



## 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

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### EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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*Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that the course of our world may be directed by your peaceful rule and that your Church may rejoice, untroubled in her devotion.*

#### Mass Times

**Sunday 27th February**  
Confessions 9.30-9.50 am  
Mass 10.00 am with  
Children's Liturgy  
for Sean Healy RIP and for  
the Lightfoot family special  
intentions

**Monday 28th February**  
Confessions 9.30-9.50 am  
Mass 10.00 am

**Tuesday 1st March**  
Confessions 9.30-9.50 am  
Mass 10.00 am

**Wednesday 2nd March**  
Ash Wednesday  
Confessions 9.30-9.50 am  
Mass 10.00 am  
Mass 7.00pm

**Thursday 3rd March**  
Confessions 9.30-9.50 am  
Mass 10.00 am

**Friday 4th March**  
Mass 7.00pm  
**Saturday 5th March**  
Mass 5.00pm

**Sunday 6th March**  
First Sunday of Lent  
Confessions 9.30-9.50 am  
Mass 10.00am  
with Children's Liturgy

*Please remember this  
Wednesday marks the  
start of Lent where we  
focus on fasting and  
abstinence.*



#### Lenten Prayer

*"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**

#### Making time for Confession during Lent

The Church calls us to examine our lives, and amend and correct those faults that separate us from God especially as we prepare for Easter.

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.



#### 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,

#### Altar Flowers



Please consider donating towards remembrance of a loved one.

**Thank you**

#### Offertory 20th February

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Gift Aid            | £54.00         |
| Regular Giving      | £80.00         |
| Non Gift Aid        | £24.44         |
| Restoration Fund    | £18.00         |
| Baptism Donation    | £50.00         |
| <b>Total Banked</b> | <b>£146.44</b> |

**Mass attendance: 56**

**Next Sunday there will be a second collection for Cathedral Maintenance**



#### Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

**Fr Gabriel Maguire, Sean Healy:** Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them May they rest in peace. Amen.

**The sick:** Eileen Morrissey, 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 and 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](http://www.stgerard.bham.sch.uk)

### PASTORAL

**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.

**Marriage:** Please contact Fr Mathew initially to discuss your request for marriage. This must be done before Fr can agree any dates with you as you will be required to attend wedding preparation classes beforehand.

**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.

**WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS** available to assist us in our prayers during this important season. *Note: the Parish has paid £1.50 for the booklets so if a donation could be made to cover this cost?*

**Walk Against Hunger:** Sue Perkins will be committing to walking 5k a day for the 40 days of Lent, so some 200k in total for CAFODs Lenten Appeal. Please consider sponsoring her for her actions.

### PREMISES

The roof repairs to the church centre and church are complete. The guttering and flashing to the presbytery has also been completed and the canopy over the church entrance has had a facelift! The contractors will be replacing the soffits and fascia boards and installing exterior lighting to the front and side of the centre this week. Next week we will be having a new toilet and washing facilities installed in the church.

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

Please continue to be vigilant in the COVID times by maintaining distances within church and wearing face coverings where possible. Hand sanitiser is available when entering and leaving church and we recommend that this is utilised. **If you have any symptoms of COVID please do not attend church without taking a lateral flow test.** Lets continue the good work we have done to date in containing this virus and keeping each other safe.

### FINANCE

**STOP PRESS:** For the first time in a long time, and despite the difficulties that these last 2 years 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. 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. 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?

### St Gerard Majella Statue

He has arrived! Purchased using the proceeds from the Christmas raffle, 100 club, a bonus ball lottery, a few cake sales and the forthcoming Easter raffle. We are delighted to have this statue in our parish being one of only two St Gerard's parishes in the UK!! Thank you to all those that volunteered to fundraise and supported for what is the most beautiful addition to our church. A visual reminder to us all of the difficult 2 years that we have all endured and the coming out of this pandemic.

### 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

**New Year's Resolution – Volunteer in the Parish:** Our parish needs you. A vital aspect of a church is people willing to bring their talents, experience and energy to our various ministries and activities. Could your New Year's resolution be getting involved in our parish life? This can be very fulfilling and help build our community. We have lots of different ways you can get involved such as:

**Coffees:** See Sue to put your name down to serve tea and coffee after Mass on Sundays.

**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:** 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. Flowers/ 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!

### CAFOD-Walk Against Hunger

Struggling to decide on what you will give up this Lent or what you will do extra? Pope Francis calls for us all to live simply, and with love for our sisters and brothers. He says "we can choose to cultivate kindness. Those who do so become stars shining in the midst of darkness."

**Challenge yourself to walk 5K a day this Lent and help stamp out hunger, one step at a time. Sign up at [walk.cafod.org.uk](http://walk.cafod.org.uk)**