



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31;

Psalms 127;

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6

Matthew 25: 14-30

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

This Week 15th November - 22nd November (Psalter Week 4)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
Sunday 15th November Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	9.00 am Kevin McCorry RIP (MM)	World Day of the Poor 10.00 am - 12 Noon: Private Prayer
Monday 16th November Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Lynn & John Holder (AK)	10.00 am - 11.00 am: Private Prayer
Tuesday 17th November Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Janette Woolrich RIP (JM)	
Wednesday 18th November Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Michael Donovan (BD)	10.00 am - 11.00 am: Private Prayer
Thursday 19th November Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Arthur & Mary Leason RIP (MB)	
Friday 20th November Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Wendy & Peter Clapham RIP (MB)	10.00 am - 11.00 am: Private Prayer
Saturday 21st November Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	11.00 am Elizabeth Wilson RIP (EK)	
Sunday 22nd November Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe Year A	9.00 am Vincenza Eaton RIP (MF)	National Youth Sunday

"A decline in the birthrate, which leads to the aging of the population, together with the relegation of the elderly to a sad and lonely existence, is a subtle way of stating that it is all about us, that our individual concerns are the only thing that matters... We fail to realize that, by isolating the elderly and leaving them in the care of others without the closeness and concern of family members, we disfigure and impoverish the family itself. We also end up depriving young people of a necessary connection to their roots and a wisdom that the young cannot achieve on their own. ."

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 19)

SACRED HEART COMMUNITY

Fr. George Mathew SCJ
(Parish Priest)
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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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HEAD TEACHER

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.**

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 and early December 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 resumes.

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 prizes worth £100.00 for two people and three prizes worth £50.00 for three people plus many others prizes of good value. 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.

JOB VACANCY

The Archdiocese of Birmingham is recruiting for a Chief Operating Officer. For full details about this new role please see the poster on the parish website. If you would like to receive an Information Pack for this role with details on how to apply, please send an expression of interest and (optional but appreciated) a CV or professional profile in confidence to our consultant, Jenny Hills at executive@harrishill.co.uk

THANK YOU

To all the Priests, Brothers and Parishioners who sent me cards and flowers on my birthday, I much appreciate them and will offer prayers for you all. May God bless you and with love from Sheila Manion.

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.

DROITWICH FOODBANK TRUSTEES

There are two forthcoming vacancies on the Foodbank's board of trustees. Criteria on what is involved in the role is on the Parish website. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office.

NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY

Sunday 22nd November is National Youth Sunday. Please visit <https://nationalyouthsunday.com/> for resources and information. There is also an interactive video at <https://youtu.be/FlonXWKmnRA>.

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.

Next Sunday's Mass Readings

*Ezekiel 34: 11-12,
15-17;*

Psalms 22;

*1 Corinthians 15:
20-26, 28*

Matthew 25: 31-46

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

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

On the penultimate week of the liturgical season the liturgy of the word invites us to reflect on the need to experience the love of God and it stresses the importance of sharing it with our brothers and sisters. The fruit of accepting God's love is very well expressed in the first reading of today. The woman in today's first reading is much appreciated for her generous love towards others. She renders generous service to her fellow human beings because she deeply experienced God's love in her life. In the second reading the theme of recognizing the love of God is stressed by St. Paul. Addressing the Thessalonian community who are preoccupied with the end of the world, St. Paul urges them that the end of our life does not point only to the years and seasons but also of our selfish desires. Over emphasizing our selfish desires will lead to spiritual death or it will lead to darkness of our life. Thereby, St Paul advises the community

Today's gospel explains how to acquire the love of God or the oil: it is by recognizing the fact that God loves me unconditionally despite my weaknesses and unworthiness. The successive text on the final judgment of God speaks about the use of the oil or the love of God that we have acquired. We make best use of the love of God by sharing it to the least, the lost and the last ones in the kingdom of God. Thus, the focus of today's gospel is not on multiplying God given resources or talents, but it stresses the need to distribute to the deserved persons the love and mercy of God. In this way, we are asked to respond to the love of God with love. The parable of talents points us to a few aspects of our life. First, it says that we are given variety of talents each according to his or her capacity. It points to the diverse nature of our life. Everyone is unique and possesses diverse qualities. The diversity of character of human beings makes our life richer, stronger, and worth living.

The second aspect of today's gospel is that there are two ways of growing in a relationship: We strengthen our relationship with others knowing well that life is a gift. Or we break our relationship with others seeing our life as a burden or a debt to be paid. Therefore, it is by responding to the love of God we make sense of our life. The third aspect of today's gospel is that it wants us to remove the veil that blocks us viewing God as He really is or experiencing life in its fullness. What blocks us from seeing God as He really is our failure to recognize the value of talents. Talents are the sum of love of God for me and I need to double this love by loving my brothers and sisters. When we do not recognize the value of our life, we do not consider that it is our life. Today's gospel speaks about the manner we need to approach our life. If we love life, we keep it or else we lose it. I would like to conclude this reflection with a few questions. First, have we recognized that all of us do not possess the same qualities, traits and personalities? If yes, how do we deal with the person who holds difference of opinion? Second, do we consider that our life is a gift of God or a burden to carry on? Thirdly, what drives our relationship with others? Do we see our relationship with others as an obligation to fulfil or as the mandate given to us in love?...

God Bless you all. Have a good Sunday. Fr. George Mathew SCJ