



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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FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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Almighty, ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you.

Mass Times

Sunday 9th January

Baptism of the Lord

Mass 10.00 am in

thanksgiving for Eleanor

Perkins with Children's

Liturgy

Friday 14th January

Mass 7.00pm

Saturday 15th January

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 16th January

Mass 10.00am with

Children's Liturgy

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

"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 remembrance of a loved one.

Thank you



Offertory 2nd January

Gift Aid	£78.00
Regular Giving	£80.00
Non Gift Aid	£21.00
Restoration	£25.00
Total Banked	£124.00
Mass attendance: 61	



Today's Mass is offered in Thanksgiving for the service of Ellie Perkins to our Parish as our Young Persons Officer. Her joy and enthusiasm in regularly leading our children's liturgy, encouraging our children and young adults to take an active part in parish life through choir, altar serving and fundraising and generally being a true disciple and role model to our younger generation. On behalf of our parish we thank Ellie for her service and wish her many blessings as she embarks on a new chapter of her life. Ellie is leaving us to take up her first position within the NHS at Peterborough Hospital and this week will be moving into her new home. Please keep her in your prayers as she settles into her new job, new home, new city, new parish.....Our loss is definitely someone else's gain Ellie. Thank you.

Coffee and cake will be served after Mass in the Café. Please join us to wish Ellie well.

Popes Prayer Intention for January

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution, may their own rights and dignity be recognised, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

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.

St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

'We Live, Love and Learn Together with
Jesus'



Twitter: @StGerardsBham

School website:

www.stgerard.bham.sch.uk

St Gerard's Nursery have a number of spaces available for this year but time is running out!

If you have a child born between 1/9/18 and 31/8/19 or know somebody that would like a place at St Gerard's Nursery, then please contact the school office for an application.

They are happy to arrange a tour for interested parents not familiar with the school. These would be by appointment only due to COVID precautions.

**Deadline for applications is Friday 15th
January 2022!**

FINANCE

STOP PRESS: For the first time in a long time, and despite the difficulties that these last 18 months have presented us with, we are delighted to say that we are finally in credit in our bank account and have a secured monthly revenue from rental income from our church centre. This is the most wonderful news and due to the hard work and determination of our parishioners. We can head into 2022 knowing we are secure in covering our bills each month and have a little to make inroads into the much needed repairs to our church. We should be very proud of what we have achieved by standing strong in the face of adversity. Without the worry of finances, and with the improvements we will be able to make to the fabric of our church, we can start to think about the Synod message, exploring what our church should look like in this third millennium?

PASTORAL

Making time for Confession

The Church calls us to examine our lives, and amend and correct those faults that separate us from God.

One of the best and most effective ways we can draw closer to God is by confessing our sins. It is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation that the Church provides us with the means to make our relationship right again with God. The sacrament is one of healing because through it we find absolution and mercy and forgiveness.

Sometimes we get nervous about going to confession. But don't let nerves or fear hold you back. However long it has been, however bad the sin, however embarrassed you feel, don't let anything stop you from going to confession.

Fr continues to make himself available each morning at 9.30 am to hear confessions. Please think about taking this opportunity to come closer to God.

In addition, briefly examine your conscience at the end of each day, and make an act of contrition. In this way you will become more sensitive to what is really happening in your own life, and you will be more prepared and more honest as you come to confession.

Leaflets are available at the back of church to help you prepare for your confession.

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. 2022 we will begin planning for the next project!!

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

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.

Readers Rotas etc: Please see Sue if you would like to offer your services with Mass each week. Readers/Flowers/Cleaning/Refreshments/Visiting the Sick/Eucharistic Ministers/Choir.....Whilst "being" a Catholic is very important there are many jobs to be done and so "doing" Catholic is equally important. There really is something for everyone!

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