



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

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10;

Psalms 24;

1 Corinthians 7: 29-31;

Mark 1: 14-20

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

This Week 24th January - 31st January (Psalter Week 3)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
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	
Monday 25th January Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul	9.15 am Percy Franklin RIP (AM)	
Tuesday 26th January Memorial of Ss. Timothy and Titus, Bishops	9.15 am Nick Ceclich RIP (GC)	
Wednesday 27th January Memorial of Blessed Edward Oldcorne, Priest, Martyr	9.15 am Fr. Brian SCJ - Birthday (BB)	
Thursday 28th January Memorial of St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor of the Church	9.15 am Holy Mass	
Friday 29th January Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Kuriachan - Wedding Anniversary.	
Saturday 30th January Feria in Ordinary Time	11.00 am Lucy George & Peter Albuquerque RIP (AK)	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 31st January Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B Retiring collection for Racial Justice	8.30 am People of the Parish 10.30 am Holy Mass 6.00 pm Holy Mass	

"As it is unacceptable that some have fewer rights by virtue of being women, it is likewise unacceptable that the mere place of one's birth or residence should result in his or her possessing fewer opportunities for a developed and dignified life."

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 121)

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:

Lord, make me know your ways.

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.

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY - SUNDAY 31ST JANUARY

This year's Racial Justice Sunday is more important than ever. The effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, the killing of George Floyd, and the powerful message on fraternity and equality by Pope Francis in *Fratelli Tutti* speak of the need to actively oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour. The theme is *A Time to Act*. Racial issues and inequalities were identified nationally and internationally in 2020 generating awareness, emotion and outrage. In light of this Racial Justice Sunday 2021 is particularly significant. There will be a retiring collection for Racial Justice next week.

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

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.

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. 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.

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.

APF RED BOXES

Will anyone who has a box that requires emptying, or is waiting for one to be returned please let Kevin know. There are a couple of boxes ready for collection from the church porch but there is one (left in church before Christmas) with no identifying label. Obviously, this isn't a good time to be collecting loose change but perhaps it is an opportunity to find out just who holds a Red Box, wants one, doesn't want one, needs one to be emptied. Any information will be appreciated. Thank you. Kevin Larkin (01905 776122, kevin.elizabeth@btinternet.com).

ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM DIRECTORY 2021

If you would like to purchase a copy of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Directory 2021, these are available at a cost £4.50. Please speak to Fr. George if you would like one.

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

These are now available to collect from the Church or the Presbytery. Please note that numbers are limited.

SVP DROITWICH

The Sacred Heart SVP can be contacted at droitwichtsvp@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.

DROITWICH CATENIANS

Fellow Catholic parishioners – please come and join us!

The Catenians are a Catholic association for men and their families, strengthening family life through friendship and faith. Our Droitwich Circle welcomes new members. For further information, contact **Mike**

Nott on 07756 876269.

**Main Collection
(Sunday 10th
January): £208.00**
**Gift Aid (Sunday 17th
January): £86.00**
**Mass Attendance
Last Sunday (church
capacity with social
distancing 1m + = 80)**

8.30 am: 61

10.30 am: 29

6.00 pm: 39

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**The retiring collection
for Pax Christi raised:**

Gift Aid: £72.00

**Thank you for your
generosity.**



**Next Sunday's Mass
Readings**

*Deuteronomy 18:
15-20;*

Psalms 94;

*1 Corinthians 7:
32-35;*

Mark 1: 21-28

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

Repent and believe in the Gospel

These words of Jesus describe our occupation every day. They tell us two things. The first is to repent, to turn away from sin. The second is what we are to turn towards, the Gospel, to make the Word of God the foundation of our lives. It is an embarrassment that despite years of professing our faith, studying our faith, and meeting the Lord in the Eucharist, we are still in need of further repentance, which is why we begin every celebration of the Eucharist with repentance. Of course, this is the result of the effects of original sin. For some, the moment of conversion happened at once like the first disciples of Jesus. But for others that moment of conversion was delayed, even to be able to hear the message of Jesus to repent, depending on our situation, may take a long time like St. Paul. It is a little frightening but also humbling to think that each of us in our own way can have all sorts of resistance inside of us blocking the message of Jesus in all its fullness getting through to us.

The character of Jonah in our first reading (Jon. 3: 1-5, 10) looks like a model of obedience to God. Two times God called Jonah to preach to the Ninevites because the first time Jonah simply refused since he did not want Israel's enemies to repent and be spared by God (Jon. 1: 1-2; 4:2). Instead of going six hundred miles east to do as the Lord asked, he went west in the opposite direction in a ship. Jonah also needed to repent, to do what the Lord wanted and not what Jonah himself wanted. No sooner they heard the message of God than the Ninevites repented. But it was much more difficult for Jonah. Again, it is a little frightening but also humbling to think that each of us in our own way can have some of Jonah's resistance inside of us blocking the message of Jesus in all its fullness getting through to us. Self-righteousness makes us to think that we are better than many. In the bargain we end up thinking we neither need repentance nor the forgiving grace of God. At the same time not forgetting that many of us live really a Holy life. Every human person is inclined to sin, even the saints had to go through great challenges before they attained Holiness. So, what is the way out? Every Sacrament and the Sacramentals, renews the original grace we restored during our baptism. Therefore, these sanctifying graces we receive from the Sacraments and the Sacramental life of the church helps us to be humble and opens our inner eyes to see our own unworthiness like prophet Isaiah. This is what Jesus asking us to do through the gospel. Repentance leads once to conversion or Metanoia, a complete change of once way of life.

Peter, Andrew, James and John underwent some kind of repentance or conversion experience when they left their families fishing business and to follow Jesus. Difficulties did await them but also unimaginable graces. They could never have imagined on the day they answered their call witnessing the miracle of the multiplication of loaves and fish, three of them would see Jesus transfigured, they would all see Jesus risen from the dead, experience Pentecost and be fishers of men instead of fishers of fish. When the moment of grace happens, allowing us to see ourselves in the light of Jesus, we see he is waiting for us to welcome us with the fullness of his love. We might have a problem forgiving ourselves and others, but Jesus has no problem forgiving us! He is always ready to welcome us, always ready to forgive us, to love us. May God help us to live in the sanctifying grace of our Lord today and always.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