



Parish of St. Gerard, Castle Vale

part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham—Registered Charity No. 234216

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First Sunday of Lent

Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.

Sunday 21st February 2021 Year B Volume 1 Page 148

Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects.

Mass Times

Sunday 21st February

Confession 9.30am-9.50am

Mass 10.00am

For Sue Close RIP

Sunday 28th February

Confession 9.30am-9.50am

Mass 10.00am

For Matthew Corrigan RIP

Reflection

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

Parish Mission Statement

We, the members of St Gerard's R.C. Church, are baptised in Jesus Christ, empowered by the spirit, nurtured in community and nourished by prayer, word and sacrament. Therefore, for the greater glory of God, we proclaim for all people the saving message of the Gospel, and joyfully share our time, talent and resources, in works of mercy and justice, both within and beyond our parish community.

WALK WITH ME : available to assist us in our prayers during this important season. *Note: the Parish has paid £1.50 for the booklets.*

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope that you and your families are all keeping well and staying safe during these difficult times. I am praying that by now most of you will have received the vaccine and that you will feel a little more secure in your everyday life whilst still keeping safe. Hopefully my dear Brothers and Sisters, and we must keep our hopes alive, there is a 'chink' of light at the end of the tunnel with more of us being vaccinated every day. Our Parish community is very important to me not just during this pandemic but always. I pray for you all every day that soon we shall be reunited in church at Mass celebrating a better future for us all. I thank you all for your support. I very much enjoy hearing from you. I am like a shepherd without a flock. I ask you to pray for me and each other.

I am very pleased that we are fortunate and able to celebrate Mass each week and I hope it brings you comfort. Last Our Lady of Lourdes, the Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ knew only too well what suffering was. I feel sure she understands our suffering. Pray to her, go to her and rest in her loving arms the Mother of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

God Bless you all and I look forward to seeing more of you very soon. Until then stay safe and keep well. Fr Mathew.

Homily 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today is the last Sunday of this season, Ordinary Time. With Ash Wednesday this week, we enter into Great Lent season. As usual we had two readings, Psalms and the Gospel reading. In the first reading and Gospel passage we find out a common word: that is the word "leprosy". In the book of Leviticus, today's first reading it says, "if a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected". In the Gospel passage we find Jesus who feels sorry for a leper. So Jesus stretched out his hand and cured him. Fortunately, we do not have leprosy. We do not have a swelling or scab or shiny spot on our skin. But the season we are entering, the Lent season, is a time to reflect whether we have a swelling or scab or spot in our hearts? Be assured that even if we have any kind of leprosy in our hearts, Jesus feels so sorry and he is kind enough to heal us. So, as we enter into this important season of our liturgical year, a time to reflect and deepen and strengthen our relationship with God, let us experience the kindness of God.

Let us proclaim together with the responsorial Psalm of this day which says, "O Lord, you are my refuge; you fill me with the joy of salvation". The Psalm continues saying, "But now I have acknowledged my sins; my guilt I did not hide. I said: 'I will confess my offence to the Lord.' And you, Lord, have forgiven the guilt of my sin". St Paul gives us very good advice. He says, "Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone, not anxious for my own advantage

Alter Flowers:

Please continue to consider sponsoring the flowers each week in memory of a loved one.

Thank you



Offertory Collection 14th January 2021

Gift Aid Envelopes	£41.00
Gift Aid Standing orders	£50.00
Non Gift Aid	£40.16
Total Offertory	£81.16

Second Collection £7.00

Mass attendance: 24

Next Sunday there will be a Second Collection for CAFOD Lent Fast Day

PASTORAL: Committee led by Shirley Harris.

Baptisms; A parent of the child to be baptised must be baptised, attend Sunday Mass regularly and undertake two 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.

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

Children's Liturgy Group and our Parish Youth Group will resume as soon as allowed. We are exploring opportunities for a virtual Youth Group. Watch this space!!



St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

'We Live, Love and Learn Together with Jesus'

Twitter: @StGerardsBham

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

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 play-times 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.

FINANCE: Committee Fr, Sue Perkins, Sue Byrne, Therese, Frank.

Gift Aid envelopes, Standing Orders and Legacy donations

We have obtained a quote for repair of the church roof where water has been leaking. Please consider what you may be able to contribute towards this necessary cost.

If you would like to take a box of envelopes for regular use by yourself or members of your family then please enquire with one of the stewards. Please complete a Gift Aid declaration if you are a taxpayer. A standing order form is available on our website if you wished to set this up.

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.

PREMISES: Committee Fr, Sue Perkins, Sue Byrne, Therese, Frank.

We are pleased to announce that the rental agreement on our Church Hall has been renewed for a further 12 months to Upcycle. 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. *Please keep the success of this partnership in your prayers.*

HEALTH AND SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDING: Safeguarding and Health and Safety Officer Hayley Macilwraith: 07840 866201

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. Please help us to do our bit to reduce the spread of this virus. It continues to be in everyone's safety for only Fr to be present on the Alter during public Mass. 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!

SOCIAL: Committee Beulah, Sarita, Bernie, Rosaline, Sue.

We await restrictions being lifted before we are able to come together socially. 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. Please join that group by seeing Sue who will add you. You do need a mobile phone to do so.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION: Sue Perkins: 07971 076835 or stgerardscv.rc@gmail.com

Church Gardens

Its that time of year again! We could do with planning a "gardening day" to prepare for the forthcoming spring season. **Any volunteers?**

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 please let one of the stewards know.

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently died: Helen Doran, Sue Close, Fr Patrick Joyce, Fr Giles Goward, Arline Millard and Georgina Hand: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

The sick: Bernadette Parish, 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.