



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Web: www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk



### Today's Mass Readings

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20;

Psalm 94;

1 Corinthians 7: 32-35;

Mark 1: 21-28

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

<b>This Week</b> <b>31st January - 7th February</b> <b>(Psalter Week 4)</b>	<b>Mass Intentions</b>	<b>Other Events</b>
<b>Sunday 31st January</b> <b>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <b>Year B</b> Retiring collection for Racial Justice	8.30 am Mel & Carmel Hughes 10.30 am Catherine Genevieve Walsh RIP (J & GP) 6.00 pm People of the Parish	
<b>Monday 1st February</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Anne Cogan RIP (B & BO)	
<b>Tuesday 2nd February</b> Feast of the Presentation of the Lord	9.15 am Calum Dobie (I & MM)	
<b>Wednesday 3rd February</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Colum MacCourt (Fr. G)	
<b>Thursday 4th February</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Holy Mass	
<b>Friday 5th February</b> Memorial of St. Agatha, Virgin, Martyr	9.15 am Holy Mass	
<b>Saturday 6th February</b> Memorial of St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs	11.00 am Gladys Remedios RIP (KA)	<b>10.15 am - 10.45 am:</b> <b>Confessions</b>
<b>Sunday 7th February</b> <b>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <b>Year B</b>	8.30 am People of the Parish 10.30 am Holy Mass 6.00 pm Holy Mass	

*"We need to develop the awareness that nowadays we are either all saved together or no one is saved. Poverty, decadence and suffering in one part of the earth are a silent breeding ground for problems that will end up affecting the entire planet."*

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 137)

## **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:

**O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your  
hearts.**

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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 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**

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 today for Racial  
Justice.

## **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<sup>2</sup> (01905  
776122, kevin.elizabeth@btinternet.com).

*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.*

### **ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

In the early hours of Monday 25th January, a fire caused severe damage to St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School. Fortunately no one was hurt in the fire. Please keep the whole school community in your prayers.

### **ONLINE LENT RETREAT 2021**

There will be an online Lent Retreat (from the Jesuits in Scotland) starting on Ash Wednesday (17th February) and running until Sunday 11th April. This is to help us to know Jesus more clearly, love Him more dearly and follow Him more nearly. We pray each day of the retreat for 15 + minutes with prayer materials provided by daily emails or online, and meet online in small groups weekly to see how our prayer has been going. These meetings are really encouraging and helpful (but are voluntary!). We are suggesting that the weekly online meetings could be on Thursdays at 7 pm (starting on 18th February) and on Tuesdays at 4.30 pm (starting on 23rd February). Choose whichever is more convenient for you - and please let us know! A flyer giving more details is attached to the Parish Newsletter. If you are interested, or would like to join in, or for more details, please contact Max and Cecilia Jourdier as soon as you can on 01886 812259 or [mandcjourdier@gmail.com](mailto:mandcjourdier@gmail.com).

### **PARISH SECRETARY**

The Parish Secretary is 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 are online Marriage Enrichment Experiences from Saturday 20th March until Sunday 21st March and from Saturday 15th May until Sunday 16th May. To find out more visit <https://wwme.org.uk/> or call 0845 2602016.

### **MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE - SUPPORT LINKS**

- **Support for care givers in the midst of the COVID pandemic.** Further information at <https://www.welcomemeasiam.org/resources/resources-for-carers>.
- **Webinars to support Christians who work in the mental health sector.** Link to the event page is <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/spirit-mind-body/>. A flyer has been sent with this newsletter.
- **Marriage support for those experiencing difficulties.** Further information at <https://www.retrouvaille.org.uk> or email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com).

### **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.

### **SVP DROITWICH**

The Sacred Heart SVP can be contacted at [droitwichsvp@googlemail.com](mailto: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.

### **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 a copy.

### **FOODBANK**

There is a new wish that has been distributed with this newsletter. Donation points are listed on this poster. Thank you for your generosity.

**Main Collection  
(Sunday 17th  
January): £226.95**  
**Gift Aid (Sunday 24th  
January): £210.00**  
**Mass Attendance  
Last Sunday (church  
capacity with social  
distancing 1m + = 80)**

**8.30 am: 30**

**10.30 am: 13**

**6.00 pm: 20**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

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

**£48.90**

**Additional Gift Aid:  
£4.00**

**Thank you for your  
generosity.**



**Next Sunday's Mass  
Readings**

*Job 7: 1-4, 6-7;*

*Psalm 146;*

*1 Corinthians 9:  
16-19, 22-23;*

*Mark 1: 29-39*

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

## *Who is going to win in the end?*

An old American Indian tale recounts the story of a chief who was telling a gathering of young people about the struggle within. "It is like two dogs fighting inside of us, the chief told them. "There is one good dog who wants to do the right and the other dog always wants to do the wrong. Sometimes the good dog seems stronger and right is winning the fight. But sometimes the bad dog is stronger and wrong is winning the fight." "Who is going to win in the end?" a youngster asks. "The one you feed," the chief answered.

The Gospel text of today narrates that Moses' prophecy was fulfilled in the most perfect of ways in Jesus. The people who heard the message of Jesus believed in it and accepted Him as their Lord. Jesus was not merely good speaker who used parables and figure of speech to communicate the message of the kingdom but most importantly He was teaching with authority. There for, there was a distinctive difference between His teaching and the teaching of the scribes. The teaching of Jesus is a teaching based, not on learning as that of the scribes was, but on experience, and that he believed that His authority came directly from God, as is evident when he comes into Galilee proclaiming the "good news of God" (1:14). This "teaching" is then shown in action in the exorcism that follows, which is the first miracle that Jesus works according to the Gospel of Mark. Through this, the authority of Jesus is demonstrated. The demon also recognizes the authority of Jesus and regards him as superior. The demon knows that Jesus has been divinely ordained and set apart by God. As "prophet" of God, Jesus utters a commanding word and subdues the demon. The demon obeys the command and leaves the man. The coming of Jesus, as "prophet" of God, signals the end of all satanic and demonic forces.

The demonic forces that Jesus subdued in His time continue to raise their ugly heads, again and again they take a variety of forms. The recent world health crisis due to the pandemic from which the whole world is still reeling and because of which more than two million people left us with an empty chair, with an empty kitchen table, many have lost their jobs and hard-earned money, strikes terror in various parts of the world. So many people go to sleep with an empty belly when the world has enough and more for all and the environmental degradation are striking examples of these demonic forces today. One response that we might be tempted to give is to lay the blame for the present situation in our world at God's door. Since Jesus could exorcise demons two thousand years back, what is preventing Him from doing so now? Is not God concerned about the plight of so many of His people? Why does he not act? This, however, is not an adult response.

We have to realize that the demons that are rearing their ugly heads are not willed by God but are a creation of our own selfishness and self-centeredness. If we keep feeding the "bad dog" as we seem to want to do, then it will keep winning. To be sure, the coming of Jesus means that Satan's rule is at an end, but for this to become a reality today we must collaborate with Jesus in wanting to exorcise those demons. We can do this, no matter in what state of life we are, if we, like Paul, and have the best interests of others at heart. If we too, like him, want to promote what is good and pleasing to the Lord, then the demons can once again be subdued and God's power can be seen at work in the world again, like it was in Jesus' time. Then, the "good dog" will win. For this we need to listen to His words and follow it in our life the rest of the works will be done by the Holy Spirit. God bless us.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