



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 Easter

Sunday 1st May 2022 Year C Volume 1 Page 265

May your people exult for ever, O God, in renewed youthfulness of spirit, so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.

Mass Times

3rd Sunday of Easter

1st May

Rosary 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am

for Maureen Oliver RIP

Monday 2nd May

Mass 9.00 am

Tuesday 3rd May

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 4th May

No Mass

Thursday 5th May

Mass 10.00am

Friday 6th May

School Mass 9.00am

Mass 7.00pm

Saturday 7th May

Mass 5.00pm

4th Sunday of Easter

8th May

Children's Mass of

Commitment

Mass 10.00am

with Children's Liturgy

followed by Baptism of

Donny

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" Pope Francis .

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 .

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your generous offerings this Easter. We have a lot to be thankful for as our church remains open and our congregation continues to return to weekly Mass. Thankyou to all our volunteers, stewards, florist and choir that continue to serve and prepare our church and services so diligently. I am very grateful for your support and at this Eastertime and thank you all.

God Bless Father Mathew.

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

To Be Announced shortly

Mass attendance:68

A big thankyou to Sarita and Bernie and all those that donated and bought tickets for our Easter raffle. We generated £305 profit which is greatly appreciated. We have treated ourselves to a new vacuum and carpet sweeper!

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.



We would like to keep all our children and staff in our prayers as they return from their Easter break. They have two very

special celebrations of Sacraments coming up with the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on 18th June and the Sacrament of Confirmation on 26th May. There are two masses of commitment in the next few weeks on 8th May and 22nd May. Mass for us.

Note for readers: the children of Year 3 and Year 6 will be leading Mass on these two days so you are off duty!

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 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!

Felicity Knight RIP

It is with sadness that we hear that Fr Knights sister, Felicity, passed away on Wednesday. I know a lot of you will remember her from when she visited Fr Knight during his time in our Parish. May she rest in peace.

