



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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Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 15th May 2022 Year C Volume 1 Page

Almighty ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before.

Mass Times

5th Sunday of Easter

15th May

Rosary 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am for Janet May

Bradley, Alan Cummins and

Jimmy Whelan

Summer Fayre Meeting in

the Meeting Place Café

Monday 16th May

Mass 10.00 am

Tuesday 17th May

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 18th May

Mass 10.00am

Thursday 19th May

Mass 10.00am

Friday 20th May

School Mass 9.00am

Mass 7.00pm

Saturday 21st May

Mass 5.00pm

6th Sunday of Easter

22nd May

Children's Mass of

Commitment

Rosary 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am for Jean

Bennett RIP



Sunday Obligation:

"Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed. "The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply. "We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation." **Bishops Conference**

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.

Parish Mission Statement We, the members of St Gerard's R.C. Church, are baptised in Jesus Christ, empowered by the spirit, nurtured in community, and nourished by prayer, word and sacrament. Therefore, for the greater glory of God, we proclaim for all people the saving message of the Gospel, and joyfully share our time, talent and resources, in works of mercy and justice, both within and beyond our parish community.

Who's Who?

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

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

Young Persons Officer: Eleanor Perkins: 07852404992

Parish Finance and Premises Committee: Fr, Sue Perkins, Sue Byrne, Therese and Frank.

Pastoral Committee is led by Shirley.

Social Committee: Beaulah, Sarita, Bernie, Rosaline and Sue.

Altar Flowers



Please consider donating towards remembrance of a loved one.

Thank you to the friends and family of the late May Eales who have donated significant funds towards our altar flowers. We are very grateful for your thoughtfulness.

Popes Prayer Intentions for May: We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest, may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates and the dedication to service. During this month of May we will be sharing the Rosary together at 9.30am each Sunday morning before 10.00am Mass. Please join us as a community where you can.



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: Eileen Morrissey, 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

Please see separate sheets at the back of church for the last three





First Holy Communion will be celebrated on 18th June and the Sacrament of Confirmation on 26th May.

There is a mass of commitment on the 22nd May.

Note for readers: the children of Year 3 will be leading Mass on the 22nd May.



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

Offertory Envelopes: New boxes are available for collection

APF Missio Red Boxes: We have some spare boxes if anyone feels able to take one to collect small change?

Clergy Training Fund: If anyone would like to contribute regularly then please see Sue to arrange collection envelopes.

100 Club: Thank you to everyone that continues to support this parish fundraising. There are still a few numbers available if any family or friends would like to support us?

Bonus Ball: Again thank you to all that support this fundraising.



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.

SOCIAL

Upcycle continue to look 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?

May: Organ Recital @ St Mary's College. Tickets £10 each, including cream tea. All proceeds to Tabor House. Tickets available from the back of church.

July: 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. Initial meeting this Sunday 15th May, after 10.00 Mass, in the Meeting Place Café to set a date and start making plans. Please try to attend and support Sarita and our parish by contributing ideas and offering support. We would love as many parishioners as possible get involved and make this an event to be remembered.

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. We have seen a great increase in representation from our youth as they take up roles as Altar servers and choir members, not to mention Nancy and her family in music ministry but we still need more. Do you want to be actively involved to help build our community. We have lots of different ways you can get involved such as:

Refreshments: We would love to serve refreshments after Mass each Sunday but require a volunteer to take ownership of organising this and recruiting volunteers to form a rota for each week. Is this something you could consider?

Church Gardens: Whilst we employ a gardener to cut the grass we are in need of someone to take ownership of maintaining the grounds, in addition to the lawns. I am sure that between us we would have lots of willing volunteers to help. Is this something you could you may be interested in?

Church Cleaning: Anyone up for taking responsibility for keeping our church clean and tidy? Currently there are number of parishioners that offer their time to clean, and we thank you for this. This role would really be just organising those volunteers so that we can keep on top of cleaning especially before or after events.

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/ Children's Liturgy...

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!

Organ Recital– St Marys College Oscott

The seminarians of Oscott College are inviting us all to an Organ Recital @ St Mary's College. Tickets £10 each, including cream tea. All proceeds to Tabor House. Tickets available from the back of church.

This should prove to be a wonderful afternoon of music and singing, refreshments and a tour of their college.