



## 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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### Third Sunday of Lent

*Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.*

Sunday 7th March 2021 Year B Volume 1 Page 154

*O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy.*

#### Mass Times

##### Sunday 7th March

Confession 9.30am-9.50am

##### Mass 10.00am

For Mary and Eddie Keating

##### Stations of the Cross

6.00pm

##### Sunday 14th March

Confession 9.30am-9.50am

##### Mass 10.00am

For Hoods Charitable Trust  
deceased parents and sick  
members of the family.

#### 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.*

#### Homily Second Sunday of Lent

At the beginning of this Lent season, we might have decided to give up something. In Lent time we are invited to give up things we like very much. Children sometimes tell me that they give up chocolate during Lent. Some others give up cartoons or play station or mobile games. Adults may give up meat, fish or anything that gives them pleasure. **Giving up something very special for us for somebody else is a sign of our love for them.** Parents give up their own desires for their children because they love their children. In short, we all give up or sacrifice many things for whom we do love. In today's readings we heard about this giving up. In the first reading Abraham gave up his only son for God. It was a test from God. The first reading, reading from the book of Genesis, started with these words: "God put Abraham to the test". God said, "take your son, your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you". What a terrible test it was! We know the story of Abraham. Abraham had no children. But in his old age, God gave him a child, as a blessing. It was his only child. We can imagine how much Abraham would have loved his only son Isaac. But now God asks to offer him as a burnt offering. Let us think about what we have decided to sacrifice during this lent season. Did we decide to sacrifice anything so special to us? Something that is very near to our hearts. It depends how much we love God. It depends what is important in our lives? Whom do we love more? God or this world? What are our priorities in life? In the second reading, St Paul reminds us, the giving up of somebody else. St Paul writes, "God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all". God gave up his only Son for us, since for Him we are so precious. God proved His love to me, to each one of us, by giving up his own Son.

This lent season reminds us of this giving up of our heavenly father. It reminds us that we are so precious to God. We are not orphans, but we are children of a loving father. This is confirmed in today's Gospel passage. Peter and James and John heard a voice from the cloud, "this is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him". God sent his only Son to prove His love to each one of us. Therefore, St Paul assures us nobody can be against us because God is on our side. "With God on our side who can be against us?"

Dear brothers and sisters, this world pandemic could be a test from God. It is a time to prove our priorities in life. I would say, this lockdown is an occasion for us to give up what is less important in life and give priority to God. Maybe we had forgotten God and gave priorities to our job, our children, our family. We might have neglected Sunday Masses, giving priority to money. Yes, this lent time is a time to reflect and turn to God. Hereafter let us give priority to God. Together with today's responsorial Psalm let us repeat, "Lord, I am your servant. I will walk in your presence". Amen

### Alter Flowers:

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

Thank you



### Offertory Collection 28th January 2021

Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 58.00
Gift Aid Standing orders	£50.00
Non Gift Aid	£73.40
Second Collections	£ 20.00
<b>Total Banked</b>	<b>£ 151.40</b>
<b>Mass attendance:</b>	<b>35</b>

Today there will be a Second Collection for Cathedral Maintenance



### 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 playtimes recently and a welcome reminder that all is well and God is good.*

**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.

**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](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/e-news) to sign up.

### Please remember in your prayers:

**Recently died: Rita Wray, Ronald White, Helen Doran, Sue Close:** 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.