



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11;

Luke 1;

1 Thessalonians 5 :

16-24;

Mark 1: 6-8, 19-28

**Welcome to this House
of God:**
Talk to God before Mass
**Listen to God during
Mass**
Talk to others after Mass



| This Week 17th December - 24th December (Psalter Week 3) | Holy Mass & Services | Other Events |
|---|---|---|
| Sunday 17th December Third Sunday of Advent | 8.30 am Vincenza Eaton RIP (MF) 10.30 am Bruce Jackson (D & BO) 6.00 pm People of the Parish | After 8.30 & 10.30 Mass: Coffee and Tea and Traidcraft Stall in the Hall Piety Stall unavailable |
| Monday 18th December Advent Feria | 9.00 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Brendan McGlinchy RIP (GM) | 9.45 am: Church Cleaning 12.30pm - 2.30pm: Community Meal 6.30 pm: Carol Service 7.00pm: SVP Meeting |
| Tuesday 19th December Advent Feria | 9.00 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mary Hanson - sick (AM) | 10.30 am: Nativity Mass at St. Joseph's School |
| Wednesday 20th December Advent Feria | 9.00 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Margaret McDermot (GM) 7.30 pm: Advent Penitential Service | |
| Thursday 21st December Advent Feria | 9.00 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Aiden Gilroy RIP (TG) | |
| Friday 22nd December Advent Feria | 9.00 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Brenda O'Keefe (JC) | 2.00 pm: Flower Arranging for Christmas |
| Saturday 23rd December Advent Feria | 10.30 am Holy Rosary 11.00 am Margaret Andrews RIP (AM) | 10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions |
| Sunday 24th December Fourth Sunday of Advent CHRISTMAS EVE | 8.30 am Nancy & Malcolm Doyle RIP (BB) 10.30 am People of the Parish 5.00 pm First Mass of Christmas 8.00 pm Christmas Mass (Midnight Mass) with carols from 7.30 pm | After 8.30 & 10.30 Mass: Coffee and Tea in the Hall |



SACRED HEART COMMUNITY

Fr. Vincent Arulandhu SCJ
(Parish Priest)

Email: vincentscj@gmail.com

**In an emergency, please
contact:**

07459 755059

Fr. Brian Boyle SCJ
(Retired Priest)

Fr. Tom Kelly SCJ
(Retired Priest)

Bro. Patrick Leighton SCJ

PARISH SCHOOL

St. Joseph's,

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Tel: 01905 773572

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HEAD TEACHER

Mrs. Cath Bryan

PARISH SECRETARY

Kate Dagleish

The Sacred Heart
Presbytery

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Email:
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SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

Gerry Ceclich
Cynthia Sharkey

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am: My soul rejoices in my God.
10.30 am: Chorus of hymn no. 339
6.00 pm: My soul rejoices in my God.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS

Ralph & Milly Arnold, Mary Arulandhu, John Blackman, Monica Campbell, Christopher and Mary Campbell-Johnston, Barbara Conway, Bernadette Violet Duffy, Alan Francis, Natasha Hake, Louise Hill, Marie Hopkins, Julia Howles, Alan Hurst, Michael James, Mike Jennings, Eileen Kilminster, Billy Lydon, Kevin McCorry, Jackie McLean, Rose O'Grady, Rob O'Sullivan, Liz Prakash, Rosemarie Preece, Barbara Quigley, James Regan, Michael Sheridan, Bob Shuck, Jacky Smith, Anne & Philip Smith, Pat Smith, Sarah Trueman, Bob Turner, Ann Turton, Jim Tustain, David Veale, Mary Wallace, Breda Wightman, Mark Wightman, Richard Wightman, Brigid Yates and Fr. Tom's sister, Maura.

CRIB OFFERINGS

Once again this year our parish will be donating crib offerings to Friends of the Holy Land. Every penny will help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel with education, employment, health and housing initiatives. FHL is apolitical and ecumenical. Please keep our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land in your prayers at this time.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE - A THANK YOU

Fr. Vincent would like to say a big thank you to all those who helped organise the Christmas Fayre and to all those who helped run the stalls. A special thanks to all those who donated goods, prizes and cakes and to those who supported the Parish on the day. The amount raised is approximately £2000; a final figure will be announced in due course.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

This service will take place here at the Sacred Heart on Wednesday 20th December at 7.30 pm. There are also penitential services at the following churches in our Deanery, all beginning at 7.30 pm:

Monday 18th December: Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Redditch

Tuesday 19th December: St. Ambrose, Kidderminster

CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

Once again this year we will need Readers and Special Ministers of the Eucharist to assist with Christmas Liturgies, mainly to read and distribute Holy Communion at the Christmas Eve Masses (5.00 pm and 7.30 pm) and also at the Mass on Christmas Day at 9.30 am. A clipboard for signing up has been placed in the Narthex. Thank you, Fr. Vincent SCJ.

PARISH CAROL SERVICE

The service will be on Monday 18th December at 6.30 pm. This service will be led by members of our three parish choirs and St. Joseph's School choir. We invite everyone in the parish to join us on that evening to enjoy the festival of carols and what promises to be a wonderful and prayerful evening.

