



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



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11th/12th December 2021 Year C Volume 1 Page 87

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.

Mass Times

Sunday 12th December

Confessions: 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am with

Children's Liturgy for

Teresa Jennings

Tuesday 14th December

Mass 10.00am

Friday 17th December

Mass 7.00pm

Saturday 18th December

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 19th December

Confessions: 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am with

Children's Liturgy for

Mary McHugh

Please see overleaf for Christmas Mass times.



Today marks the third Sunday of Advent: JOY

"He came as a witness, to bear witness to the light"

God of all, John the Baptist came to bear witness to your light. Fill us with faith and the courage to act upon it, so that we may shine a light in the darkness of these uncertain times.

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: 07852404992 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.

Altar Flowers

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

Today marks the Third 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! This raffle always provides welcome funds for the upkeep of our parish and is a lovely opportunity for us to come together for the draw. Please promote within your family and friends. Thank you.

Sower magazine: Please take a copy of the latest edition of this magazine which includes lots of information from across the Diocese.

Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they 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.

Christmas Tree Baubles: Please consider buying a bauble priced £1 each to place on our tree in memory of a loved one this Christmas. On sale at the back of church.

**St Gerard's Catholic Primary
School**

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



Twitter: @StGerardsBham

Christmas Mass Times:

Christmas Eve: Friday

24th: Carols 6.30pm
followed by Vigil Mass at 7.00pm

Christmas Day: Saturday 25th:

Mass 10.00am

St Stephens Day Sunday 26th:

Mass 10.00am



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.

**Offertory Collection 5th December
2021**

Gift Aid	£ 56.00
Regular Giving	£80.00
Non Gift Aid	£ 14.80
Poor Parishes	£27.00
Parish Restoration	£5.00
Total Banked	£102.80

Mass attendance: 45



PASTORAL

Pope Francis's Prayer for December: *Let us pray for catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God may be its witness, with courage and creativity and in power of Holy Spirit.*

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.

PREMISES and HEALTH AND SAFETY

We are delighted to say that we have been successful in obtaining funding sufficient to restore the church centre roof. We look forward to the work starting in the New Year. As you are aware the rental income from the church centre is fundamental to our Parish sustainability and a roof that does not leak every time it rains not only secures this revenue stream but will assist us in funding the replacement of heating for our church which is our next priority.

SAFEGUARDING

Please continue to be vigilant in the COVID 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.

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.

Bishops Conference Letter about regarding importance of attending Mass on Sundays.

This letter produced by the Bishops Conference is available at the back of church for you to take away. It details the importance to our faith of regular attendance at Mass and calls for all practising Catholics to attend Mass every Sunday, unless they are unable to because of sickness, or for other reasons such as the care of infants or the sick. Now more than ever, as we continue to journey through this pandemic, we are called to recognise and practice our faith and are encouraged to look again at the patterns which they have formed in recent months with regard to going to Mass on Sundays.