



Parish of St. Gerard, Castle Vale

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

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Second Sunday of Lent

Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.

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O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory

Mass Times

Sunday 28th February

Confession 9.30am-9.50am

Mass 10.00am

For Matthew Corrigan RIP

Stations of the Cross 6.00pm

Sunday 7th March

Confession 9.30am-9.50am

Mass 10.00am

For Mary and Eddie Keating

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 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, 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. 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 First Sunday of Lent

Saint Jerome is a brilliant doctor of the Church. He lived for twenty-five years in the cave where the Child Jesus was born. One time he prayed to Jesus thus: "You have suffered much to save me; how can I make compensations?" "What can you give me, Jerome?" a voice was heard. Jerome replied, "I will spend my entire life in prayer, and I will offer all my talents into Your hands." "You do that to glorify Me, but what more can you give to Me?" the Voice asked again. "I will give all my money to the poor," Jerome exclaimed. The Voice said: "Give your money to the poor; it would be just as if you were giving it to Me. But what else can you give to Me?" Saint Jerome became upset and said: "Lord, I have given You everything! What is there left to give?" The Lord replied, "Jerome, you have not yet given Me your sins." "Give them to Me so I can erase them." Jerome burst into tears and spoke, "Dear Jesus, take all that is mine and give me all that is Yours."

Lent is the time to give our sins to God with repentant hearts. In today's Gospel passage we find Jesus starting his ministry proclaiming the Good news from God. What is that Good news? "The kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel."

The primary purpose of Lent is our spiritual preparation for the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us convert Lent into a time for spiritual growth by: a) participating in the Holy Mass b) by setting aside some part of our day for personal prayer; c) reading some Scripture passages. d) setting aside some money we might spend on ourselves for meals, entertainment, or clothes and giving it to an organization which takes care of the less fortunate in our society; e) abstaining from smoking, alcohol, and other evil addictions; f) receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Lent. All these some suggestions to convert this Lent onto a time for spiritual growth. May God bless us all. Amen

Alter Flowers:

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

Thank you



Offertory Collection 21st January 2021

Gift Aid Envelopes	£224.00
Gift Aid Standing orders	£ 50.00
Non Gift Aid	£ 74.96
Second Collections	£ 24.00
Total Banked	£322.96
Mass attendance:	29

Today 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 reparation 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

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, 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.