



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Isaiah 55: 6 – 9;

Psalms 144;

Philippians 1: 20-24, 27

Matthew 20: 1-6

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

This Week 20th September - 27th September (Psalter Week 1)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
Sunday 20th September Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	8.30 am Vincenza Eaton RIP (MF) 10.30 am Frances, Ernie & David Veale RIP (MD) 6.00 pm Christopher Kondratowicz RIP	Retiring Collection for Holy Places - please note change
Monday 21st September Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist	9.15 am Cheryl Garvey (KG)	
Tuesday 22nd September Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Gladys Remedios RIP (KA)	
Wednesday 23rd September Memorial of St. Pio of Pietrelcina	9.15 am Barbara Lawrence RIP (BB)	
Thursday 24th September Memorial of Our Lady of Walsingham	9.15 am Lorraine Gould RIP (SR) 12 Noon: Requiem Mass	
Friday 25th September Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Holy Mass	
Saturday 26th September Feria in Ordinary Time	11.00 am Denis & Peggy Regan RIP (BB)	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 27th September Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	8.30 am Ella Patterson RIP (M & J) 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Holy Mass	Retiring Collection for Fr. Hudson's Care

"Human beings cannot be expected to feel responsibility for the world unless, at the same time, their unique capacities of knowledge, will, freedom and responsibility are recognized and valued."

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* (paragraph 118)

SACRED HEART COMMUNITY

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SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

Gerry Ceclich
Kate Dalglish
Clare Tomlinson

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.00 pm:

The Lord is close to all who call him.

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, Colum MacCourt, Sally McCool, 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.

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 **Lorraine Gould, Jeannie Young and Barbara Lawrence** 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 Barbara Lawrence is on Thursday 24th September at 12 noon. This will be followed by a Cremation at 2.00 pm at The Vale Crematorium. Please keep their family and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

NOTES FOR THOSE ATTENDING MASS

When coming to Mass on a Sunday, it would be helpful if you would please keep in mind the following:

- Wear a face covering unless you are in a category exempted by the UK Government. Please note that wearing of a face covering in places of worship is a legal requirement from Saturday 8th August. Details of those who are exempted by law can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>.
- Make use of the hand sanitiser on entering.
- To sit on the R/H side of the church, access by way of the R/H side aisle. To sit on the L/H side of the church, access by way of the centre aisle.
- On entering an empty pew, pass to its far L/H end.
- A pew will accommodate 3 singletons or 1 singleton and 1 couple or families may make use of an entire bench.
- After Communion, return to your seat by way of the side aisle that is adjacent to your seat.
- At the end of Mass, stewards will indicate the order in which the congregation will leave the church. You do not have to leave immediately but remember that the cleaners have work to do before the next Mass.
- Please sanitise your hands on the way out.

SACRED HEART ANNUAL SPONSORED WALK

The Annual Sponsored Walk in aid of the Sacred Heart Missionary Work in India will take place in Droitwich **on Saturday 26th September at 2.00 pm.** Fr. George SCJ and Br. Patrick SCJ will be participating in the Droitwich Canal Walk. If you would like to support this fund raising effort, there are sponsorship forms and gift aid envelopes available at the back of church to sponsor and support them. If you would like to join this walk please speak to Fr George or Brother Patrick. Please join Fr. George SCJ and Br. Patrick SCJ to support the Sacred Heart Missionary work in India. For further details please speak to Fr. George or Br. Patrick. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Due to the pandemic this year we may not be able to have the Christmas Fayre (if the situation improves this may be reviewed) but we will have the Raffle as usual. Your support would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to donate a raffle prize please give your name to Terry who will be at the back of the church after each Mass.

PARISH SECRETARY

The Parish Secretary is now back in the office on Wednesday and Friday mornings and can be contacted via telephone on 01905 773258 on these days. Please continue to use phone and email if possible to minimise in person visits.

COUNTERS

Due to Covid-19, some of the volunteers who would usually assist with counting the Sunday offertory are unable to do so. If anyone is able to help or would like further information please could you contact the Parish Office.

DIOCESAN SECOND COLLECTIONS

Due to the lockdown, many Diocesan Second Collections were missed. These will be rescheduled for the remainder of 2020. There are several changes to the original dates for Diocesan Second Collections and some will now not take place at all. Some parishioners have already donated to these causes earlier in the year on their original dates, thank you for your generosity. **In changes to what has been previously advertised, the Second Collections for the remainder of 2020 are as follows:**

- **Today: Holy Places**
- **Sunday 27th September: Fr. Hudson's Care**
- **Sunday 4th October: Peter's Pence**
- **Sunday 18th October: World Mission Sunday**
- **Sunday 1st November : Clergy Training Fund**
- **Sunday 6th December: Poor Parishes Fund**

There will also be Second Collections for the SVP and Christmas Flowers - dates to be confirmed. Any money already donated to causes not listed above will still be passed to the relevant collection.

