



Parish of St. Gerard, Castle Vale

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

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Third Sunday of Easter

Sunday 18th April 2021 Year B Volume 1 Page 258

May your people exult forever, O God, in renewed youthfulness of spirit, so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.

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 .

“The Lord does not want us to keep thinking about our failings. He wants us to look to Him. In our failings He sees children to help up; in our misery He sees children in need of His merciful love” Pope Francis .

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Holy Eastertime. 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 18th April

Confession 9.30am-9.50am

Mass 10.00am

For Cathleen Davis RIP

Sunday 25th April

Confession 9.30am-9.50am

Mass 10.00am

World Day of Prayer for

Vocations

For Richard Woolgrove RIP

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

Solemnity of St George, Martyr and Patron of England: Friday 23rd April. . Popular tradition presents St George as the knight who killed the dragon, making him a symbol of a triumph of faith against the force of evil. He was the son of an illustrious family of Cappadocia and at a young age was raised to the ministry during the Emperor Diocletian’s reign. When the Emperor promulgated an edict against the Christians, St George professed his faith publicly, for which he was martyred. During the crusades Richard Coeur de Lion impressed by the cult of St George, so popular in the east, made St George the Protector of England.

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. 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. 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. If anyone is willing to run liturgy group for the next few weeks whilst Ellie is away then please see Sue after Mass.

Flowers for Easter: Thank you to the many parishioners that have made donations towards the flowers for the Altar for Easter Sunday and thank you to Shirley for the beautiful Easter arrangements. The church looks even more beautiful!.



Alter Flowers:

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



Thank you

Offertory Collection 11th April

Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 68.00
Gift Aid Standing orders	£50.00
Non Gift Aid	£25.39
Total Banked	£ 93.39
Mass attendance:	43

Next week there will be a retiring collection for the Clergy Training Fund. 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 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!! . Ellie will be away for the next 5 weeks so could do with cover for Liturgy group? Any volunteers?

FINANCE: Committee Fr, Sue Perkins, Sue Byrne, Therese, Frank.

Talk on Church Finances in a time of Pandemic. Rev. David Palmer former Treasurer of the Archdiocese of Birmingham. 18th April 1.45pm for a 2pm start. Every organisation needs money including the Church. However, in recent years income to parishes has been steadily reducing and costs continue to increase. The pandemic has and will have a significant impact on that situation. So, what better time for us to understand our financial situation and the issues we face. To register for the Zoom Meeting, Email:actabham@gmail.com."

New Offertory boxes are available at the back of church. Please complete a Gift Aid declaration if you are a taxpayer. If you do not currently use offertory envelopes but would like to take a box please see Sue. A standing order form is on our website if you wished to set this up.

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

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: HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Paul Clarke, Kathy Beatie, Ronald White, Maureen Halloran, Ellie Keeley Byrne: 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.