and Cath and John Dunleavy RIP**

**From 3rd December collective prayer will be allowed in church so we will begin with Mass next Sunday 6th December 10.00am.**

**Please do your best to join us, if safe to do so, to demonstrate the importance of collective worship and the value of our church here on Castle Vale.**

**LATEST COVID INFORMATION:** *Please, where possible and safe, come along and visit our church for individual prayer and remembering our families and friends that have gone before us during this month of November. If you would like Father to remember them in his daily masses then please let him have their details.*

*If you would like Fr to hear your confession he would be happy to do this one Sunday. 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.*

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**Who's Who?**

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

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

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

**Parish Finance Committee** Fr, Sue Perkins, Sue Byrne, Therese, Frank.

**Pastoral Committee** led by Shirley Harris.

**Social Committee** Beulah, Sarita, Bernie, Rosaline, Sue.

**Premises Committee** is still to be established. Speak to Sue Perkins if interested.

**Funeral Arrangements:**

Frank Braddish— Monday 30th November. Funeral Service at 11.15am at St Gerard's Church followed by burial at Woodlands Cemetery at 12.15 p.m.

Peter Murphy— Friday 11th December. Requiem Mass at 10.30am at St Gerard's Church followed by burial at Sutton Cemetery at 12.00 p.m.

Dave McDermott-Friday 11th December. Funeral Service at 2.00pm at St Gerard's Church followed by cremation at Sutton Crematorium. At 3.25pm

**Altar Flowers**

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

**Thank you**

**Offertory Collection 22nd November 2020**

**A collection basket is available in Church for anyone visiting for private prayer.**

**Alternatively speak to Sue re setting up a regular standing order**

**Thankyou for your continued generosity**



**Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**

**Dave McDermott, Frank Braddish, Peter Murphy:** Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

**The sick:** 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 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.**