



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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Feast of the Baptist of the Lord

Sunday 10th January 2021 Year B Volume 1 Page 119

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you.

Mass Times

Sunday 10th January

Mass 10.00am

For Linda Conroy RIP

Monday 11th January

Funeral Service 10.30am for

Mary (Maureen) Jones

Sunday 17th January

Mass 10.00am

For Linda Conroy RIP

Confession on request.

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers this week are in memory of Linda Conroy. Please continue to consider sponsoring the flowers each week in memory of a loved one.

Thank you



A Prayer for the New Year.

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

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.

Offertory Collection 3rd January 2021

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Gift Aid | £ 38.00 |
| Non Gift Aid | £ 15.38 |
| Total Offertory | £ 53.38 |
| Crib Offerings | £ 11.86 |
| Funeral Fee | £199.00 |
| Donation from Holy Cross Parish | £1400.00 |
| Total Banked | £1699.65 |

Mass attendance: 27

Thankyou for your continued generosity, especially those who continue to support the parish whilst unable to attend Mass. Please note the very kind donation received from Holy Cross Parish in Walmley to assist St Gerard's with its financial obligations during this difficult time. We are extremely grateful for their generosity.



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 has been a real joy to see and hear them enjoying their playtimes recently and a welcome reminder that all is well and God is good. For those parents teaching their children at home

we pray that they will soon be able to return to school to be amongst their St Gerard's family.

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently died: Linda Conroy and Mary Jones: 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, 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.

And all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May the rest in peace. Amen



St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

'We Live, Love and Learn Together with Jesus'

Twitter: @StGerardsBham

School website:
www.stgerard.bham.sch.uk

FINANCE

Gift Aid envelopes and Gift Aid donations

If you would like to take a box for regular use then please enquire with one of the stewards. As you will see with reduced numbers attending Mass each week and the suspension of our 100 club at present, every penny offered is valuable to keep our Parish afloat and reclaiming tax on offerings made by envelope or standing order is a valuable source of income to us. 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. A standing order form is available on our website if you wished to set this up. Unsurprisingly our collections have been substantially reduced during these last nine months and as our only source of income, with no financial support from the Government for churches, we still have to cover our bills. Please remember your church through these times.

Red Boxes: As these were not emptied in December we will roll that forward to March and would ask that they are returned for counting during March. I will remind you nearer the time.

SOCIAL

Unfortunately we await COVID restrictions being lifted before we are able to come together socially. The new Parish Area is coming along and is now ready for decorating. **Any volunteers?** We had hoped 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 will continue to work towards this so when we are able we will have a venue for some social events. Please keep our intentions, and the needs of our community in your prayers. Please check out our **Facebook page and Website for updates.**

We are also operating a WhatsApp group to share daily prayers, blessings, prayers and intentions. If you would like to join that group please see Sue who will add you to that group. You do need a mobile phone to do so.

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.

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.

Communion to the Sick and the Housebound: Please speak to Fr if you know of anyone who is unable to come to Mass and would like to receive Communion.

PREMISES and HEALTH AND SAFETY

We are pleased to announce that the rental agreement on our Church Hall has been renewed for a further 12 months on a full time basis to Upcycle. Although things have not been easy for Upcycle with the lockdowns disrupting business they have settled in well and have been very well received on Castle Vale. They are very much looking forward to increasing their offerings in 2021. Please pop in and see them when they are re-opened and see what they have to offer. This rental income is very important to our parish sustainability as is being able to work closely with Upcycle, extending the services that we can offer to the residents of Castle Vale, which increases our visibility on Castle Vale. Please keep the success of this partnership in your prayers.

As we have entered Lockdown 3 it is ever important that we adhere to the stringent restrictions in place in our church to ensure the safety of our parishioners, visitors, volunteers and clergy. Please continue to follow the guidance of our stewards in respect of hygiene, remaining in your seats for the duration of Mass and following one way systems around the church when entering and exiting. It is very easy to become complacent but the same risks exist as they did in March when the regulations were put in place and if we are to keep our church open we must ensure that it remains a safe place to be. Please help us to do our bit to reduce the spread of this virus.

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. As mentioned above all the initial restrictions and measures remain and will continue to be enforced by our stewards. Reading Lists, Eucharistic Ministers Lists and Altar Servers and Choir be resumed once social distancing measures are withdrawn. Thankyou to everyone who has helped us to be exemplary in our approach to safeguarding our Priest in his service and our parishioners in their ability to visit our church safely. We pray that we soon start to see the lifting of some restrictions and a move back to more normal services where we get to follow mass books and hymn books and engage in a bit of congregational singing!

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Church Gardens

After the lovely job that we did on the gardens for the spring last year it is nearly time again! We could do with planning a "gardening day" to prepare for the forthcoming spring season. Any volunteers? I understand this is allowed during lockdown provided social distancing is maintained?

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.

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