



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.stgerardchurch.co.uk



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 31st January 2021 Year B Volume 1 Page 132

Grant us, Lord our God, that we may honour you with all our mind, and love everyone in truth of heart.

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

A message from Fr Mathew

My dear Parishioners, during this difficult time I have noticed that the numbers at Mass have decreased a little. This, I realise, is mainly due the second lockdown and the new variance of the Corona virus. I do miss all of you very much but I feel relieved and pleased that you are protecting yourselves by following the government guidelines and staying safe at home within your family bubble. Whilst we do not have “Live Streaming” in our parish, I know many of you are watching Mass online. I am exploring ways in which we can feel closer as a parish, whilst not always being able to be together in our church. We can all stay together if we pray together. Try saying the reflection each day knowing that other parishioners are doing the same? If you have a special celebration, memory or thought, email me and I will remember you in Mass. It’s good to also hear how you are doing. There is a light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccine. I understand that this is now being rolled out in our area. God Bless you all my dear brothers and sisters and your families. Stay safe and pray for me as I will pray for you.

God Bless, Father Mathew

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Father Patrick Joyce** who died on Wednesday, 13th January and **Father Giles Goward** who died on Thursday. Archbishop Bernard Longley appointed Father Giles Goward as the new Rector of St Mary’s College, Oscott in only June last year. Fr Giles, a priest and previously Pastoral Director at Oscott, was responsible for the formation of students for the priesthood from more than twenty dioceses and Religious Orders from across the UK. His appointment was cut short after a short illness. Please pray for The Parish of Ss Mary and John and the people of Oscott College as this sad time.

Offertory Collection 24th January 2021

Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 0.00
Gift Aid Standing orders	£50.00
Non Gift Aid	£16.05
Total Offertory	£66.05

Mass attendance: 17

Thankyou for your continued generosity, especially those who continue to support the parish whilst unable to attend Mass. Please speak to Fr or one of the stewards if you consider setting up a standing order as a more efficient way of making your weekly or monthly offerings during these times where regularly attending Mass may be difficult.



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: Sue Close, Fr Patrick Joyce, Fr Giles Goward and Jean Hand: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

The sick: Henryk Koryl, 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 including Fr John Berry

Mass Times

Sunday 31st January

Racial Justice Day

Mass 10.00am

For Mai Raynor RIP

Friday 5th February

Feast of St Agatha

Sunday 7th February

Mass 10.00am

Confession on request.

Altar Flowers

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

Thank you



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.



St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

*'We Live, Love and Learn Together
with Jesus'*

Twitter: @StGerardsBham

School website:

www.stgerard.bham.sch.uk

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.

FINANCE

Gift Aid envelopes, Standing Orders 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 attendance at Mass each week and the suspension of our 100 club at present, every penny 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. A standing order form is available on our website if you wished to set this up. Unsurprisingly our collections have substantially reduced during these last nine months and 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.

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 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. 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. *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 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

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. 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

Unfortunately we await COVID restrictions being lifted before we are able to come together socially. The new Parish Area is coming along and will be ready for us soon. We continue to transform this area into a Café style room for our social gatherings/ meetings and maybe open it to the public as a Café a couple of mornings a week for additional income. 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.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

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.

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

Linda's family have donated her wheelchair and it would be nice for it to go to someone at St Gerard's. **Any takers?**