



SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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

Today's Mass Readings

Isaiah 25: 6-10;

Psalms 22;

Philippians 4: 12-14, 19-20

Matthew 22: 1-14

This Week 11th October - 18th October (Psalter Week 4)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
Sunday 11th October Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	8.30 am People of the Parish 10.30 am Sarah & Jonathan Newland (LH) 6.00 pm Mary Ryan (DR)	Retiring Collection for the Droitwich SVP
Monday 12th October Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Mathew Njavallil (AS)	
Tuesday 13th October Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Jeannie Young RIP (BB)	
Wednesday 14th October Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Harry Remedios RIP (KA)	
Thursday 15th October Memorial of St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin, Doctor of the Church	9.15 am George & Ron Hancock (AM) 2.00 pm: Requiem Mass	
Friday 16th October Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Pam Jennings RIP (BB) 2.15 pm Funeral Service	
Saturday 17th October Memorial of St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop, Martyr	11.00 am Holy Mass	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 18th October Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	8.30 am Intentions of Margaret Harding (MM) 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Holy Mass	Retiring Collection for World Mission Day (APF)

"Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others. Since the world has been given to us, we can no longer view reality in a purely utilitarian way, in which efficiency and productivity are entirely geared to our individual benefit. Intergenerational solidarity is not optional, but rather a basic question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us.

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* (paragraph 159)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.00 pm:

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

SACRED HEART COMMUNITY

Fr. George Mathew SCJ
(Parish Priest)

georgemathewscj@
hotmail.com

**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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Mrs. Cath Bryan

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SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

Gerry Ceclich
Kate Dalglish
Clare Tomlinson

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, Sheila Manion, 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 **Catherine Mary Healey** and **Pamela Jennings** who died recently. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Please keep their family and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

Funeral Details:

Catherine Mary Healey: Thursday 15th October at 2.00 pm at the Sacred Heart Church, followed by a Cremation at Worcester Crematorium at 3.15 pm

Pamela Jennings: Friday 16th October at 2.15 pm at the Sacred Heart Church, followed by a Cremation at Worcester Crematorium at 3.15 pm

COVID-19: KEEPING CONTACT DETAILS OF THOSE ATTENDING MASS

Government guidance for the safe use of places of worship states that churches should assist NHS Track and Trace by keeping a record of those who come to church. With effect from Sunday 27th September we will be keeping details of those who attend Mass. Only one name and telephone number will be needed per group. If you decline to provide this information, you can still attend Mass. If NHS Track and Trace contacts the parish, details of those who attended the relevant Mass will be provided. Information will be destroyed after 21 days. In addition, QR codes for use with the NHS Covid-19 app are also on display outside and inside the church. Please note that these are different for the Church and Hall so please ensure that you scan the code with Sacred Heart Church written underneath. From Sunday 4th October there will be a tick list for Sunday Masses to speed up the process of taking contact details. If you provide your name to a steward then you are giving your consent to details already held for NHS Track and Trace within the 21 day time period being kept for a further 21 days from the date of this Mass. If your name is not on the list it could be because either 21 days has expired since you last gave details or you have not provided your details before.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Raffle tickets are now available from the back of church. Your support would be greatly appreciated. There are two 1st prizes worth £100.00 and three 2nd prizes worth £50.00, plus many others. Thank you to all who have donated raffle prizes.

STEWARDS

We currently have a small team of dedicated stewards. If you are able to help by joining the team to steward at Masses, please speak to Fr. George or contact the Parish Office. To volunteer you must be fit and well. Thank you to all those who currently steward for your continued help and support.

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: Droitwich SVP
- Sunday 18th October: World Mission Sunday
- Sunday 1st November : Clergy Training Fund
- Sunday 6th December: Poor Parishes Fund

There will also be a Second Collection for Christmas Flowers - date to be confirmed. Any money already donated to causes not listed above will still be passed to the relevant collection.

SVP APPEAL

The St Vincent de Paul Society has been active in the Sacred Heart Parish for many years. This is an international lay Christian organisation of men, women and young people working to help relieve suffering, whether this be loneliness, illness, homelessness or any other form of poverty. Today there will be an appeal and second collection for the Droitwich SVP. If you prefer there is also a JustGiving page for online donations at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/SVPDroitwich. For further information about the SVP please contact them on 0777 292 7535 or at droitwichsvp@googlemail.com.

