



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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Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 8th May 2022 Year C Volume 1 Page 268

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

4th Sunday of Easter

8th May

Children's Mass of

Commitment

Rosary 9.30am

*Mass 10.00 am followed by
Baptism of Donny Franklin*

Monday 9th May

Mass 10.00 am

Tuesday 10th May

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 11th May

Mass 10.00am

Thursday 12th May

Mass 10.00am

Friday 13th May

School Mass 9.00am

Mass 7.00pm

Saturday 14th May

Mass 5.00pm

5th Sunday of Easter

15th May

Children's Mass of

Commitment

Rosary 9.30am

Mass 10.00am

with Children's Liturgy

Today we welcome the staff, children and their families of our school as they come together for their Mass of Commitment ahead of them receiving their Sacraments. We are also very pleased to welcome Jithin and Peter, two seminarians from St Mary's College, Oscott, who have joined us here today on Vocations Sunday. They will be sharing with us their journey to date with formation to priesthood. Please take time to speak with them and extend our welcome here at St Gerard's. **There will be a retiring collection today for Vocations. Please give generously.**

HE IS RISEN!

"Jesus, the Risen Lord, loves us without limits and is there at every moment of our lives. He invites us to overcome barriers, banish prejudices and draw near to those around us every day in order to rediscover the grace of everyday life"

Dear brother, dear sister: if on this night you are experiencing an hour of darkness, a day that has not yet dawned, a light dimmed or a dream shattered, open your heart with amazement to the message of "Do not be afraid, he has risen!" Pope Francis .

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 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.

Altar Flowers

Please consider donating towards remembrance of a loved one.



Thank you to all who contributed to the lovely Easter flowers and to the Ladies who organised them. They are beautiful.

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.



Offertory 24th April

Offertory 1st May

To be announced shortly

Mass attendance:64

Today there will be a retiring collection for Vocations. Please give generously.



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.



The Sacrament of First Holy Communion will be celebrated on 18th June and the Sacrament of Confirmation on 26th May. There is a further mass of commitment on the 22nd May.

Note for readers: the children of Year 6 will be leading Mass today and Year 3 will be leading on the 22nd May.

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.

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 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?

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. An initial meeting is scheduled for next 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!

Faith
Hope
and the Greatest
of these is
Love

Easter Raffle— Raised £340 in total— Thank you to everyone that supported this event

Walking Against Hunger-CAFOD-we raised £310 in total from Sues Lenten Activities!. She walked 203km in 37 days during Lent. She thanks you all for your donations, support and encouragement. She tells us that at the start of her activities she could say just over 1 decade of the rosary per km but by the end she could do over 2 decades per km! I suppose we all need a target!