



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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Fifth Sunday of Lent

Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.

Sunday 21st March 2021 Year B Volume 1 Page 165

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR HOLY WEEK

This year we are fortunate to be present in church for the Celebrations for Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum. However, due to COVID restrictions our Liturgies on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday will be on a booking system. This will be similar to the system we used at Christmas where we ask you to either call or email the above parish contact details. The limited capacity in our church during these COVID times is **58** places and therefore we will need to limit places to this for each service. See below for services times.

PLEASE NOTE : There is still no obligation to attend Mass if you feel vulnerable or are shielding and there are many live streaming events taking place across the Diocese for you to join if that is what makes you feel more comfortable. Also please do not attend Church if you are feeling unwell in any way. God Bless Father Mathew.

Mass Times

Sunday 21st March

Confession 9.30am-9.50am

Mass 10.00am

For

Stations of the Cross

6.00pm

Sunday 28th March

Confession 9.30am-9.50am

Mass 10.00am

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

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.*

Red Boxes– If not already done so please bring your Missio Red Boxes into church and leave them on the table in the Narthex.

Children's Liturgy– Today we will be offering a children's liturgy at the back of church. We continue to ensure that COVID restrictions in terms of social restrictions and hygiene remain hence why we will not be leaving church and there will not be the usual offertory procession that we know the children enjoy!. Hopefully this will be a start to us returning to some normality. Today they will be making palms for next weeks Palm Sunday procession!

Second Collection: Today and next week there will be a retiring collection for flowers for the Alter over Easter. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Holy Week and Easter Triduum Mass times:

Palm Sunday-The Passion- 28th March 2021 –10.00am

Maundy Thursday-Mass of The Lord's Last Supper- 1st April 2021 -7.00pm

Good Friday-2nd April 2021-3.00pm

Easter Vigil-3rd April 2021-6.00pm

Easter Sunday-4th April 2021 10.00am (and 12.00pm if necessary)

Alter Flowers:

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

Thank you

**Offertory Collection 14th March**

Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 149.00
Gift Aid Standing orders	£50.00
Non Gift Aid	£39.56
Second Collections	£ 5.00
Piety	£
Votive Candles	£
Total Banked	£
Mass attendance:	40

Today there will be a retiring collection for Alter Flowers

**PASTORAL: Committee led by Shirley Harris.**

Hospital Chaplaincy: If you or a family member is in hospital and would like a visit by a Priest or Eucharistic Minister please inform the parish office.

Baptisms: Please complete the request forms available at stgerardschurch.co.uk and send to the parish office. You will be contacted to book a date but you must give at least two months notice to attend a preparation course before confirming any date. A parent of the child to be baptised must be baptised, attend Sunday Mass regularly and undertake the preparation meetings.

Weddings: please download our Booklet "Booking your Wedding" from www.stgerardschurch.co.uk which explains the process.

Newsletter: If you wish to place a notice in the Newsletter please send an email to the parish email address. Must be received by 12 noon on Friday.

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.

Parish Youth Group will resume as soon as allowed. Watch this space!!

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.

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: Could you please your red boxes into Church during March for counting. If you are aware of any friends or neighbours that have a box you could bring on their behalf.

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.

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!

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

To keep up-to-date with all the latest news, information and online events from across the Archdiocese and beyond please sign up to the newsletter, issued every few weeks via email.

Please visit www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/e-news to sign up.

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently died: Rita Wray, Ronald White: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

The sick: Maureen Halloran, 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.