THANKSGIVING MASS FOR MARRIAGE 2020

The Thanksgiving Mass will be live-streamed from St Chad's Cathedral at 12 noon on Sunday 1st November. The Celebrant is Bishop David Evans. During the Mass couples will be invited to make the Renewal of Commitment at home. If you are celebrating a milestone anniversary this year, whether it is your 1st anniversary or every 5th year up to 60th (and every year after 60), and would like to be listed in the Mass booklet please email Lianne Pap before October 18th at lianne.pap@rc-birmingham.org. Please mark the email 'Marriage Mass'

BABY LOSS AWARENESS WEEK 2020:

FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER UNTIL THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER

The aim of the week is to raise awareness of baby loss in the UK. Life Charity and Pregnancy Matters have developed special resources to help support those affected by baby loss. These can be found at <https://babylossmatters.lifecharity.org.uk/churches/> and can help to compassionately and confidently address the issue of baby loss.

TRAIDCRAFT

If you would like to see a Traidcraft Catalogue, please contact Kevin or Elizabeth Larkin.

SMARTPHONES

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.

REFUGEE KNITTING

Thank you so very much for the exquisite, blankets, cardigans, jumpers hats and scarves recently donated. How delighted the refugees will be to receive such precious gifts! Wool, patterns, needles, buttons and wool are available in a cupboard in the porch to help defray costs. For anyone new to the parish, knit anything you feel would benefit adults and children in the camps.

Main Collection:
£181.20

Gift Aid: £291.59

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

8.30 am: 66

10.30 am: 65

6.00 pm: 56

Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.

The Retiring
Collection for Fr.
Hudson's Care raised:
£29.00

Gift Aid (Various
Retiring Collections):
£32.00

Thank you for your
generosity.

GIFT AID
DONATIONS
2019-2020

Due to the working from home directive, the Archdiocese has been unable to send the letters to donors for the 2019/2020 Tax Year. If you need to know the total amount you donated, please contact the Parish Office.

Next Sunday's Mass
Readings

Isaiah 45: 1, 4-6;

Psalms 95;

1 Thessalonians 1: 1-5,

Matthew 22: 15-21

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.

Do I accept God's invitation on time?

In today's gospel we hear about the parable of the wedding feast. The invitees initially accepted the invitation to join the feast, and now when it happened, they seek to excuse themselves for a variety of personal reasons. Remember, the invitation came from the king. How could they refuse him and continue to enjoy his favour/protection? Each Sunday we gather as a community in response to God's invitation to His party. The question is what kind of guests are we? The parable shows us three possible kinds of guests. 1. The absentees who initially accepted the invitation, but when the time came, they drew back. 2. Guests without the wedding garment, i.e. those who attend the feast but do not take the trouble to prepare sufficiently for it, as the occasion deserves. 3. The guests with the wedding garment who make the necessary preparation to present themselves as worthy for the banquet of the King.

The parable does not say that the absentees were engaged in sinful activities. One went to his farm, another to his business. These are gainful and noble employments. Sometimes what keeps us away from the joy of the kingdom is not sin but preoccupation with the necessities of life. To be serious with our job is a good thing, but when our job keeps us away from attending the Lord's Supper, spending time in my personal prayer, reading the Word of God, it becomes an obstacle that hinders our experience of the joy of the Lord in our life. Remember, it's not just to fulfil my obligation that I come to Sunday Mass, but to join the celebration of a very significant act of the Lord in relation to our salvation. Then those without the wedding garment: By not wearing the mandatory wedding garment, they were physically present at the party, but not in mind and spirit. The kingdom of God is freely offered to us. But we ought not to take God's grace for granted. Finally, there are the guests who attend the wedding feast, taking care to appear in the proper attire. They had the right attitude, right preparation, and right spirit. They came to truly celebrate!

This parable simply means that, God calls us and gives us the power to respond. But to be chosen, we must respond appropriately to the call in our faith and conduct. As disciples of Christ are we willing to honour His invitation to put our faith into action and take the necessary risks to live an exemplary life? God respects our freedom. Instead of forcing us to do His will, He lovingly invites us. He showers His gifts upon us, and yet when the time comes to show our gratitude, we so often prefer to honour the gifts rather than the giver. If the invited guests in the parable had truly respected their king, they would have adjusted their plans for his sake, putting aside their personal preferences for a little while to show their gratitude to him. Is God a top priority in my life? Do I spend my prime time with Him, for Him? or is He the last one in my list which can easily be missed out amidst the worries about the necessities of our daily life?

George Mathew SCJ
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