



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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Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 17th July 2022 Year C Volume 2 Page 111

Show favour, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands.

Mass Times

Sunday 17th July

Confessions 9.30am

**Mass 10.00 am followed by
the Baptism of Lyra Maeve
Churchill**

Monday 18th July

Mass 10.00am

Tuesday 19th July

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 20th July

Mass 10.00am

Thursday 21st July

Mass 10.00am

Friday 22nd July

Feast of St Mary

Magdalene

Mass 10.00am

Mass 7.00pm

Saturday 23rd July

Feast of St Bridget

Mass 5.00pm

Sunday 24th July

Confession 9.30am

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. Please think about taking this opportunity to come closer to God.

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:

Therese Mimboe: 07897 530915

Parish Finance and Premises Committee:

Fr, Sue Perkins, Sue Byrne, Therese and Frank.

Pastoral Committee is led by Shirley.

Social Committee:

Beulah, Sarita, Bernie,

Offertory

10th July 2022

Gift Aid £107.00

Regular Giving £80.00

Non Gift Aid £47.61

Sea Sunday £47.81

Baptism £40.00

Votive Lights £27.95

Bonus Ball £95.00



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.

Popes Prayer Intentions for July: We pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people, may their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility.

Summer Fayre – Saturday 16th July 2022– We did it!!!! Thanks to Sarita, her family and all the parishioners that supported her in pulling together yesterdays wonderful fayre. The sun was shining, the music was sounding, the food was enjoyed and most importantly the community of Castle Vale came together for a day of real joy and celebration. A special recognition must go to Fr Mathew who supported us in this event and encouraged us to bring our Parish Mission Statement alive. Another real success for our parish. W should all be very proud.

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: Andrew Trueman, 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.

Summer Fayre Raffle Winners:

1st Prize:£100– Laura F, 2nd Prize: £50-Angela Hughes, 3rd Prize:30mm hose reel-V Noctor, 4th Prize: 20mm hose-Eleanor Perkins, 5th Prize: Bottle of Vodka-Kirsty Daniels, 6th Prize: Bottle of Gin-Loida, 7th Prize: Bottle of Whiskey, 8th Prize: Hozelock spray bottle-Eleanor Perkins, 9th Prize: Kettle-Ellen Roberts, 10th Prize: Box of Chocolates-Sarita

FINANCE

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

Offertory Boxes: Please consider whether you would be able to take a box for regular giving. Spare boxes are available from Sue.

100 club: Thankyou to all who support this fundraising for our Parish. Please see Frank if you or your family would like any additional numbers.

PREMISES

We still have much work to do in terms of repairs and maintenance of our buildings. Whilst we achieved so much last year with anew roof on the church centre, outside lighting, new soffits and fascia boards on the whole site, refurbished church toilet, improved safety to the presbytery and a refurbished bathroom.

Sower Magazine-Grab a copy!

We made the papers! Well the Sower Magazine. Yes St Gerard's is recognised for its renovation of its church centre and its partnership with Upcycle in providing services for the Castle Vale Community. We should all be very proud for the recognition we have received as a parish for our work in engaging with our local community and also securing the financial viability of our parish.

Our next focus for our church premises in terms of repairs is the car park and perimeter fencing. Planning permission is being sought for the fencing which if agreed and installed with improve the safety and security of our church. We can then start to look at getting the car park retarmacked.

Yesterdays Summer Fayre generated an astounding £1428.00 profit which will enable us to begin this project and kickstart our fundraising. THANKYOU

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.*

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?

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 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 Yvonne 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!

Father Hudson's - Vacancies at St Joseph's Care Home

Situated in the beautiful surroundings of rural Warwickshire, St Joseph's Care Home offers a range of personalised services including residential care, specialised dementia care and short-term respite care in a friendly welcoming environment. With a dedicated and compassionate staff team who are passionate about making residents safe and happy in an environment that is just how home feels. If you or someone you know might benefit from the care offered and would be interested in more information or to book a virtual tour then please quote SJ2 and contact Care Home Manager Shelley Perryman on 01675 434559, or email shelleypeman@fatherhudsons.org.uk or visit our website at www.stjosephscarehome.co.uk