



**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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**Easter Sunday**

**Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord**

**Sunday 4th April 2021 Year B Volume 1 Page 251**

*O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life.*

**HE IS RISEN!**

*"Jesus, the Risen Lord, loves us without limits and is there at every moment of our lives. He invites us to overcome barriers, banish prejudices and draw near to those around us every day in order to rediscover the grace of everyday life" Pope Francis .*

*Dear brother, dear sister: if on this night you are experiencing an hour of darkness, a day that has not yet dawned, a light dimmed or a dream shattered, open your heart with amazement to the message of "Do not be afraid, he has risen!" Pope Francis .*

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Holy Easter. We have a lot to be thankful for as our church remains open and our congregation continues to return to weekly Mass. Thankyou to all our volunteers, stewards, florist and choir that have continued to serve through this pandemic and prepared our church and services so diligently with the various changes to the normal. After such a long time of waiting this Easter Triduum has been a real blessing. Thank you all. God Bless Father Mathew.

**Mass Times**

**Sunday 4th April**

*Confession 9.30am-9.50am*

**Mass 10.00am**

**Easter Tuesday– 6th April**

**10.00am**

**Easter Friday-9th April**

**10.00am**

**2nd Sunday of Easter**

**Divine Mercy**

*Confession 9.30am-9.50am*

**Mass 10.00am**

*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*

**CHRIST SUFFERED FOR US leaving us an example that we should follow in His steps.**

**Ours were the sufferings He bore, ours the sorrows He carried.**



**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 or 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. If you do not currently have a box but would like one please see Sue.

**Children's Liturgy**– Today we will be offering a children's liturgy at the back of church after the procession into 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.



**Flowers for Easter:** Thank you to the many parishioners that have made donations towards the flowers for the Altar for Easter Sunday.

**Easter Egg Hunt:** After Mass today there will be a small Easter Egg hunt in the church garden for the children. See Ellie after Mass for instructions! Feel free to watch the children enjoy this activity but please remember social distancing at all times. Thank you.

### Alter Flowers:

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

Thank you



### Offertory Collection 21st March

Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 131.00
Gift Aid Standing orders	£50.00
Non Gift Aid	£23.17
Second Collections	£ 3.00
<b>Total Banked</b>	<b>£ 157.17</b>
<b>Mass attendance:</b>	<b>43</b>

*Today's collection is Easter Offerings for our Priest. Thankyou for your continued generosity.*



**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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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**

New Offertory boxes were expected before this week but have been delayed. Hopefully these will be available by next week, 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.

**100 Club:** This is still suspended whilst Mass attendance is significantly reduced. We hope that as restrictions are lifted and attendance numbers increase we will be able to reinstate this by the second half of the year.

**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

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 by seeing Sue who will add you. You do need a mobile phone.*

**PARISH ADMINISTRATION:** Sue Perkins: 07971 076835 or [stgerardscv.rc@gmail.com](mailto: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: Kathy Beatie, Ronald White, Maureen Halloran:** 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, Tina Parkes, Father Gabby Maguire & all the sick priests of the diocese. May the Lord grant them the healing they require.