



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

1 Kings 3: 5, 7-12;

Psalm 118;

Romans 8: 28-30

Matthew 13: 44-52

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

This Week 26th July - 2nd August (Psalter Week 1)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
Sunday 26th July Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	8.30 am Thanksgiving Mass for the Intentions of the Sacred Heart Clergy and Parishioners (CS) 10.30 am Betty Priddy (BB) 6.00 pm Private Intention (P & CI)	
Monday 27th July Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Bridget Van Schubert RIP (BB)	
Tuesday 28th July Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Private Intention (Mr. S)	
Wednesday 29th July Memorial of St. Martha	9.15 am Aidan Skinner RIP (GP)	
Thursday 30th July Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Peter Bullock & Jess Partington (BB) 10.30 am Funeral Service	
Friday 31st July Memorial of St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest	9.15 am Aidan Skinner RIP (SVP)	
Saturday 1st August Memorial of St. Alphonsus Mary de'Ligouri, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	11.00 am Patrick Cussen RIP & Family Members (JC)	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 2nd August Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	8.30 am Vincenza Eaton RIP (MF) 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm John & Mary Ryan (DR)	

“Saint Therese of Lisieux invites us to practise the little way of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture which sows peace and friendship. An integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness. In the end, a world of exacerbated consumption is at the same time a world which mistreats life in all its forms.”

Pope Francis, Laudato Si' (paragraph 230)

**SACRED HEART
COMMUNITY**

Fr. George Mathew SCJ
(Priest-in-Charge)

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**In an emergency, please
contact:**

07448 042484

Fr. Brian Boyle SCJ
(Retired Priest)

Fr. Tom Kelly SCJ
(Retired Priest)

Bro. Patrick Leighton SCJ

PARISH SCHOOL

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**SAFEGUARDING
REPRESENTATIVES**

Gerry Ceclich
Kate Dalglish
Clare Tomlinson

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.00 pm :

Lord, how I love your law!

PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for all our parishioners, and/or their friends and relatives, who are unwell:

Mary Arulandhu, Barbara Conway, Eileen Dalton, Delores Delaney, Frank Fawcett, Sheila Ferriter, Alan Francis, Joan Graham, Beryl Hill, Alan Hurst, John Jennings, Andrew McDermott, Stella McDermott, Jackie McLean, Michael Sheridan, Jacky Smith, Paul Smith, Margaret Steward, Angela Wardle, Breda Wightman, Mark Wightman, Richard Wightman, Monsignor Graham Wilkinson & Jeannie Young.

Due to the new data regulations (GDPR), the Archdiocese have requested that we do not list names unless we have the consent of the individual. If you would like your name to be included in this list please contact Fr. George SCJ or Kate Dalglish. Please note that the newsletter is also placed on the parish website. Thank you for your understanding.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for **Aidan Skinner** who died recently. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. The funeral service will be at 10.30 am on Thursday 30th July followed by a burial at St. Mary's Churchyard. Please keep his family and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

CHURCH OPEN FOR MASS

The normal Mass timetable has now resumed. Please check the website before attending Mass in church in case changes are made due to unforeseen circumstances. All are welcome to attend either Sunday, Saturday or weekday Masses. There will be stewards at the entrance to welcome you and at the exit to guide you. We want to make the effort to accommodate the maximum number people with social distancing in the church, however, the number in church is limited to 80. **All attending Mass will be required to wear a face covering, except for people with breathing problems and children under the age of five.** If you wish, hand gloves can also be worn to limit the spread of infection. Please see Fr. George's letter on the website for full details of additional Covid-19 safety measures. Holy Communion will be distributed only in hand in One Kind. Please follow the instructions from the stewards; they are there to help you. Thanking you all in anticipation of you returning to church for Mass and for your understanding and co-operation.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ

MESSAGE FROM CYNTHIA & JOHN

I would like to thank all clergy and parishioners for their warmth, help, friendship and love that both myself and my husband have received from all during the last 15 years. It is with a mixture of excitement and sadness that we leave Droitwich to go home to Liverpool to enjoy John's retirement. A Mass is offered for all your intentions, and this is not goodbye but see you later!!! With love and prayers and God bless - Cynthia and John Sharkey.

APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR STEWARDING

The church is now open for public Mass. We always need at least two volunteers as stewards in the church for each. Are you or members of your family or friends (must be over 18 years and under 70 years) able to be a steward in the church for the Mass you come to on Sundays and weekdays help us? The stewards are mostly needed before and after the Masses. That means you can attend the Mass whilst being a steward. If you can help us, please contact the parish office via email or by phone for more details. Unlike during private prayer, the stewards will not have to sanitise the pews after each use. Thank you very much to those who have already offered their time as stewards during Private Prayer and offered to continue their help. We still need more to join our team.

USEFUL LINKS

BDES: CATHOLIC EDUCATION

<https://www.bdes.org.uk/resources-for-prayer-and-learning.html>
<https://www.bdes.org.uk/shared-resources-from-diocesan-schools.html>

CAFOD

www.cafod.org.uk

VATICAN WEBSITE

<http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>
<https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>

PATHWAYS TO GOD

<https://www.pathwaystogod.org/resources>

THE TABLET

<https://www.thetablet.co.uk/>

CATHOLIC SATELLITE TV (EWTN)

Catholic Satellite TV(EWTN) on Sky TV channel 588, broadcasts daily Mass at 1.00 pm, 6.00 pm and 11.00 pm and it has 24 hours of different programs which will be helpful for us all in this time. EWTN is also available on other digital platforms.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Please visit www.cbcew.org.uk/ for resources including news articles, links to streamed Masses, podcasts and prayers. This includes a letter from the Archbishops on the resumption of collective worship.