BIRMINGHAM JUSTICE & PEACE ASSEMBLY 2020

THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY: LISTENING TO THE 'CRY OF THE EARTH AND THE CRY OF THE POOR'

This year the Assembly will take place **ONLINE**, with one-hour sessions over three evenings at 7.30pm: Monday 28th September, Wednesday 30th September and Friday 2 October. The Assembly will culminate with Evening Prayer with the participation of Archbishop Bernard on Sunday 4th October at 7pm. For more information and to book go to <https://bit.ly/JPasssembly2020> or email bham.jandp@gmail.com.

FR. HUDSON'S ANNUAL PARISH COLLECTION 2020

Next Sunday the second collection will be for Father Hudson's Care to support their mission of supporting vulnerable people across the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Father Hudson's reaches out to people of all ages who need support at times of adversity.

Please give generously to this worthy cause.

FOODBANK - HARVEST WISH LIST

A new wish list for Harvest 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.

SMARTPHONES FOR REFUGEES

Bromsgrove and Redditch Welcomes Refugees are appealing for donations of old smartphones. The refugees will use these to keep in touch with their families and Migrant Help cheaply and easily via Wifi. Any donations can be placed in the box at the back of church. For further information please contact info@brwr.uk.

Main Collection:

£182.65

Gift Aid: £148.00

Mass Attendance

**Last Sunday (church
capacity with social
distancing 1m + = 80)**

8.30 am: 60

10.30 am: 56

6.00 pm: 61

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**The Retiring
Collection for
Catholic Education
raised: £7.00**

Gift Aid: £66.90

**Thank you for your
generosity.**

ONLINE DONATIONS

Online donations can
be made at
[https://www.
birminghamdiocese.
org.uk/support-our-
work](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

Ezekial 18: 25–28;

Psalms 24;

Philippians 2: 1-11

Matthew 21: 28-32

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.

God writes straight on crooked lines.

After reading the title above you would be forgiven if you think I made a mistake and especially if you know the regular phrase which is: God writes straight on crooked lines. While God can surely write straight on crooked lines, he also sometimes writes crooked on straight lines. The last verse from the first reading of today explains even if inadequately God's ways are surely not our ways and no matter how hard we may try, they cannot be understood with our finite minds. "As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways" (Is. 55:9). The context in Isaiah seems to be the questioning of the people of the prophetic message of Isaiah. The people were finding it difficult to understand how God could use a Gentile, Cyrus, the Persian king to free them from bondage and move them to freedom. They thus began to question God.

A classic example of how God does this is narrated in the Gospel text, the parable of the Workers in the Vineyard. The focus is not so much on the workers but on the owner of the vineyard and his seemingly unjust and illogical actions. The parable makes three striking points. The first of these is that while the earlier four groups are simply told to go to the vineyard, it is only the labourers hired at the eleventh hour who are asked why they have been standing idle all day. The reason for this seems to be, to bring out through their response that they have not been considered worthy of being hired. They are the rejected, the unworthy, the undesirable. However, despite their unworthiness, these too are given the same invitation as the earlier groups which brought an objection from the others. The response of the master to the objection by the labourers that a great injustice was done to them is the third striking point. Since the master has kept to the terms of the contract agreed upon, no injustice has been done and it is the master who decides that the last must be treated in the same way as the first.

There is here a distinct note of grace. Though the last ones did not deserve what they got, they were given it because of the graciousness of the master. Only in the realm of grace is the equal treatment of all possible. It is wrong to set one's mind on the rewards that will set one on a higher level than others. The fundamental assertion of the parable is that God's grace is granted also to those who come last. Even those who come in the eleventh hour, the unwanted and the unworthy, will receive the same reward to be given to those who have come before. When we tend to despise those whom we consider unworthy, we need to keep this in mind. It is only grace that makes us worthy.

The parable summons us to believe that God's justice played out in this world is not limited by human conceptions of strict mathematical judgment, by which reward is in proportion to effort or merit. As a matter of fact, grace cannot be earned by even the most strenuous effort. Mercy and goodness are not opposed to justice, but they challenge us, as they did the workers in the parable, to move beyond justice. God's ways are not human ways. God indeed does write crooked on straight lines. May God Bless us.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ⁴