



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

Psalm 84;

2 Peter 3: 8-14

Mark 1: 1-8

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



This Week 6th November - 13th December (Psalter Week 2)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
Sunday 6th December Second Sunday of Advent Year B	8.30 am Vincenza Eaton RIP (MF) 10.30 am Phil Roper RIP (AK) 6.00 pm People of the Parish	Retiring Collection for the Poor Parishes of the Diocese
Monday 7th December Memorial of St. Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	9.15 am Gladys Remedios RIP (KA)	
Tuesday 8th December Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.15 am Alan Howard RIP (DS)	
Wednesday 9th December Advent Feria	9.15 am Andrew Madden & Family (P & CI)	
Thursday 10th December Advent Feria	9.15 am Margaret & Denis Allen (BB)	
Friday 11th December Advent Feria	9.15 am Dr. Williams & Family RIP (BB)	
Saturday 12th December Advent Feria	11.00 am Dr. Shirley Jones RIP (BB)	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 13th December Third Sunday of Advent Year B	8.30 am Patricia & Christopher Simpson (SR) 10.30 am Teresa & James Mason (MM) 6.00 pm People of the Parish	Retiring Collection for Fr. Hudson's Care

“The ability to sit down and listen to others, typical of interpersonal encounters, is paradigmatic of the welcoming attitude shown by those who transcend narcissism and accept others, caring for them and welcoming them into their lives.”

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 48)

**SACRED HEART
COMMUNITY**

Fr. George Mathew SCJ
(Parish Priest)

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**In an emergency, please
contact:**

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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

PARISH SECRETARY

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The Sacred Heart
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**SAFEGUARDING
REPRESENTATIVES**

Gerry Ceclich
Kate Dalglish
Clare Tomlinson

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.00 pm:

**Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your
saving help.**

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**

COVID-19

Further to the new restrictions effective from Wednesday 2nd December,
Mass will be open to the public from this date onwards. All previous rules
and guidance for attending Mass safely will be still in place. Please note
that taking details for track and trace purposes will also resume.

MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY 2020

There will be three Masses this year; Christmas Eve 5.00 pm (family Mass)
and 8.00 pm and Christmas Day 9.00 am. As COVID-19 restrictions will still
be in place the maximum capacity of the Church is only 80 worshippers at
each Mass. Normally at Christmas, each Mass would be at least double this
number. In order to alleviate any potential capacity problems, entry to all
the above Masses will be by ticket only. Please can you contact Fr George
(by telephone or by email) or Kate, parish secretary (by email only:
sacredheartdroitwich@hotmail.co.uk since she is working from home) if
you would like to attend Mass over this period. Alternatively, you can let
one of the Stewards know at the Sunday or weekday Masses you attend
when public services resume after 2nd December. To help us to organise
the liturgy in advance, the last day for the booking will be Friday 18th
December. The information required will be your name, contact
telephone number, the number of people that will be in your group and the
Mass you would like to attend. This information will be put on a ticket that
you can collect either from the Stewards at your regular Mass or from
Fr George. The ticket can be posted to you as long as you have given a
mailing address. Please be aware that if demand is high enough there will
be 80 worshippers in Church for each Mass and it is important for the safety
of all that you sit in the seat allocated on your ticket and do not move to a
different seat. An additional Mass will be added if these three Masses are
oversubscribed. Further information will be in the Newsletter once the
numbers wishing to attend Christmas Masses are known. Currently there
are still over 30 places left at the 5.00 pm Mass and over 50 places² left at
the 8.00 pm and 9.00 am Masses.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE - PLEASE NOTE CHANGES

The prize draw for the long awaited raffle will now take place on Sunday 13th December after 10.30 am Mass. Today is your last chance to buy raffle tickets. No tickets will be sold after this date. All ticket stubs together with the money must be returned by Wednesday 9th December. Those who have indicated that they would donate a raffle prize, could you please hand them in by Wednesday 9th December. Please note the change of the date and timing. This, of course, is subject to any changes the government may make. Please do not leave it late by bringing raffle prizes on the day of the draw.

CHRISTMAS: READERS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS & STEWARDS

If anyone would like to volunteer as a Reader or Eucharistic Minister for the Christmas Masses. Please could you contact Fr. George SCJ. Two readers and two Eucharistic Ministers will be needed for each Mass over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. If possible, please could Readers could use their own lectionary if they have one, if not printed copies will be provided. Three stewards will also be needed for each Mass. If any stewards are able to help, please could you contact Kate Dalgleish or Fr. George SCJ. Thank you to those who have already volunteered.

THE SOWER MAGAZINE

The Diocesan Magazine, *The Sower*, is now available from church and also online at <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/diocesan-magazine>. If you would like a copy from church, please speak to Fr. George as copies will not be left at the back of church due to Covid-19 safety measures.

