



## 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  
W: www.stgerardschurch.co.uk



### Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 25th July 2021 Year B Volume 2 Page 112

*O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure.*

#### Sunday— it is our Day

A statement from the Catholic Bishops of England is available to read on the noticeboard. As certain restrictions are to be lifted with effect of 19th July, over the next couple of weeks there will be some changes to our current arrangements in church, however, we will not be rushing to implement full changes as to date we have maintained a safe place for people to attend Mass. The pandemic is not

#### Mass Times

##### Sunday 25th July

Confession 9.30am-9.50am

Mass 10.00am For Marian Armstrong  
with Children's Liturgy Followed by  
Baptism of Minnie Rose Walsh

##### Sunday 1st August

Confession 9.30am-9.50am

Mass 10.00am  
Followed by Baptism of Molly-Mae  
Downey

*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*



**Children's Liturgy: Schools out:** As our school has finished for the summer and many families will be taking their holidays we have decided to give Ellie a few weeks off also and postpone Children's Liturgy for a few weeks. We thank her for all she does for our children each week, we wish all our children a very happy and safe holiday and look forward to welcoming back to liturgy in a few weeks.

**Thank you:** A big thank you to all those that contribute to our Parish Restoration fund. As you know we have a big list of necessary repairs and maintenance but with your help we have been able to start making progress by replacing the presbytery frontage with a more secure porch and replacing the downstairs toilet in the presbytery. Next focus is the glazing at the back of church and a bit of heating for the winter, oh and a few leaks in our church roof!. Thank you again,

**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)

**Part-time vacancy for Donation Support Officer-**The Missionary Society of St. Columban in Britain is seeking a part-time Donation Support Officer to join its team, based at St. Columban's in Solihull. This is an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic and self-motivated professional to contribute to the mission work of the Columbans in Britain. For more details about the position and to apply, please contact or email the HR Advisor at 07562 657 382 or [hr@columbans.co.uk](mailto:hr@columbans.co.uk) or visit: [www.columbans.co.uk](http://www.columbans.co.uk). *Deadline for applications: Midnight on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021*

#### 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)



Please remember our pupils and staff in our prayers as they start their well earned summer break.

**Alter Flowers:**

Please consider donating towards church flowers in remembrance of a deceased relative.

Thank you



**Offertory Collection 18th July**

Gift Aid Envelopes	£68.00
Gift Aid Standing orders	£75.00
Non Gift Aid	£0.00
Restoration Fund	£64.00
Piety	£ 10.00
Apostleship of the Sea	£12.00
<b>Total Banked</b>	<b>£ 154.00</b>
<b>Mass attendance:</b>	<b>56</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.

**Please note the new porch to the Presbytery to improve Frs safety.**

**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: Marian Armstrong.** Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she 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**

