



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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### Today's Mass Readings

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

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



This Week 27th December - 3rd January (Psalter Week 1)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
<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 Breda Wightman (RW)	
<b>Monday 28th December</b> Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs	9.15 am Harry Remedios RIP (KA)	
<b>Tuesday 29th December</b> Feast of St. Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr	9.15 am Members of the Martin & Quigley Families (I & MM)	
<b>Wednesday 30th December</b> Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas	9.15 am Sheril Lizha John (SA)	
<b>Thursday 31st December</b> Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas	9.15 am Oliver Andrade (KA)	
<b>Friday 1st January</b> Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God	10.00 am Vincent O'Neill RIP (RC)	
<b>Saturday 2nd January</b> Memorial of St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church	11.00 am Deidre Mahow RIP	
<b>Sunday 3rd January</b> Second Sunday after the Nativity Year B	8.30 am Bernadette Violet Duffy RIP (PD) 10.30 am Steve Maxwell & Family (P & CI) 6.00 pm Maureen Morrison RIP (PD)	

*“Love also impels us towards universal communion. No one can mature or find fulfilment by withdrawing from others. By its very nature, love calls for growth in openness and the ability to accept others as part of a continuing adventure that makes every periphery converge in a greater sense of mutual belonging. As Jesus told us: “You are all brothers” (Mt 23:8).”*

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 95)

**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**

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**SAFEGUARDING  
REPRESENTATIVES**

Gerry Ceclich  
Kate Dalglish  
Clare Tomlinson

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.00 pm:

**O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!**

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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.

**PARISH SECRETARY**

The Parish Secretary is on Annual Leave until Sunday 3rd January inclusive with the exception of 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 was £681.75.

**STEWARDS ROTA**

A new rota has been issued via email. If there are any problems, please attempt to swap with another steward in the first instance, and if this is not possible, contact Fr. George SCJ. Thank you for your continued support.



*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.*

### 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.

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

**Gift Aid: £112.00**

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

**8.30 am: 57**

**10.30 am: 48**

**6.00 pm: 42**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**



### **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**

*Ecclesiasticus 24: 1-2,  
8-12;*

*Psalms 147;*

*Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-18;*

*John 1: 1-18*

## *What makes a family Holy?*

It is the presence of God, of course! And what makes a family unholy? Obviously, the absence of God. Is God present in my family? Do Gospel values form the foundation of your family? What a wonderful occasion the Feast of the Holy Family is to reflect on our families today. And a true meaningful reflection on the significance of this feast which we celebrate on the very first Sunday after Christmas cannot but lead us to honour and respect Jesus, Mary and Joseph whose lives serve as role models for us, especially at a time when the very concept of the family as a viable social unit, is in grave danger today.

As you take a close look at your family today, you would do well to keep in mind the three characteristics of a good family: firstly, Closeness to God; next, Closeness to Self and, finally Closeness to Others. Some families may feel closer to God, but they are not close enough to their own selves. Some families have the distinction of being closer to God and to self, but are they hardly close to others. And it could happen that some families are closer to one another and oneself but their closeness to God is questionable. So, how is my family? Sometimes sufferings and sacrifices also inevitable for a Holy Family. Jesus' parents, Mary and Joseph, had their share of suffering in rearing their child although they knew deep down that their Son was no ordinary child. For instance, Joseph could not find a place for Mary in the inn! Then the Child was in "mortal danger" because king Herod regarded Jesus as a threat to his political security. Then, the Holy Family having to flee to Egypt in the middle of night! Obviously, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph knew what it was to be "displaced persons."

When a man and woman get married, they assume the responsibility of rearing in probity the children they beget. That is the vocation of a couple or God's plan for them in their earthly journey to eternal Salvation. Similarly, the vocation of children is to honour, respect, and learn from their parents. Parents are God's collaborators. They are not 'God' and, hence, imperfect. Nevertheless, they are His representatives no less. This is enough to imply that children ought to honour, respect, and obey their parents. Parents, for their part, are expected to show good example. If the parents are given to addiction to alcohol, infidelity, quarrelling, and fighting, what can be expected of their children? There are parents today who never... correct their children. They do not want to offend them; they always want to be regarded as "nice." But in the final analysis, never correcting is virtually the same as to never loving! Clearly, this is depriving the children of the instruction and formation that they acutely need, that which will form them into good adults, into good and respectable members of the human family. If parents conscientiously teach their children with love, with a desire to form their children into responsible citizens, the children will someday realize that their parents really loved them and acted responsibly. Living as one of us, as a member of an ordinary human family, Jesus the very Son of God sanctified the family and family life. It is for this reason that the Church Universally observes this feast soon after Christmas Day. Indeed, the Feast of the Holy Family is one more concrete proof of the love God has for us. Let us all ask, then, for the grace to try to model our family life upon that of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph!

May God bless you all to make your own families a Holy Families.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