



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

1 Samuel 3: 3-10, 19;

Psalms 39;

1 Corinthians 6: 13-15, 17-20;

John 1: 35-42

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

This Week 17th January - 24th January (Psalter Week 2)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
Sunday 17th January Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B Retiring Collection for Pax Christi	8.30 am Charlotte, George & Francis Dodd RIP (LD) 10.30 am George & Glennis Mason RIP (MM) 6.00 pm David Adams RIP (CT)	
Monday 18th January Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Pauline Adams & Family (CT)	
Tuesday 19th January Feast of St. Wulston, Bishop	9.15 am Alan Remedios RIP (KA)	
Wednesday 20th January Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Fr. S. Bernard Mundapulam RIP (P & CI)	
Thursday 21st January Memorial of St. Agnes, Virgin, Martyr	9.15 am For the Sick and Carers (P & CI)	
Friday 22nd January Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am David Adams RIP & Family (PG)	
Saturday 23rd January Memorial of St. Nicholas Owen, Religious	11.00 am Holy Mass	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 24th January Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B	8.30 am David Adams RIP & Family (J & GP) 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Holy Mass	

"The world exists for everyone, because all of us were born with the same dignity. Differences of colour, religion, talent, place of birth or residence, and so many others, cannot be used to justify the privileges of some over the rights of all. As a community, we have an obligation to ensure that every person lives with dignity and has sufficient opportunities for his or her integral development."

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 118)

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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SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

Gerry Ceclich
Kate Dalglish
Clare Tomlinson

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.00 pm:

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

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 effective from Tuesday 5th January, Mass will continue to be open to the public. All previous rules and guidance for attending Mass safely will still be in place. Following the new Government guidelines, please do not mingle with anyone outside of your household or support bubble before and after Mass.

PAX CHRISTI - SUNDAY 17TH JANUARY

Today is Peace Sunday. This year Pope Francis asks us to think about 'A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace'. Pope Francis calls on us to "strive daily, in concrete and practical ways, to form a community composed of brothers and sisters who accept and care for one another." In this country we have an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi. Their website at <https://paxchristi.org.uk/> suggests many ways we can all promote peace in our daily lives. Please give generously to the retiring collection today and help continue the work of Pax Christi.

SVP DROITWICH

The Sacred Heart Parish and SVP take this opportunity to thank Paul, who is stepping down after serving the SVP faithfully for a long time as President, we wish him all the best for the future. The Sacred Heart SVP can be contacted at droitwichsvp@googlemail.com or on 0777 292 7535. The SVP JustGiving page can be found at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/SVPDroitwich> if you would like to make a donation. Further information about the SVP is available via the Parish Office or the contact information above.

CHURCH CLEANING

Due to the ongoing pandemic and the high standards of cleanliness required in the church to prevent the spread of Covid-19, we are looking for volunteers to assist with cleaning after Mass. If anyone is able to help, please contact the Parish Office or speak to Fr. George for further information

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.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSE

The Catholic Universe have forwarded a complimentary link to their newspaper dated Friday 8th January. This can be found at the following link: <https://www.thecatholicuniverse.com/DE/UNI210108nj.pdf>. This newspaper will not be distributed with the emailed version of this newsletter due to the size of the publication.

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

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays: 10.00 am until 12 Noon

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.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

There is an online Marriage Enrichment Experience with Bishop David Evans from Saturday 30th January until Sunday 31st January 2021. This is an opportunity for couples to enrich their relationship, regardless of the length of time they have been together. Couples can explore their relationship and gain a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage. Other dates for 2021 are Saturday 20th March until Sunday 21st March and Saturday 15th May until Sunday 16th May To find out more visit <https://wwme.org.uk/> or call 0845 2602016.

CATHOLIC BIBLE FEDERATION

The Catholic Bible Federation are hosting a webinar in preparation for the The Day of the Word at 5.00 pm on Friday 22nd January on *The Prophecy of the Gospel for the Life of All*. There is a poster on the parish website that has also been distributed with the emailed newsletter. Further information can be found on the CBF website: <https://c-b-f.org/>.

