



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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 20th December 2020 Year B Volume 1 Page 90

Poor forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.

Mass Times

Sunday 20th December

Baptism 9.30am

Francis Thomas Wardell

Mass 10.00am

For Peter Ensor RIP

Baptism 10.45am

Ava Waldron

Thursday 24th December

Vigil Mass 7.00pm with

music from 6.30pm

This mass is now fully booked

Friday 25th December

Mass 10.00 am

Nativity of the Lord

Saturday 26th December

St Stephens Day

Mass 10.00am

Sunday 27th December

Holy Family

Mass 10.00 am

Confession on request.



MERRY CHRISTMAS & THANK YOU

I'd like to thank you for all your help and support during this challenging year which we all have suffered, I just pray that the coming year 2021 will be better for us all. May the Lord bless and keep all of us safe from this danger Covid-19. Have a blessed & peaceful Christmas. *Fr Mathew*

Today marks the fourth Sunday of Advent: PEACE

"Rejoice you who enjoy God's favour! The Lord is with you"

God with us, you made your home amongst us, loved by your mother Mary, and bringing her joy. As we prepare to celebrate your birth, be with us now, especially with those who are seeking refuge. Comfort us all and bring us joy. Amen.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS IS NOW FULLY BOOKED. Please do not just turn up without a booking as we shall not be able to admit you. For those that have booked please arrive no more than 15 minutes before Mass (or music!) and the stewards will show you to your allotted place. Spaces are still available for **CHRISTMAS DAY MASS.**

PHONE OR EMAIL TO BOOK PLACES OR SEE THE STEWARDS AT THE BACK OF CHURCH TODAY.

After a long time of not being able to celebrate Baptisms in church, it is great JOY that we today welcome Francis and Ava, who are being Baptised here this morning. Please welcome them and their family to our St Gerard's family.

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 this Christmas.

Thank you



Linda Conroy RIP: Very sadly we must advise that the lovely Linda Conroy passed away peacefully, after a short stay in hospital. Linda was the most remarkable lady, who along with the "Mothers" worked tirelessly for many many years for our parish and always with a smile on her face, a sparkle in her eye, a soft tone to her voice and a real care and genuine interest for others. She really was a very special lady and I know you will all join in praying for Linda and her family at this very sad time. God Bless you Linda.

Offertory Collection 6th December 2020

Gift Aid	£236.00
Non Gift Aid	£6.90
Total Offertory	£242.90

Offertory Collection 13th December 2020

Gift Aid	£133.00
Non Gift Aid	£54.90
Total Offertory	£187.90

Second Collections **£34.00**

Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Linda Conroy: Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she 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 Beattie, 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.