



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

208 Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa,
WR9 8AZ, Tel: 01905 773258
Email: sacredheartdroitwich@hotmail.co.uk
Web: www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk



Today's Mass Readings

*2 Samuel 7: 1-5,
8-12, 14;
Psalm 88;
Romans 16: 25-27;
Luke 1: 26-38*

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



This Week 24th December - 31st December (Psalter Week 4)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 24th December Fourth Sunday of Advent	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
Monday 25th December SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	9.30 am Christmas Mass during the day	
Tuesday 26th December Feast of St. Stephen, the first Martyr, Patron Saint of Altar Servers	10.00 am Special Intention (P & CI)	
Wednesday 27th December Feast of St. John, Apostle, Evangelist	10.00 am Ann Kearney (CM)	
Thursday 28th December Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs	10.00 am McAlinden Family (CS)	
Friday 29th December Feast of St. Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr	10.00 am Ints. of Rose Pearce (CS)	
Saturday 30th December Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas	10.30 am Holy Rosary 11.00 am Joan Baxter RIP (MR)	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 31st December Feast of the Holy Family	8.30 am Bridie & Harold Mason RIP & Pearl & Tom Rawlings RIP (S & SR) 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Holy Mass	After 8.30 & 10.30 Mass: Coffee and Tea in the Hall



SACRED HEART COMMUNITY

Fr. Vincent Arulandhu SCJ
(Parish Priest)

Email: vincentcj@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,

6 St Joseph's Close,
Ombersley Way,
Droitwich, WR9 0RY
Tel: 01905 773572

Email: office@st-josephs-
droitwich.worcs.sch.uk

HEAD TEACHER

Mrs. Cath Bryan

PARISH SECRETARY

Kate Dagleish

The Sacred Heart
Presbytery

Tel: 01905 773258

Email:
sacredheartdroitwich
@hotmail.co.uk.

SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

Gerry Ceclich
Cynthia Sharkey

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

All Masses: I will sing forever of your love, O Lord

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, Rob O'Sullivan, Liz Prakash, Rosemarie Preece, Barbara Quigley, James Regan, Michael Sheridan, Bob Shuck, Jacky Smith, Anne & Philip Smith, Pat Smith, Sarah Trueman, Ann Turton, Jim Tustain, David Veale, Mary Wallace, Breda Wightman, Mark Wightman, Richard Wightman, Brigid Yates and Fr. Tom's sister, Maura.

RECENT DEAD

Your prayers are asked for **Bob Turner** and **Rose O'Grady** who died recently. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. The Requiem Mass for Bob Turner will be on Wednesday 10th January at 11.00 am with the Reception of his Body at 5.00 pm on Tuesday 9th January. Arrangement for the funeral of Rose O'Grady are yet to be finalised and will be announced in due course. Please also remember their family members and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

JOHN LEIGHTON RIP - BROTHER PATRICK'S FATHER

We have received the sad news that Brother Patrick's father John passed away this week. Please pray for his departed soul and for Brother Patrick, his brother, John Leighton, and their family and friends. The funeral arrangements will be announced in due course.

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. There are still some raffle prizes yet to be claimed. These are in the Parish Office awaiting collection.

TRADCRAFT STALL

The Traidcraft stall will open again on Sunday 7th January 2018. It will be open between the 8.30am and 10.30am Masses only. Please continue to support Traidcraft. Thank you.

PARISH SECRETARY

Over Christmas I will be unavailable until Friday 5th January with the exception of 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.

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. The first meeting for parents and children is on Tuesday 23rd January at 6.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

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.

REFUGEE COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this months 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.

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.



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.

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 posters at the back of church.

ORDER OF MALTA PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Please see the poster on the noticeboard for full details of this Pilgrimage to Lourdes from Friday 4th May until Thursday 10th May 2018.



Main Collection:

£335.99

Gift Aid: £367.00

Mass Attendance

Last Sunday: 294

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**The retiring collection
for Christmas Flowers**

raised: £319.08

**Thank you for your
generosity.**

**Additional gift aid
donation for the Poor**

Parishes: £35.00

**Thank you for your
generosity.**



**BIRMINGHAM
CATHOLIC YOUTH
SERVICE**

Please see the posters on the noticeboard for details of forthcoming BCYS events. These include World Youth Day and the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes.



**Next Sunday's Mass
Readings**

Ecclesiasticus 3:

2-6, 12-14;

Psalms 127;

Colossians 3: 12-21;

Luke 2: 22-40

NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNING, A NEW CAREER!

Can you bring vision, experience and energy to the Diocesan Youth Service team? Can you initiate and develop parish youth ministry across a diverse area? Can you deliver training and organise events? If so, we would love to hear from you! The Kenelm Youth Trust are looking to appoint a Youth Ministry Development worker for the Catholic Parishes of Oxfordshire and Worcestershire. The application forms and job description are available to download from www.kyt.org.uk. The post is advertised at £22,000 to £24,500 for 40 hours per week. The deadline for receiving applications is Friday 26th January 2018.

FATHER HUDSON'S CARE

Father Hudson's Care have written to thank all parishioners for supporting their annual collection in September. They have sent a newsletter update that is on the noticeboard. Please also see the poster advertising the 114th Annual Fundraising Ball. This is on Saturday 17th February 2018 from 7.30 pm until 1.00 am at the National Conference Centre in Birmingham. Please see the poster for full details of the ball and for how to purchase tickets.

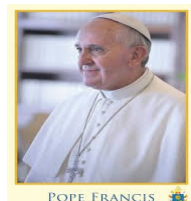


**Fr. Vincent SCJ , Fr. Brian SCJ, Fr. Tom SCJ and
Bro. Patrick SCJ wish everyone in our parish community
a blessed and peaceful Christmas. May the blessings of
Christmas embrace you and your family. Sincere thanks
for your prayers, cards, gifts, support and help during
2017.**

LAUDATE SI: THE GOSPEL OF CREATION

THE WISDOM OF THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNTS

Many of the Old Testament accounts point to the absolute necessity for maintaining proper relationships with our neighbours, for whom we all have a duty of care, and a harmony between us and nature. When these relationships are neglected, the Bible tells us that life itself is endangered. We see this as early as the story of Noah, where God threatens to do away with humanity because of its manifest failure to fulfil the requirement of justice and peace. Everything is interconnected - genuine care for our own lives and our relationships with nature is inseparable from justice for and faithfulness towards other people. The Biblical tradition clearly shows that any renewal of proper relationships entails recovering and respecting the rhythms inscribed in nature by the hand of the Creator. A spirituality which forgets God as an all-powerful Creator is not acceptable. (65-75)



POPE FRANCIS