THANK YOU

Fr. George and the Sacred Heart Community wish to thank each and every one for your Christmas and New Year's greetings cards, presents and help and support rendered to us over Christmas time. May you all have a prosperous New Year 2021.

SACRED HEART PARISH HALL

Further to the lockdown announced on Monday 4th January, the Parish Hall (including the toilets) is now closed to all. Essential maintenance will continue to take place.

2021 PARISH DIARIES

We have now given the go ahead for printing and hope that these will soon be available for parishioners. Please be aware that numbers will be limited. We apologise for the delay. This was due to staff furlough at the printing company.

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

**Main Collection
(Sunday 3rd January):
£142.65**

**Gift Aid (Sunday 10th
January): £326.50**

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

8.30 am: 57

10.30 am: 37

6.00 pm: 24

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**



**Next Sunday's Mass
Readings**

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10;

Psalm 24;

*I Corinthians 7:
29-31;*

Mark 1: 14-20

Called to be Witness

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord begins what is known as 'Ordinary Time'. During this time, the Church invites us to reflect on the mystery of Christ in all its wonder and fullness and to be inspired to live out what we celebrate in the life of Christ, in our own lives. In many ways, Ordinary time is really extraordinary time because we realise, through the scripture readings and reflections, that God in Christ enters our ordinary world and makes it extraordinary with his presence. This entry of God into our lives also challenges us to find the extraordinary in the ordinary events of our life.

The first reading and Gospel of today might seem, at first glance, as 'Call' narratives. However, they go much deeper. In the case of Samuel, it is more an inauguration of his mission rather than a call. The inauguration of Samuel's mission as the mediator of God's word does not simply happen. A lot of effort is necessary on the part of both God and Samuel. Though Samuel is sleeping near the ark, which is a source of divine presence and illumination, he cannot perceive the presence of God. Eli, who is nearly blind and sleeping away from the divine presence of the ark, perceives that the Lord is speaking to Samuel. Samuel makes the response suggested to him by Eli, but he omits the word "Lord", possibly because he did not yet "know the Lord". At this point, the Lord "came and stood" before Samuel, indicating a visionary as well as auditory experience. The word of the Lord is now reliably present in the midst of Israel through Samuel. Samuel's mission is to tell people that the Lord is going to wake people up from their slumber and do something that will make their ears ring.

The Gospel text of today begins by speaking of the witness of God's word: John the Baptist. Even as Samuel's mission is to wake people up, the mission of John the Baptist goes even further, namely, to point Jesus out to people. John points Jesus out to his disciples as the one who will save people by giving his life as a ransom for all. The disciples realise that, in Jesus, they will receive more than John could ever hope to give. The disciples start following Jesus not fully knowing what this will demand. The first words that Jesus asks them, which are the first words that Jesus speaks in the Gospel of John, are in the form of a question, "What do you seek?" This question is at once both courteous and penetrating. It requires the disciples to go into the core of their being to answer. They respond with a question of their own, "Rabbi, where do you stay (remain)?" They do not seem to be asking for Jesus' residential address, but want to know where Jesus' being is. They want to know what motivates Jesus and makes him the kind of person that he is. They want to know the source of His power and authority. Jesus does not answer with an address, but with an invitation, "Come and See". If they really want to know who Jesus is, and what he stands for, they must experience him for themselves. They must stay where he 'stays', and they must remain where he remains. They responded as He invited them to and that was the turning point in their lives. John signifies this by stating that "It was the tenth hour". The tenth period, according to some apocalyptic calculations, was the decisive hour, the hour when one had to decide for or against. The disciples decided for Jesus. This, however, is only one part of the story. What follows is as important or even more significant. The disciples, like Samuel and John the Baptist, also become mediators or witnesses of God's word.

Every Holy Mass is an invitation for each one of us to experience Jesus as He is in His real presence in the Eucharist and to respond to His invitation to be his witnesses in this world. May God open our inner eyes to see Him and live like Him for the rest of our life.