



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

Wisdom 6: 12-16;

Psalm 62;

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18,

Matthew 25: 1-13

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

This Week 8th November - 15th November (Psalter Week 4)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
Sunday 8th November Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	8.30 am Departed members of Ringer Family (PR) 10.30 am Special Intention (AM) 6.00 pm People of the Parish	Remembrance Day 10.00 am - 12 Noon: Private Prayer
Monday 9th November Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	9.15 am Pam Jennings RIP (AM)	10.00 am - 11.00 am: Private Prayer
Tuesday 10th November Memorial of St. Leo the Great, Pope, Doctor of the Church	9.15 am Sheila Manion (AM)	
Wednesday 11th November Memorial of St. Martin of Tours, Bishop	9.15 am Deceased Members of the Brush Family (MB)	10.00 am - 11.00 am: Private Prayer
Thursday 12th November Memorial of St. Josaphat, Bishop, Martyr	9.15 am Jean Atkins RIP (MR)	
Friday 13th November Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Deceased Members of the Baldry Family (MB)	10.00 am - 11.00 am: Private Prayer
Saturday 14th November Feria in Ordinary Time	11.00 am Arthur Leason RIP (MB)	
Sunday 15th November Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	8.30 am Kevin McCorry RIP (MM) 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Holy Mass	World Day of the Poor

"Amid the fray of conflicting interests, where victory consists in eliminating one's opponents, how is it possible to raise our sights to recognize our neighbours or to help those who have fallen along the way? A plan that would set great goals for the development of our entire human family nowadays sounds like madness."

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 16)

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

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 Dalglish
The Sacred Heart
Presbytery
Tel: 01905 773258
Email:
sacredheartdroitwich
@hotmail.co.uk.

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.**

COVID-19

Further to the new restrictions announced on Saturday 31st October, Mass
will no longer be open to the public from Thursday 5th November. A
statement from the President and Vice-President of the Bishops'
Conference has been distributed with this newsletter and has also been
added to the parish website. The church will be open for individual prayer
at the following times:

Sundays: 10.00 am until 12 Noon

Mondays: 10.00 am until 11.00 am

Wednesdays: 10.00 am until 11.00 am

Fridays: 10.00 am until 11.00 am

Any Mass Intentions booked for November will still be said by Fr. George
during Private Masses.

COVID-19: KEEPING CONTACT DETAILS OF THOSE ATTENDING MASS

We will keep details of those who attend Mass until the 21 day
period expires. If NHS Track and Trace contacts the parish, details of those
who attended the relevant Mass will be provided. Please note that new lists
will need to be created when the public celebration of Mass can resume.

PARISH SECRETARY

Once again the government have directed everyone who is able to work
from home to do so. The Parish Secretary will return to working from home
full time, and will be available via phone during the following hours:

Monday 10.45 am until 12 noon

Tuesday 10.00 am until 1.00 pm

Wednesday 9.00 am until 12 Noon

Friday 8.45 am until 12.45 pm

To contact the Parish Secretary via phone, please use 07927 145040.
Outside of these times, this mobile phone will be switched off, please leave
messages via email.

STEWARDING

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to help with the opening of
the church for Private Prayer. A new rota has been distributed via email.
Please let the Parish Secretary know if there are any problems.

NOVEMBER : MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

During November we remember and pray especially for those who have died. If you would like to remember in this special way loved ones who have died, please put the name(s) in an envelope (marked Holy Souls) and post it through the letterbox at the Presbytery. Fr. George or Brother Patrick will add the name to The Holy Souls Box and it will be placed near the altar during each Mass in November.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Raffle tickets are still available. If you would like to buy any, please contact the Parish Office. Your generous 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. Currently we are aiming to draw the Raffle after the 10.30 am Mass on Sunday 6th December.

DIOCESAN SECOND COLLECTIONS

Diocesan Second Collections have been rescheduled for the remainder of 2020. **In changes to what has been previously advertised, the Second Collections for the remainder of 2020 are as follows:**

- Sunday 6th December: Poor Parishes Fund
- Sunday 13th December: Father Hudson's (Giving Tree)

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. Thank you for your generosity.

SVP DROITWICH - GIVING TREE APPEAL 2020

Due to the pandemic Father Hudson's Homes have said that they will not be able to accept gifts from the giving tree this year. They do however still have a need to support families that need gifts for their families. There will be a second collection in lieu of gifts after each Sunday Mass. **This collection has now been postponed until Sunday 13th December.** There will be a box for cash donations by the Giving Tree which this year will be at the back of church in the Baptistry on the right hand side as you leave the church. The funds collected will go to Father Hudson's Homes so that they can order gifts to be delivered direct to the families in need thus reducing the handling of gifts. We have always had wonderful support from our parish for this worthwhile cause so please be as generous as possible in these difficult times. If you are unable to attend church for whatever reason then donations can be left at the presbytery with Father George clearly marked Giving Tree Gifts. Cheques should be made to Father Hudson's Homes. In addition, Father Hudson's Homes have set up a JustGiving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/FHCchristmas20> where online donations can be made. Thank you all for your support.

