



## Parish of St. Gerard, Castle Vale

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

Parish Priest: **Father Mathew Pinakkattu** : 07788790928 Email: stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk

**Presbytery:** 2 Renfrew Square, Castle Vale, Birmingham B35 6JT T: 0121 747 7390  
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### Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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*Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name, for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundation of your love.*

### Right to Life UK

**Ask your MP to vote against abortion up to birth.** The abortion lobby led by the UK's largest abortion provider, BPAS, has worked with Diana Johnson MP to bring forward an amendment to hijack Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill to introduce abortion on demand, for any reason up to birth to England and Wales. This would be the single biggest change to abortion legislation since 1967 and would leave England and Wales with one of the most extreme abortion laws in the world. We are expecting that this radical proposal will be voted on by MPs this Monday. Right to Life has launched an easy to use tool that makes it simple for you to send an email to your MP asking them to vote against the motion. Please click the link below to contact your MP now:

[www.righttolife.org.uk/StopAbortionUpToBirth](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/StopAbortionUpToBirth)

#### Mass Times

Sunday 4th July

Confession 9.30am-9.50am

Mass 10.00am with Children's

Liturgy

For Tim Miller RIP

Sunday 11th July

Confession 9.30am-9.50am

Mass 10.00am with Children's

Liturgy

For Bernadette Silvers 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**



**Thank you:** A big thank you to all those that helped in cleaning our church and tidying our gardens in readiness for the First Holy Communion which took place last weekend and again yesterday. This was a great opportunity to "show off" our beautiful church to visitors and demonstrate the wonderful community that we have that cares for our church. Thank you.

**The Meeting Place-St Gerard's Church Centre:** Volunteers are being requested to assist with the running of the café. If you are interested in maybe a couple of hours a week taking orders, wiping tables or a bit of washing up please let Sue know and she will pass your details to Ucycle who are managing the café space.

**Ladies the Lunch: Afternoon Tea: Thursday 15th July 12.30-2.30 in The Meeting Place:** We are delighted to say that our first get together is booked as above. Get the word out. We look forward to seeing lots of you there for a celebration of us being back together.

**Something Greater:** You may recall a Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Bernard Longley was read out at Mass a few weeks ago. It outlined the vision for the Archdiocese as we move forward. Leaflets explaining The Diocesan Vision: Unfolding God's Plan will be available to take away this weekend. Please pick up a copy for yourself, and take copies for those who are unable to come to Mass and share with family and friends to ensure we do our bit in spreading this message.

More information on the Vision is available on the Diocesan website: [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/vision](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/vision)



### St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

*'We Live, Love and Learn Together with Jesus'*

Twitter: @StGerardsBham

School website: [www.stgerard.bham.sch.uk](http://www.stgerard.bham.sch.uk)



*Congratulations to our Year 3 children who celebrated their First Holy Communion yesterday. Please continue to pray for these children in their faith journey and also our Year 6 children who will celebrate their Confirmation later this month.*

**Alter Flowers:**

This weeks flowers are sponsored by our school for the children's First Holy Communion  
Thank you



**Offertory Collection 27th June**

Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 48.00
Gift Aid Standing orders	£75.00
Non Gift Aid	£ 37.49
Restoration Fund	£342.20
Piety	£10.00
Votive Lights	£22.80
Peters Pence	£15.00
Donation	£50.00
<b>Total Banked</b>	<b>£525.49</b>
<b>Mass attendance:</b>	<b>58</b>



**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](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!! It is wonderful to see so many of our children regularly attending liturgy each week. Please visit: [kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk](http://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 . 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. 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: Officer Hayley Macilwraith: 07840 866201**

Please continue to follow the guidance of our church 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 hymn books and engage in a bit of congregational singing!

**PARISH ADMINISTRATION: Sue Perkins: 07971 076835 or [stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk)**

**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:** Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

**The sick:** Lesley Armstrong, Mark Ford, Michael Bergin, 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.

**And all those whose anniversaries occur at this time, may they rest in peace. Amen**

