



Parish of St. Gerard, Castle Vale

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

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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.

Pentecost Sunday

Sunday 23rd May 2021 Year B Volume 1 Page 286

O God, who by the mystery of today's great feast sanctify your whole Church in every people and nation, pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit across the face of the earth and, with the divine grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed, fill now once more the hearts of believers.

CHURCH GUIDELINES INFORMATION

We have received an update from the Bishops' Conference on worship and the use of churches effective from 17 May. As a result over the next couple of weeks there will be some changes to our current COVID arrangements in church. When these changes have been agreed within our local conditions a separate sheet will be available for your information. We welcome these changes as they take us closer to resuming "life as we know it", however, we must remain vigilant and keep each other safe in these uncertain times.

Mass Times

Sunday 23rd May

Rosary 9.30am-9.50am

Mass 10.00am with Children's

Liturgy

For Mary McHugh & James

Sergeant RIP

Sunday 30th May

Rosary 9.30am-9.50am

Mass 10.00am with Liturgy

For Albert Runganga, Macdara

Davis and Serafin & Marcelina

Revillas

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



May— The month of Mary— Pope Francis has requested that the Church comes together to pray the Rosary every day throughout the month of May for an end to the pandemic. The Pope will be joining 30 shrines across the world throughout the month of May, with a different intention to be prayed for each day. As a parish we will be praying the Rosary each Sunday before Mass at 9.30am and encourage you all to make time in your busy days to pray your own Rosary.



The Meeting Place Café

During these last 12 months we have been busy renovating part of our vacant church centre into a Cafe/Meeting Place. We are delighted that this space is nearing completion and we have secured a rental agreement from Upcycle Birmingham CIC. The rental income alone is welcomed towards our parishes running costs which as you will be aware have been very strained for a while. In addition, the provision of a place for people and communities to come together, whether for a coffee and company or to attend the many support groups/ recreational activities that are planned for the meeting space, will be a real demonstration of the Church in action as we work closely with Upcycle.

We are now looking for a Cafe Co-Ordinator to manage the Café.

Job Title: Cafe Coordinator.

Hours: 20 per week delivered through the week, Monday to Friday mornings (9.00am-1.00pm)

Venue: The Meeting Place Cafe, St Gerard's Church Centre.

Responsibilities: Managing a team of staff and volunteers to deliver The Meeting Place Cafe.

Full Job Description and Application Form available from margaretdunsford@castlevalle.org.uk or judytullet@castlevalle.org.uk

Alter Flowers:

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



Thank you

Offertory Collection 16th May

Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 23.00.
Gift Aid Standing orders	£75.00
Non Gift Aid	£ 67.09
Catholic Comms	£13.00
Total Banked	£ 103.09
Mass attendance:	69



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.

Baptism: 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!! It is wonderful to see so many of our children regularly attending liturgy each week. Please visit: kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk for details of many events and activities to help our youth reconnect post COVID.

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

Every organisation needs money including the Church. However, in recent years income to parishes, along with Mass attendance has been steadily reducing and costs continue to increase. The pandemic has had a significant impact on that situation. We are pleased to announce that the rental agreement on our Church Hall has been renewed for a further 12 months to Upcycle. This 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.*

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.

SOCIAL: Committee Beulah, Sarita, Bernie, Rosaline, Sue.

We await restrictions being lifted before we are able to come together socially. 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.

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

With the support of the Diocese, we have now received a full structural survey and list of required works for our Church, Church centre and Presbytery. It will come as no surprise that the list is extensive. Retiring collections will be resumed to start to accumulate funds to go some way to commencing necessary works, in particular the roofs. The rental income from the church centre will enable some work to be completed and we continue to work with the Diocese to secure funding from outside organisations. Please keep our work in your prayers. Please share this message amongst family and friends as although they may not attend St Gerard's, they may wish to contribute to secure its future.

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. We look forward to 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: Elaine Hird and James Sergeant: 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.