



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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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

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O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy.

Mass Times

Sunday 20th March

Confessions 9.30-9.50 am

Mass 10.00 am for Mary,

Eddie and Eamon Keating RIP

Monday 21st March

Confessions 9.30-9.50 am

Mass 10.00 am

Tuesday 22nd March

Confessions 9.30-9.50 am

Mass 10.00 am

Wednesday 23rd March

Confessions 9.30-9.50 am

Mass 10.00 am

Thursday 24th March

Confessions 9.30-9.50 am

Mass 10.00 am

Friday 25th March

Annunciation of the Lord

Confessions 8.30-8.50 am

School Mass 9.00am

Mass 7.00pm

Saturday 26th March

No Mass

Sunday 27th March

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Confessions 9.30-9.50 am

Mass 10.00am

with Children's Liturgy

for Patsy Crean and Agatha

Maher RIP Keating RIP



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.

Easter Raffle: Sarita and Bernie are organising our Easter Raffle again this year. If you are able to donate any chocolates or easter eggs then please bring to church next week. Raffle tickets will be available from next week. Thank you to those that have been reaching out for donations from local shops and businesses.

CAFOD-Walk Against Hunger: 19 days in and 95km walked! Please consider sponsoring Sue for her efforts during this Lent season. 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." There are 200 million children in the world whose lives are at risk from malnutrition. So, this Lent, Sue aims to walk 200km, and help give hunger its marching orders.

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

Altar Flowers



Please consider donating towards remembrance of a loved one.

Thank you



Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

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

The sick: Eileen Morrissey, 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.

Offertory 13th March

Gift Aid	£49.00
Regular Giving	£80.00
Non Gift Aid	£94.06
Parish Restoration	£10.00
Baptism Donation	£30.00
CAFOD	£65.27
Total Banked	£183.06

Mass attendance: 71



Important notices

Fr will be away from the Parish for the next two Saturdays so unfortunately there will be no Holy Mass on Saturdays on 26th March or 2nd April. Apologies for the inconvenience to those parishioners that attend those Masses. Hopefully you will be able to attend the Sunday morning mass at 10.00am instead.

Also Fr will not be present for Stations of the Cross on Friday 1st April. This will be led by those attending.

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 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?*

HEALTH AND SAFETY

*Please continue to be vigilant in the COVID times by maintaining distances within church and wearing face coverings where possible. This is particularly important at this time where we are seeing increased numbers of people testing positive for the virus. 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?

SOCIAL

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?

Summer Fete: Sarita has suggested that we look to holding a summer fete this year to celebrate all that we have achieved as a parish over these past couple of years where COVID has impacted on all our lives. We will be setting a date for an initial meeting shortly and would love as many parishioners as possible to get involved. **WATCH THIS SPACE!**

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

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!

Proud2Profess 2022:

Kenelm Youth Trust would like to invite young people from our parish, aged 11-18, especially altar servers, choir and readers to Oscott College on Saturday April 9th for a Holy Week event. This event provides our young people with a chance to celebrate faith, lively liturgy, open mic and lunch, interactive Stations of the Cross, games, sport and Mass. All this is free of charge.

We would like to take a group from our parish. Please let Sue know if you may be interested? Maybe ask a friend to come with you?