SVP DROITWICH - GIVING TREE APPEAL 2020

Father Hudson's Homes have said that they will not be able to accept gifts from the Giving Tree this year. There will be a second collection in lieu of gifts after each Mass on Sunday 13th December. Cash or Cheque donation (cheque payable to Sacred Heart Church) only, can be given via a box by the Giving Tree. This is 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. 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.

CHRISTMAS CARDS TO PRISONERS

"Tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more". If there was ever a special time when prisoners needed help, this year would be the one. With the agreement of the Chaplain, we have worked out a way in which we can get cards to Long Lartin Maximum Security Prison this year. Clearly it's a bit different from usual but we have done this for 20 years now, it's not the time to give up. Cards will be available from 29th November for you to take home and write in. Please for security reasons, **do not sign with your name**, after your message put from Sacred Heart, Droitwich, and **do not seal the envelope**. Please bring your completed cards to church by Sunday 13th December at the latest, with 30p donation, and leave card and cash in the box at the back of church. They will then be taken to Long Lartin.



WAITROSE GREEN TOKEN SCHEME

Throughout December, the Droitwich branch of Waitrose are including the Droitwich SVP in their green token scheme to share £1,000. Please could you support the Droitwich SVP over the next few weeks if you shop there. Many thanks.

PARISH SECRETARY

The Parish Secretary is currently 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 and 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.

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



REFUGEE KNITTING

Thank you so much for the wonderful items recently donated. A huge thank you for the exquisite baby cardigans and beautiful children's jumpers. Also as usual, thank you for the fantastic assortment of gloves, hats and scarves, much needed as the winter sets in. The donations were taken to a charity that sends items to Northern France and Belgium and also looks after refugees in this country. As it is unlikely now that there will be any further shipments until after Christmas, would you kindly store items at home until requested to avoid storage problems at Church. Any items left this weekend will be collected. Thank you once again for your continual support of this worthy cause.

Next Sunday's Mass

Readings

*Isaiah 61: 1-2,
10-11*

Luke 1: 1;

*1 Thessalonians 5:
16-24*

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

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.

He Comes to save us all.

Our God is coming. He is coming to save and redeem. The time of exile - the long separation of humankind from God, from one another and from nature because of sin - is about to end. This is the good news proclaimed in today's Gospel.

The first reading from the Book of Isaiah offers us hope, comfort, consolation, healing of body and mind with coming of Christ the Saviour into our hearts and homes. The Advent is all about expectation and preparation. Like people who eagerly awaited for the promised messiah in joy and hope, we too prepare ourselves and wait for Christ's glory to be revealed in our lives. This season of waiting brings us very particular joy and hope against all difficult and challenging situations you and I are living. In most problematic condition, we need to remind ourselves that GOD IS WITH US, and this assurance is the key to our Christian faith and to all those who have lost hope in their lives and find no more meaning to live their lives.

God's Word, today, consoles us "He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms" the Lord is feeding us with hope, comfort, consolation, and heals every hurt and wounds caused because of our indifferences to God and to our brothers and sisters. He gathers us in His arms and fills us with joy and peace everlasting, the joy and the peace which the world can't give.

Today, we are invited to experience Christ the Lord in our lives in a realistic way as we profess our faith in him. How can the hope, the comfort, the consolation and the healing of the Lord be made our own? It is by making the gospel as the foundation of our life; and the source of our living and decision making. We are called to live the gospel courageously in our life-situations, culture, political and economic conditions. The gospel prepares us to respond to Christ's invitation to follow him in a radical way under all circumstances. The gospel makes us to experience Christ in our innermost being and to have profound relationship with him. It is demanding; but the Lord comes to our aid, GOD IS WITH US The coming of Christ Jesus is the cause for our joy, a deeper experience than Christmas cheer. A voice cries in the wilderness, 'Prepare way for the Lord, Make a straight the way' for our God across the desert. Into the despair of the wilderness the Lord brings hope.

Friends, have hope; the Lord will change our sorrows into joy. On our part we need to make that first step of 'filling valleys and levelling mountains of darkness of our life with the Light of Christ. To embrace the future with hope should be the foundation of Christian vocation. we are called to practice the virtue of hope, the fruit of our faith in the Lord of history, who continues to tell us: "Be not afraid... for I am with you" (Jer 1: 8). Pope Francis says, "This hope is not based on statistics or accomplishments, but on the One in whom we have put our trust (2 Tim 1:2), the One for whom "nothing is impossible" (Lk 1:37). This is the hope which does not disappoint; it is the hope which enables Christian life to keep writing its great history well into the future." Let the hope of Christmas fill our hearts and homes.

God bless you. Fr. George Mathew SCJ