



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

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Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 10th October 2021 Year B Volume 2 Page 143

“May your Grace, O Lord, we pray, at all times go before us and follow after and make us always determined to carry out good works”

Feast of St Gerard, our Patron Saint. Saturday 16th October: Next Saturday Fr will be celebrating a special mass in honour of our Patron Saint, St Gerard. Mass Time 5.00pm. Please try to attend if possible. It would be great to see our wonderful church full as we come together for this special day.

Mass Times

Sunday 10th October

Rosary 9.30am-9.50am

Mass 10.00am For Angela O'Toole RIP and Francisco Vilien RIP with Children's Liturgy

Tuesday 11th October

Mass 10.00am

Friday 15th October

Mass 7.00pm

Saturday 16th October

Feast of St Gerard

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 17th October

Rosary 9.30am-9.50am

Mass 10.00am for Alan Mangan RIP with Children's Liturgy

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



Weekday Masses: Please note the additional weekday masses along with the Saturday Vigil Mass at 5.00pm.

Youth Group Cake Sale— Well done to our Youth whose combined efforts last week realised **£111.35** for Fr Hudson Homes. Thank you for supporting them as they put their “Faith in Action”.

CAFOD Family Fast Day— Realised £37.00 which we will be forwarding to CAFOD in support of their vital work. Thank you for your generosity.

Fr is keen to resume 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.

Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for October: We pray that every baptised person may be engaged in evangelisation, available to the mission, by being witness of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel. Yesterday was the Feast of Saint John Henry Newman who was born in London in 1801. As an Anglican clergyman he was influential in the Oxford Movement. He was received into full communion with the Church by Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God on 9th October 1845 while living at Littlemore, Oxford. Following his ordination to the priesthood he founded the Oratory of St Philip Neri in England. Through his writings, sermons and pastoral care he brought Christian instruction and encouragement to many people. He was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI in Birmingham on 19th September 2010.

£50m hoarded in loose change—Due to lockdowns, people have held onto cash for three times longer than before and many are storing low denomination coins at home rather than spending or donating them. With many, if not all parishes having seen large drops in donations over the past year and a half, perhaps you could gather your loose change to bring to the next Mass.

Protecting your family-giving thanks to God—Your guide to wills and will-making: Leaflets are available at the back of church containing information to help you when considering making or changing your will.

St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

'We Live, Love and Learn Together with Jesus'

Twitter: @StGerardsBham

School website: www.stgerard.bham.sch.uk



Please remember our pupils and staff in our prayers as they prepare for the new school year.

St Gerard Majella—Feast Day Saturday 16th October

Born in Muro Lucano on April 23, 1726, the youngest of five children. He was frail, and his parents had him baptized the day he was born. He was the son of Domenico Maiella, a tailor who died when Gerard was twelve, leaving the family in poverty. His mother, Benedetta Galella, then sent him to her brother so that he could teach Gerard to sew and follow in his father's footsteps. After four years of apprenticeship, he took a job as a servant to work for the local Bishop of Lacedonia. Upon the bishop's death, Gerard returned to his trade, working first as a journeyman and then on his own account. He divided his earnings between his mother and the poor and in offerings for the souls in Purgatory. He tried to join the Capuchin Order twice, but his health prevented it. In 1749, he joined the Redemptorists. The order is dedicated to "preaching the word of God to the poor. Some of Majella's reported miracles include restoring life to a boy who had fallen from a high cliff, blessing the scant supply of wheat belonging to a poor family and making it last until the next harvest, and several times multiplying the bread that he was distributing to the poor. One day, he walked across the water to lead a boatload of fishermen through stormy waves to the safety of the shore. His last will was a small note on the door of his cell: "Here the will of God is done, as God wills, and as long as God wills." He died at 29 of tuberculosis on October 16, 1755 in Materdomini, Italy. **St Gerard Majella is the Patron of mothers:** One miracle in particular explains how Majella became known as the special patron of mothers. A few months before his death, he visited the Pirofalo family and accidentally dropped his handkerchief. One of the Pirofalo girls spotted the handkerchief moments after he had left the house, and she ran after Gerard to return it. "Keep it," he said to her. "You may need it some day." Years later when the girl, now a married woman, was on the verge of dying in childbirth, she remembered the words of the saintly lay brother. She asked for the handkerchief to be brought to her. Almost immediately, the pain disappeared and she gave birth to a healthy child. That was no small feat in an era when only one out of three pregnancies resulted in a live birth, and word of the miracle spread quickly. Because of the miracles that God worked through Gerard's prayers with mothers, the mothers of Italy took Gerard to their hearts and made him their patron. At the process of his beatification, one witness testified that he was known as "il santo dei felice parti," the saint of happy childbirths. Majella was beatified in Rome on January 29, 1893, by Pope Leo XIII. He was canonized less than twelve years later on December 11, 1904, by Pope Pius X. The feast day of Saint Gerard Majella is October 16. St Gerard's Church in Wellington, New Zealand, built in 1908, was the first church to be dedicated to him. **Why do we think some 60 years later Fr John Harrington chose St Gerard as our Parish Patron?** A new Parish for a new growing community? Lots of new parents and young families? What's your thoughts?

Offertory Collection 3rd October	
Offertory	£87.15
Standing Orders	£75.00
CAFOD	£37.00
Votive Lights	£40.04
Restoration Fund	£11.50
Piety	£6.00
Mass attendance	60

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.

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.

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



Young Persons Officer Eleanor Perkins: **07852 404992** or emp010697@googlemail.com.
Please visit: kenelmouthtrust.org.uk for details of many events and activities to help our youth reconnect post COVID.

100 Club: Please see Frank to confirm your current numbers and should you wish to take a new number. Again please discuss with family to see if they could support us?

PREMISES: Committee Fr, Sue Perkins, Sue Byrne, Therese, Frank.
HEALTH AND SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDING: Officer Hayley Macilwraith: **07840 866201**

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

PARISH ADMINISTRATION: Sue Perkins: **07971 076835** or stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk

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

Please remember in your prayers:
Recently died: Alan Mangan, Franciso Vilien: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.
The sick: Mark Ford, Bridie Mc Alinden, 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

