



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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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

27th/28th November 2021 Year C Volume 1 Page 82

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.

Mass Times

Sunday 28th November

Confessions: 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am

Tuesday 30th November

NO MASS

Friday 1st December

Mass 7.00pm

Saturday 2nd December

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 3rd December

Mass 10.00am for Bridie

McAlinden 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

Who's Who?

Parish Safeguarding and Health and Safety Officer is Hayley Macilwraith: **07840 866201**

Parish Administrator is Sue Perkins: **07971 076835** or **stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk**

Young Persons Officer is Eleanor Perkins: **07852 404992** or **emp010697@googlemail.com**

Parish Finance and Premises Committee is made up of Fr, Sue Perkins, Sue Byrne, Therese and Frank.

Pastoral Committee is led by Shirley.

Social Committee is made up of Beulah, Sarita, Bernie, Rosaline and Sue.

Today marks the First Sunday of Advent. Walk with Me books available at the back of church. Please pick up a copy to assist with daily prayer during this advent season. Suggested donation of £1.00 per copy but pick one up anyway!

Children's Advent Calendars: Again, available at the back of church. Please take a copy for your child if they have not already brought one home from school.

Red boxes— Please bring in for counting before Christmas. Thank you.

Christmas Raffle! Sarita and Bernie have offered to arrange a Christmas raffle again for us this year. Any donations towards prizes should be left at the back of church for the next few weeks. This raffle always provides welcome funds for the upkeep of our parish and is a lovely opportunity for us to get together for a bit of Christmas cheer as the draw takes place on Christmas morning. Please consider donating prizes to ensure the success of this raffle. Raffle tickets will be available in the next few weeks

Altar Flowers

Please consider donating towards flowers for our Altar during Advent in remembrance of a loved one.

Thank you



Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Bridie McAlinden: Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

The sick: May Eales, Maureen Oliver, Mary Quilty, Mark Ford, 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.

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.

We continue to pray for all our deceased family, friends and souls that have been forgotten during this month of November.

**St Gerard's Catholic Primary
School**

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



Twitter: @StGerardsBham

PASTORAL

Pope Francis's Prayer for November:

We pray that people that suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life

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.

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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.

PREMISES and HEALTH AND SAFETY

We continue to try and secure funding for both replacement heating for our church and a new roof for the parish centre. Unfortunately both are overdue repair and beginning to cost more money doing repairs. Please pray for us in this plight.

SAFEGUARDING

Please continue to be vigilant in the COIVD times by maintaining distances within church and wearing face coverings where possible. Hand sanitiser is also available when entering and leaving church. Lets continue the good work we have done to date in containing this virus and keeping each other safe. Thank you.

FINANCE

Offertory collection boxes are available at the back of the Church for those parishioners registered for them or anyone wishing to give by way of weekly envelopes. Please complete a Gift Aid declaration also if you are a taxpayer. Thankyou to our parishioners who give regularly by standing order. A standing order form is available on our website if you wished to set this up.

APF Red Boxes

Clerry Training Fund

SOCIAL

There are lots of activities in the afternoons in the Café from Knit and Natter to painting, colouring, jigsaws and generally Nattering over a cup of tea. Check out what is on offer.

Upcycle are looking for volunteers to tend the tables in the Café or work in the shop for maybe a few hours once a week? This is a wonderful opportunity to really demonstrate our faith and make a difference to our community. See Sue if you feel you could offer a few hours?

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Piety: We have some new Christmas Cards on sale as well as some prayer cards as little gifts. Please take a look at the back of church.

Coffees: Served in the new Café after Mass on Sunday. Maybe cake also some weeks?

Church Gardens

Thank you to those that came to help tidy up the church gardens. I know a set date is not always convenient for everyone so please feel free to attend at any time to do a bit of weeding/cutting back. All help is greatly appreciated.

Church Cleaning

Thank you to those that came to help clean the church. I know a set date is not always convenient for everyone so please feel free to attend at any time to do a bit of cleaning if you have a spare hour. If you phone Fr he will confirm he is around to let you in. All help is greatly appreciated.

Offertory Collection 21st

November 2021

Gift Aid	£ 103.00
Regular Giving	£75.00
Non Gift Aid	£ 24.57
Johnson Association	£6.00
Parish Restoration	£13.00
Total Banked	£146.57

Mass attendance: 62

