



## 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



### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 6th December 2020 YEAR B VOLUME 1 PAGE 85

*Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet you Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company.*

#### Mass Times

**Sunday 6th December**  
Confessions 9.15-9.45am  
Mass 10.00am

*For St Gerard's Parish and  
Frank Braddish RIP*

**Tuesday 8th December**  
**Solemnity of the Immaculate  
Conception of the Blessed  
Virgin Mary**

Mass 7.00pm in the Chapel

**Friday 11th December**

Funeral-Peter Murphy  
10.30am  
Funeral Dave McDermott  
2.30pm

**Sunday 13th December**

Mass 10.00 am  
for Peter Murphy RIP and  
Dave McDermott RIP

**Baptism 9.30am**

Damon and Ronan Roche

**Today marks the second Sunday of Advent: LOVE**

**"John the Baptist was in the desert, proclaiming a baptism of  
repentance"**

*Merciful God, You sent John the Baptist to preach repentance. For-  
give us for the times when we have done wrong, when we have hurt  
other people and damaged our earth. Lead us to make a change to  
live differently, preparing a way and making your paths straight.  
Amen.*

**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. 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.*

**The Popes Prayer Intention for December**

*We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished  
by the Word of God and a life of prayer.*

#### 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.

#### Altar Flowers

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

**Thank you**



#### Funeral Arrangements:

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

#### Offertory Collection 29th 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, 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.**