PARISH SECRETARY

Over Christmas I will be unavailable from Monday 18th December until Wednesday 3rd January inclusive with the exception of Friday 22nd December and Friday 29th December. If I am unavailable and you need to speak to someone urgently please contact Caroline Healy on 01905 779437 for any queries relating to the Parish Hall and Father Vincent SCJ for everything else. Many thanks, Kate Dagleish.

ADVENT JOURNEY

The "Walk with Me" booklet and calendar for the Advent journey are still available at the back of the church. This booklet is to help focus on our relationship with God and with people during Advent. Please consider taking a copy home to help prepare for Christmas. These are free but donations would be gratefully received and given to the Missions in India. Thank you.

CHURCH CLEANING

Please could all Cleaning Groups come along on Monday 18th December at 9.45 am after Mass to give the church a good clean for Christmas. Thanks to you all for your continued help. If anyone would like to join one of our groups please contact Pat Webb on 01905 455702. We have had one volunteer so far since the last notice in the newsletter. Rotas for 2018 are at the back of church for collection.

CHILDREN'S MASS: 5.00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE

We invite all children (and their parents!) to come and sing with us and celebrate Jesus' Birthday at the First Mass of Christmas on Christmas Eve. You might also like to bring jingle bells and/or shakers with you. Shakers can be made from a plastic drinks bottle with rice or something similar inside.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29th November 2017 are available on the noticeboard at the back of church. Anyone who would like to be sent a copy by email please contact Jenny Leonard on 01905 775596 or Fr. Vincent SCJ.

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

There is a new rota available for the period from Sunday 7th January 2018 until Sunday 15th April 2018 that has been distributed via email. A few copies are available at the back of church for those who are not on the distribution list. If you are unable to take your turn on the rota, please arrange to swap with someone else. If there are any problems or if anyone would like to join the Readers' and Eucharistic Ministers' Rota, please contact the Parish Office. Many thanks.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION - CHILDREN NOT IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

If your child is in Year 3 or above and you wish for your child to be prepared to receive the Sacrament in June 2018, please would you contact Maria Jenkins on 07741 294069 or Fr. Vincent SCJ as soon as possible.

WEDNESDAY ADORATION

A very big thank you to all the loyal and faithful supporters of Wednesday Adoration, it is much appreciated. Adoration will resume on Wednesday 17th January 2018.



BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The group is taking a break over Christmas and the New Year and will resume on Tuesday 16th January 2018 at 7.30 pm.

CHRISTMAS CARDS TO PRISONERS

Thank you for the cards to prisoners you have generously done. A much bigger number were written this year - more than 150. Thank you for your support.

GIVING MACHINE

Please consider making your online purchases using The Giving Machine website. You can make purchases from a number of major retailers via this website. This costs you nothing, but money will be donated to the parish from purchases made. Details of how to use the Giving Machine are on the posters at the back of church.



Main Collection:

£94.78

Gift Aid: £83.00

Mass Attendance

Last Sunday: 105

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**



**The retiring collection
for the Poor Parishes
raised: £90.31**

Gift Aid: £43.00

**Thank you for your
generosity.**



Next Sunday's Mass Readings

*2 Samuel 7: 1-5,
8-12, 14;*

Psalms 88;

Romans 16: 25-27;

Luke 1: 26-38

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The idea was raised at the last Parish Council meeting that it may be possible to have a simple but complete 14 Stations of the Cross in the Sacred Heart Church grounds during Lent. The project would provide an alternative to the Stations in Church that would be more public and accessible to passers-by. It could include simple wooden crosses with a basic description and picture on each and a leaflet of explanation for those who might know nothing of the subject. Inexpensive and a temporary experiment. This project would require a small group of parishioners to lead it. Please think about it and those who might wish to help in any way please contact Judith Cussen on 01905 771346 or email jmcussen@yahoo.co.uk.

URGENT REQUEST FROM ARCHBISHOP BERNARD LONGLEY

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

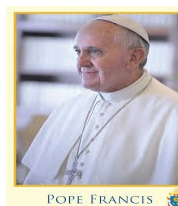
REFUGEE COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this month's collection; the response was even more overwhelming than usual! A wonderful array of exquisite knitted items made with such loving care, new underwear, socks, tights, hats, scarves, gloves and donations from those who raided their own stock of items to help the refugees ward off the cold. The next collection date is January 20th, as there will be no February collection. There is a vast quantity of wool at the entrance to the church to help defray knitting costs so please help yourselves. The people who visit the camps say the situation in many is dire and your help brings knowledge that they are not totally forgotten.

LAUDATE SI: THE GOSPEL OF CREATION

THE LIGHT OFFERED BY FAITH

If all people of good will are truly concerned to develop an ecology capable of remedying the damage we have done to the earth, all branches of science and forms of wisdom must be partners, and that includes religion. As Catholics our faith should offer us great motivation to care for nature and for us to realise our absolute responsibility for caring for our world and for the most vulnerable of our fellow human beings. We are obliged to use the earth's goods responsibly and also to recognise that all other living beings have great value in God's eyes. We all have a duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for those who come after us. (63-64)



POPE FRANCIS