



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

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

Psalm 88;

Romans 16: 25-27;

Luke 1: 26-38

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



This Week 20th December - 27th December (Psalter Week 4)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
<b>Sunday 20th December</b> 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	
<b>Monday 21st December</b> Advent Feria	9.15 am Fr. Martin Rafferty RIP (I & MM)	After morning Mass: Confession
<b>Tuesday 22nd December</b> Advent Feria	9.15 am Thanksgiving - Pat Webb & Church Cleaners (BB)	After morning Mass: Confession
<b>Wednesday 23rd December</b> Advent Feria	9.15 am Mrs. Eliama RIP (AS)	After morning Mass: Confession
<b>Thursday 24th December</b> Christmas Eve	9.15 am Jeril Ann John 5.00 pm First Mass of Christmas 8.00 pm Christmas Mass (Midnight Mass)	After morning Mass: Confession <b>Entry to Christmas Masses is by ticket only</b>
<b>Friday 25th December</b> Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord	9.00 am Christmas Mass during the day	Christmas Offering for the Parish Priest <b>Entry to Christmas Masses is by ticket only</b>
<b>Saturday 26th December</b> Feast of St. Stephen, the First Martyr	10.00 am Cynthia Sharkey (P & CI)	
<b>Sunday 27th December</b> Feast of the Holy Family Year B	8.30 am Franklin family and May Franklin RIP (PC) 10.30 am Fr. Dominic Innamorathi SCJ (BB) 6.00 pm People of the Parish	

*“All of us have a responsibility for the wounded, those of our own people and all the peoples of the earth. Let us care for the needs of every man and woman, young and old, with the same fraternal spirit of care and closeness that marked the Good Samaritan.”*

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 79)

**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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.00 pm:

I will sing for ever of your love , O Lord.

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**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.**

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**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. Entry to all the above Masses will be by ticket only and booking is now closed. 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.

**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.

**PARISH SECRETARY**

The Parish Secretary will be on Annual Leave from Saturday 19th December until Sunday 3rd January inclusive with the exception of Tuesday 22nd December and Wednesday 30th December. Please contact Fr. George SCJ if you have any urgent queries that cannot wait until my return. Many thanks.

**SVP DROITWICH - GIVING TREE APPEAL 2020**

Thank you all for your generous donations to the Giving Tree appeal. The amount raised will be announced in due course.



**Fr. George SCJ , Fr. Brian SCJ, Fr. Tom SCJ and Bro. Patrick SCJ wish everyone in our parish community a blessed and peaceful Christmas. May the blessings of Christmas embrace you and your family. Sincere thanks for your prayers, cards, gifts, support and help during 2020.**

### **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.

### **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.

### **CHRISTMAS CARDS TO PRISONERS**

Thank you all for terrific support you gave to the Long Lartin prisoners in the very short time available for this appeal. More than a hundred cards were given by you and taken to the prison on Tuesday 15th December. The donations for cards were also very generous and surplus will be put in the Giving Tree Box. Yours gratefully, Justice & Peace Group.



### **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.

### **CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**

The raffle raised £1,010.80 for the Parish. Thank you for your generosity. If you have won a prize, please collect this by the end of December.

### **BOXING DAY MASS**

Please could all Altar Servers come to their Special Mass on Boxing Day

### **CONFESSION**

As there will be no Advent Penitential Service, there will be Confession after Mass each morning from Monday 21st until Thursday 24th December or by appointment.

Gift Aid: £215.00  
Mass Attendance  
Last Sunday (church  
capacity with social  
distancing 1m + = 80)

8.30 am: 56

10.30 am: 67

6.00 pm: 35

Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.

Gift Aid (Poor  
Parishes): £40.00  
Thank you for your  
generosity.



#### **DROITWICH SVP**

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



#### **Next Sunday's Mass Readings**

*Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6;*  
*Psalms 127;*  
*Colossians 3: 12-21;*  
*Luke 2: 22-40*

*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.*

#### *'I am the handmaid of the Lord'*

Do you want to see amazing things happening in your life? Then enter a partnership with God as Mary did in the Gospel reading of today. As we approach this joyful feast of Christmas, open the closed doors of our hearts to God, let Him come in as Mary did. The readings of today speak to us about the amazing things that happened in the lives of God's people especially two key persons in the Bible, King David and Mary.

In the first reading of today, King David who lived about 1000 years before Christ, wanted to build a worthy dwelling place for God because God had already done so many surprising things in his life. But for this generosity of David, God surprised David with an unimaginable promise. God tells him, that instead of David building a house for God, GOD would build a house for David, a dynasty and a kingdom that would last forever. The Messiah, the Son of God would be his descendant and therefore his dynasty and his kingdom would last forever.

In the Second Reading of today, St. Paul glorifies God for the fulfilment of the mysteries that were kept secret in the past. But God unfolds in surprising ways all the mysteries through Jesus Christ in our days. Finally, in the Gospel, the angel Gabriel invites Mary to go into a joined venture with God, in God's rescue operation of saving humankind. Our God is NOT an imperious God who wants to do things by himself, but he wanted the cooperation of a simple, humble Jewish girl from Nazareth to unfold his amazing plans for humanity. God approaches her with great respect for her freedom and dignity. Mary could have said, "Sorry Gabriel, I have my own plans to settle my life with Joseph and lead a quiet life with many children". But she did not do that. She allowed God to have HIS way.

We are just by the threshold of Christmas. We are busy these days selecting the right gifts and the right Christmas cards to give to our dear ones. We are busy choosing the right decorations and the right dishes for Christmas. It is a season of choices. But we must remember that we have this Christmas because Mary made the right choice in favour of God and therefore the most unexpected and most surprising thing happened in human history - the Virgin bearing a child and giving birth to the Son of God and Messiah! We too can enjoy surprises from God when we too say YES to God in our daily life, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord, have your ways and your plans in my life!"

My dear friends, all of us look for happiness in life and we think that happiness and fulfilment come in our lives by "doing OUR OWN thing". What I want, is all that matters, without any commitment to anyone or anything. We know by our experience that this selfish attitude always leads us to dislike and disappointments. The truth is that we experience happiness when we make a gift of our choices to others especially to God. We have this Christmas because Mary made the perfect gift of her choice to God. This is the best Christmas gift we can give to God and to others at this Christmas that is, 'Make God the preferential choice in life', let others be also very important in your life, yet God's choices be important and engage in a partnership with God. I assure you that amazing things will happen in your life too! And many surprises will happen in your family and in your relationships too!