KENELM YOUTH TRUST: SUMMER CAMP 2020

31ST JULY UNTIL 2ND AUGUST ONLINE FROM ALTON CASTLE

This year, Summer Camp is going online. Join in online from wherever you are for times of prayer, Holy Mass, talks from our amazing speakers, praise and worship, and so much more. If you've been before, you'll still have a chance to be part of small group sessions, silly games and praise with Sarah. You can even purchase some merchandise and wear your camp t-shirt to online sessions! There is no cost or sign-up fee, all you need to do is fill out a registration form and make sure you follow our social media accounts so that you can join us when we release content and go live! For further information and to register visit <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Event/online-lifeteen-camp-uk-2020>.

GIFT AID

ENVELOPES

2020/2021

The gift aid envelopes for the new tax year are at the back of church. Please can you collect your envelopes at your earliest convenience, thank you.

FOODBANK

Foodbank would be very grateful for any donations. A new wish list is on the parish website. Whilst we are still not collecting at the Sacred Heart Church there are collection points in Droitwich at Waitrose and Morrisons. Thank you for your continued generosity.

DROITWICH

CATENIANS

Fellow Catholic parishioners – please come and join us!

The Catenians are a Catholic association for men and their families, strengthening family life through friendship and faith. Our Droitwich Circle welcomes new members. For further information, contact **Mike Nott** on **07756 876269**.

Main Collection:
£199.17

Gift Aid: £266.50

Mass Attendance
Last Sunday: 129

Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.

DROITWICH SVP

Sacred Heart SVP can be contacted on 0777 292 7535 or at droitwichsvp@googlemail.com.

JOB VACANCY

The Archdiocese of Birmingham is advertising for a Safeguarding Adviser. Please see the website for full details.

ONLINE DONATIONS

Online donations can be made at <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/support-our-work> and would be gratefully received. Please select Droitwich if you wish to donate to the Parish. Thank you for your generosity.



Next Sunday's Mass

Readings

Isaiah 55: 1-3;

Psalm 144;

Romans 8: 35, 37-39

Matthew 14: 13-21

Welcome to everyone at Mass today, especially if you are new to our church or haven't been to Mass for some time. If you are of another Christian denomination or non-Christian you are warmly invited to approach the priest or minister and ask or signify your wish for a blessing.

The True Treasure

The Gospel we listened to speaks of discovering what is precious and inestimable for our life which is a priceless treasure that is God Himself. The opening prayer of today's liturgical celebration helps us to reflect today's reading. First, it is an invitation to pay attention to what is holy and the foundation of our life. Secondly, knowing that God is the foundation of our life, is the sign of growing in wisdom. Thirdly, once we discover it, we keep aside what is not useful and focus our attention on what is useful. Summarising these aspects of growing in holiness, Jesus uses the expression kingdom of God in today's gospel.

The frequent usage of the kingdom of God in the gospel reminds us how important it is to partake in the kingdom of God. The first step to partake in the kingdom of God is to discern what is best in the eyes of God. In the first reading the king Solomon asks God to give a heart to understand how to govern his people and to discern between what is good and evil. Having pleaded God with right intention, King Solomon placed himself as the mediator between God and his people. He realized this fact and asked for discernment of the spirit. The second step is to acquire the attitude of St. Paul who recognized the grace of Christ operating in and through us. In today's second reading St. Paul tells us that God has a definite plan for us and that he executes his inscrutable plan at the right time. God justifies the person whom he called by bringing glory to him. Therefore, the realisation of God's grace will fetch us a place in the kingdom of heaven. The third step is to be vigilant always through constant search of lasting happiness.

In the first parable, the man finds the treasure without making a concentrated effort. He was clever enough to sell all that he had and buy the field. The parable calls us to recognise the treasure, the Christ and it invites us to trade all that we consider not much important, for the sake of Christ. At this moment we remember the words of St. Paul who said, "I consider everything as a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ, who loved me and gave his life for me". The second parable teaches us that it is not enough to be vigilant but also, we need to constantly search for growing in holiness, of finding the finest pearl of our life. The person in the second parable constantly searches for something priceless and after having found it, he sells everything to buy the pearl. All of us, at different point in time make a constant search in life. This can be of two types. At times we invest our time and energy on what is not very important, and the second type is to invest our time in searching what is important. The life of St. Augustine serves us a classical example of making an earnest search for God. At his young age, he focused his attention largely on worldly pleasures, but his life took a complete turn when he focused his attention on God, the treasure and said "Lord my heart is restless until I rest in thee." Let us, therefore, be aware of the invitation to be members of the kingdom of God. It is God who chooses us to his kingdom although we are unworthy to acquire this privilege. Let us also pray for the grace to play the role of facilitator between God and His people and to be vigilant and curious in searching for the treasure: The Christ. May God bless us.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ
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