APF RED BOX HOLDERS

Please note Kevin Larkin is taking on the role of Parish organiser. If you have any queries, need a box emptying, a box returning, do let Kevin know. There seem to be a lot fewer of you than there once were, and it would be a great help if you were all to let me know of your existence; there may be more of you than we think. Similarly, if any parishioner would like to take on an APF box in support of the missions, this can be arranged by contacting Kevin Larkin on 01905 776122 or at kevin.elizabeth@btinternet.com.

REFUGEE KNITTING

Thank you so much for the exquisite crochet blankets and the many beautiful knitted hats recently donated. A special thank you to the person who once again knitted such a vast quantity of scarves and purchased gorgeous, colourful gloves to go with them. The children will be so delighted to receive these sets, all so lovingly packaged. Knit any article you feel would benefit adults and children in the camps. Again a HUGE THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT OF THIS WORTHY CAUSE.

MARY'S MEALS

From today until Sunday 31st January 2021, public donations made to the Mary's Meals Double The Love appeal will be doubled by the UK government, up to £2 million. Please visit <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove> for more information and details of how to donate.

*Registered as a
Charity, Birmingham
Roman Catholic
Diocesan Trustees:
Registered Charity
Number 234216.*

Main Collection:**£315.83****Gift Aid: £453.30****Mass Attendance****Last Sunday (church capacity with social distancing 1m + = 80)****8.30 am: 54****10.30 am: 67****6.00 pm: 39****Thank you for supporting your Parish.****The Retiring Collection for the Clergy Training Fund raised:****£125.00****Various Gift Aid Second Collection Donations raised:****£111.50****Thank you for your generosity.****DROITWICH SVP**

Sacred Heart SVP can be contacted on 0777 292 7535 or at droitwichsvp@googlemail.com. The SVP JustGiving page can be found at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/SVPDroitwich> if you would like to make a Donation.

Next Sunday's Mass Readings*Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31;**Psalms 127;**1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6**Matthew 25: 14-30**Am I ready to Meet Jesus?*

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus. Nearly 2,000 years ago, Jesus spoke the parable of the ten virgins. For many, it is a nice Bible story about lamps, oil and getting ready for a wedding; yet the parable is actually a warning about conditions that will exist in our society at the end of the age. The target audience is the generation that will see the return of Jesus Christ! The parable is linked with prophecies about the last days that are coming to pass today. We need to be wise to understand it.

In today's first reading taken from the book of Wisdom we hear that God offers wisdom to us, but God does not force His way. Therefore, it is wisdom from God only that can help us understand His word and follow it. How does the parable relate to us. What can we learn from the parable of the ten virgins? We first need to consider who are the ten virgins? The parable pictures ten virgins who go out to meet the bridegroom (Jesus Christ). Many Bible scholars have simply described the ten virgins as the Christian community. Christians today certainly expect the Messiah to return. We are told that five of the virgins were wise and five were foolish. Just what does it mean to be wise, or foolish? How does the Bible define these terms? Into which category do we fall? Jesus explains that the wise are those who not only listen to His teachings, but actually follow those teachings. Jesus defines a foolish person as one who hears but does not follow the word of God! Foolish people make up reasons and excuses why the commandments and instructions of Scripture no longer apply to us today.

The book of Proverbs provides additional definitions for example a wise person will seek advice and listen to correction (Pro. 10:8), but fools ignore advice and resent correction (Pro. 14:16). A fool reacts to situations with immediate anger, yet a wise person ignores insults and exercises self-control (Pro. 12:16). The lamps of the ten virgins illustrate another important lesson. The lamps of the wise virgins who brought oil were burning brightly. Filled with oil, these lamps were able to be a light to the world, fulfilling Christ's expectations for His chosen disciples (Mat. 5:13-16). If we are nourishing God's Spirit, others will see in our lives the fruits of love, obedience, faith and good works. Regrettably, the lamps of the foolish virgins were going out because they were running out of oil, absence of God's Spirit. If we begin to compromise the truth of God, and begin to ignore or disobey His laws and instructions, we begin to lose the Spirit of God. The fruits of God's Spirit will begin to disappear, and will be replaced by self-centred thoughts and actions that are often vain and ugly (Gal. 5:19-21). Sexual sins, arguments and divisions will thrive. Individuals who let their lamps get into this condition will not participate in the wedding and will not fulfil their calling to become first fruits in God's Kingdom. This is a serious warning! What is the condition of your lamp? Is it burning brightly, or is it going out? If you are not sure, ask God to show you the condition of your lamp, and be ready to listen to His answer.

A sobering lesson of the parable is that the wise virgins couldn't help the foolish ones with their oil or their oil would get over. This teaches us that whatever amount of faith, courage, character, conviction, good works or degree of conversion you have achieved, it cannot be loaned, shared, given to or borrowed by someone else! Hence at the end time we also cannot expect others to help us because they will not be able to do so. The final lesson of the parable is that we should be ready anytime when Jesus returns. Those who are ready will be invited to take part in the wedding. Those who are not ready will miss out, even though they hoped to be included in the celebrations! Let us be ready always by our good works. God bless you.

Have a blessed Sunday and stay safe. Fr. George Mathew SCJ