



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

Job 7: 1-4, 6-7;

Psalms 146;

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

Mark 1: 29-39

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

This Week 7th February - 14th February (Psalter Week 1)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
<b>Sunday 7th February</b> Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B	8.30 am Sr. Patricia RIP (D & BO) 10.30 am Nan Meahan RIP (Mr. C) 6.00 pm People of the Parish	
<b>Monday 8th February</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Paul & Catherine Ingram (BB)	
<b>Tuesday 9th February</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Mr & Mrs. Wareham RIP (ST)	
<b>Wednesday 10th February</b> Memorial of St. Scholastica, Virgin	9.15 am Gillian Allen RIP (PW)	
<b>Thursday 11th February</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Harry Remedios RIP (KA)	
<b>Friday 12th February</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Margaret & Dennis Allen & Family (PW)	
<b>Saturday 13th February</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	11.00 am Nan Meahan RIP (Mr. C)	<b>10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions</b>
<b>Sunday 14th February</b> Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B Retiring Collection for Life	8.30 am Private Intention of Thanksgiving (J & MF) 10.30 am Rebecca Hamer (DS) 6.00 pm John Ryan (DR)	

*"Just as there can be no dialogue with "others" without a sense of our own identity, so there can be no openness between peoples except on the basis of love for one's own land, one's own people, one's own cultural roots. I cannot truly encounter another unless I stand on firm foundations, for it is on the basis of these that I can accept the gift the other brings and in turn offer an authentic gift of my own...The common good likewise requires that we protect and love our native land. Otherwise, the consequences of a disaster in one country will end up affecting the entire planet."*

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 143)

## **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:**

**Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.**

---

## **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.

## **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.

## **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).

*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.*

### **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.

### **CATHOLIC UNIVERSE**

The Catholic Universe have forwarded a complimentary link to their newspaper dated Friday 29th January. This can be found at the following link: <https://www.thecatholicuniverse.com/DE/UNI210129sc.pdf>. This newspaper will not be distributed with the emailed version of this newsletter due to the size of the publication.

### **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 is on the website. Donation points are listed on this poster. Thank you for your generosity.

**Main Collection  
(Sunday 24th  
January): £101.35**  
**Gift Aid (Sunday 31st  
January): £171.00**  
**Mass Attendance  
Last Sunday (church  
capacity with social  
distancing 1m + = 80)**

**8.30 am: 38**

**10.30 am: 26**

**6.00 pm: 36**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

**Various retiring  
collections raised:**

**Gift Aid: £71.00**

**Thank you for your  
generosity.**



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

#### **Readings**

*Leviticus 13: 1-2,  
44-46;*

*Psalms 31;*

*1 Corinthians 10:  
31 - 11: 1;*

*Mark 1: 40-45*

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

### ***We are Christ's Body***

When we hear about the name Job the first images come to our mind is of suffering and sometimes, of unjust suffering. The main thrust of Job's address in the first reading is that, at most times, life seems an unbearable burden laid upon many of us. We wonder whether there is really a God who cares about what happens to us. We struggle and drag ourselves through life and gain nothing. Anyone who has experienced such intense alienation knows how useless any talk of God's goodness can be. The cheerful hymns of assurance, and the word of God, appear sometimes intentionally blind to all the pain in the world. The friendly image of God they project is difficult to fathom or comprehend in the midst of the turmoil, trials, and tribulations of life. At such times, it is not surprising that one wants to revolt against God who seems so unconcerned about the sufferings of his people. He seems totally unaware of the hardships that his people undergo; he comes across as a God "up there". At such times, it takes both faith and courage to believe that God does indeed heal the broken hearted and bind up the wounds of those in need. It takes both faith and courage to believe that God really cares. However, even a glance into the mystery of the incarnation changes our perspective tremendously. It makes us look at God anew. It makes us review all the negatives that we may think of God, because in Jesus, God has given the answer to all of life's questions. In Jesus, God has shown that he, himself, has gone through every trial and tribulation of life. In Jesus, God has revealed that he is not a God "up there" but very much a God who "walks with us", a God who is Emmanuel, God with us, and for us.

This is evident in the Gospel text of today. As soon as Jesus is told of the illness of Simon's mother-in-law, he heals her. Many others who were also brought to him; he healed them all. He brought healing, with a gentle touch and, with words of power. Jesus could sympathize with our burdens because they were his as well. Yet, there are times when we might be tempted to wonder why, if he was so powerful, he allowed suffering to take hold in the first place. Why were people afflicted with disease or possessed by demons? Why were people born blind, or lame, or deaf and mute? Why do innocent children, even today, bloat from malnutrition? Why do these innocents not have enough to eat? Why do we continue to destroy each other, and nature itself, with our aggression and hostility? Why have we, like Job been assigned months of misery?

Questions like these have never really been satisfactorily answered. Instead of telling us why, Jesus shows us how. Without denying our own need for comfort, he directs our gaze toward the needs of others. How are we to deal with the tragedies of life? We are to approach those who suffer, grasp their hands, and help them. We are to heal the broken hearted and bind up their wounds. We are to accept responsibility for our own brokenness, and the brokenness of the world, and do all that we can to make it whole. We have to realize that we are the ones who are called to continue the work of Jesus today. We are called, like Jesus, to realize that the world we live in is our world and that every human being is a brother or a sister to each other. God has no eyes, ears, mouths and limbs. He sees the suffering of the other through our eyes and hears through our ears. He walks through our legs and works through our hands. God seems to like a mother who gives a piece of sweet to the little child and asking him to share with his siblings, not because she is lazy to give herself, but to teach him the lessons of sharing. God simply wants us to be his instruments. The Church is the extension of Christ's mission on earth. Therefore, We are not to lament, because this will take us nowhere. We must, instead, ask ourselves serious questions. Will we continue to allow children to starve? Will we allow hate and indifference to rule the world? Will we allow division and misunderstanding to have the upper hand? Will we continue to be intolerant because someone has a different point of view, or calls God by a different name? Will we keep destroying ourselves and destroying nature with our selfishness and desire to have more? We are, instead, to be proactive and positive, like Jesus. May God bless us with His grace to be his eyes, ears, mouth and limbs.