



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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



This Week 13th December - 20th December (Psalter Week 3)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
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 Eddie Swannick & Family (GS)	Giving Tree Gifts to Fr. Hudson's Care
Monday 14th December Memorial of St. John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church	9.15 am Kay Keane RIP (SR)	
Tuesday 15th December Advent Feria	9.15 am Fr. Edward Rose (BB)	
Wednesday 16th December Advent Feria	9.15 am Annette Parsons and Rebecca (AK)	
Thursday 17th December Advent Feria	9.15 am Mass Intentions: Siwan Smith RIP (CP)	
Friday 18th December Advent Feria	9.15 am June Ottley RIP (AM)	
Saturday 19th December Advent Feria	11.00 am Alan Remedies RIP (KA)	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 20th December Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B	8.30 am Rosemary O'Grady RIP (CE) 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Holy Mass	

"For God continues to sow abundant seeds of goodness in our human family. The recent pandemic enabled us to recognize and appreciate once more all those around us who, in the midst of fear, responded by putting their lives on the line...doctors, nurses, pharmacists, storekeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caretakers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests and religious... They understood that no one is saved alone."

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 54)

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

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PARISH SECRETARY

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The Sacred Heart
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SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

Gerry Ceclich
Kate Dalgleish
Clare Tomlinson

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.00 pm:

My soul rejoices in my God.

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 Dalgleish. Please note that the newsletter is also placed on the parish website. Thank you for your understanding.

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 20 places left at the 5.00 pm Mass, over 30 places left at the 8.00 pm Mass and over 20 places left at the 9.00 am Mass.



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The prize draw for the long awaited raffle will take place today after the 10.30 am Mass.

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. Today there will be a second collection in lieu of gifts. 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. 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 EVE FAMILY MASS 5.00 PM

This year as you know there will be no congregational singing. The Folk Group will be singing familiar carols, some especially selected for the children. You are invited to bring shakers/ jingle bells so that you can join in rhythmically with the livelier carols.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS

World Gifts, CAFOD's range of virtual gifts, make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. While we have the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown here, we can still be good neighbours to our sisters and brothers overseas by giving World Gifts as Christmas presents to family and friends. Let's spread joy and hope around the world this Christmas. Visit www.cafod.org.uk/worldgifts.

REFUGEE COLLECTIONS

The organisers are experiencing difficulties sending the donations abroad at the moment, so further church collections may have to stop until the spring. All your recent donations are in their warehouse ready to be dispatched as soon as possible. They too are experiencing storage problems, so if any parishioners know of any organisation local or national that would benefit from our donations in the meantime please inform Fr. George. Do continue knitting, when things return to normal we can resume the collections. As ever, thank you so much for your magnificent support.

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.*

Main Collection:

£300.78

Gift Aid: £545.00

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

8.30 am: 57

10.30 am: 38

6.00 pm: 31

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**The retiring collection
for the Poor Parishes
raised: £30.00**

**Gift Aid (Various
Second Collections):
£145.00**

**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**

*2 Samuel 7: 1-5,
8-12, 14, 16;*

Psalms 88;

Romans 16: 25-27;

Luke 1: 26-38

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.

Rejoice and be Glad!

Today we are celebrating the Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of Joy. As we journey through this time of preparation, the liturgy on the Third Sunday of Advent invites us to rejoice! Why? It is because God becoming one among us, which Advent enables us to look forward to, is the only source of true and lasting joy. Genuine Christian faith does not make us gloomy. Rather, it should make us enthusiastic and happy!

Well, what is it that will bring us joy and happiness? Anything good that we possess brings about joy. But all the good things in this world, apart from God, are temporary and fragile. Money, success, health, even friendship and being in love; all these things are limited and passing. If circumstances change or with the passage of time, we either become tired of them, or they just go away. So, the joy that comes from possessing them is only a temporary joy. But our hearts are thirsty for a joy that will never go away! The Sages of all religions in the past searched for the source of lasting joy but they could not find it, except the three wisemen in the Christmas Story who found it in a simple manger in Bethlehem. Where do we find this joy? Of course, we find lasting joy in God – and only in God! Who became like one of us and born in a manger.

In the First Reading of today, the Prophet Isaiah reminds us about this truth: I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul; For He has clothed me with the robe of salvation, and wrapped me in a mantle of justice...(Isa 61:10)! None of our personal achievements should distract our attention from God and His plan for us. When we are totally focused on God, we feel compelled to eliminate from our personal lives all duplicity, vanity and inflated self-esteem. We begin to live in the truth. We learn to do this from John the Baptist who without any difficulty admitted, "I Am Not the Christ" —I am not the Messiah; I am not one of the old prophets come back to life; I am not the New Moses of Israel's expectations. I am merely 'a voice crying in the wilderness'. I am here to prepare the way for the Messiah. There was no duplicity in him. How can we possess this joy? We can possess true and lasting joy only by cultivating a disposition to acknowledge God's goodness in all circumstances of our lives.

Saint Paul, writing to the Christians in Thessalonica, advised them: "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." That does not mean that we have to spend all day on our knees! But it DOES mean that we must spend quality time alone with God every day. We need to simply shut the door to life's hustle and bustle for ten or fifteen minutes and speak heart-to-heart with our Creator and Lord. And then, throughout the day, we must keep that conversation going in our hearts. When the task seems beyond us, let us remember that we are working for a future that is rooted in God! And let us learn from the John the Baptist that the effectiveness of our life and mission will depend upon the selfless commitment we have made to accomplish God's plans in our individual lives.

May God bless us all to be a Joyful Christian. Fr. George Mathew SCJ