



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

Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46;

Psalm 31;

1 Corinthians 10: 31 - 11: 1;

Mark 1: 40-45

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

This Week 14th February - 21st February (Psalter Week 2)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
Sunday 14th February 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)	
Monday 15th February Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Kuriachan (KK)	
Tuesday 16th February Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Bob Turner RIP (ST)	
Wednesday 17th February Ash Wednesday	9.15 am Private Intention of Thanksgiving (J & MF) 7.30 pm Holy Mass	
Thursday 18th February Thursday after Ash Wednesday	9.15 am Dennis & Margaret Allen	
Friday 19th February Friday after Ash Wednesday	9.15 am Alan Remedios (KA)	
Saturday 20th February Saturday after Ash Wednesday	11.00 am Private intention of Thanksgiving (J & MF)	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 21st February First Sunday of Lent Year B	8.30 am Arthur Blizzard RIP (RB) 10.30 am Annie Farrell RIP (ME) 6.00 pm Johanna Jay RIP (LH)	

"There is a kind of "local" narcissism unrelated to a healthy love of one's own people and culture. It is born of a certain insecurity and fear of the other that leads to rejection and the desire to erect walls for self-defence. Yet it is impossible to be "local" in a healthy way without being sincerely open to the universal, without feeling challenged by what is happening in other places, without openness to enrichment by other cultures, and without solidarity and concern for the tragedies affecting other peoples."

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 146)

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:

**You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of
salvation.**

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.**

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for **Johanna Jay** who died recently. May her soul
and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in
peace. Please keep her family and friends in your kind thoughts and
prayers.

COVID-19—UPDATE

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. In light of cases of the South
African variant of Covid-19 being identified locally, we would like to remind
all parishioners to ensure that you fully observe the rules that are in place
at the Sacred Heart Church. It is especially important that you keep your
distance from those not in your household or bubble and leave promptly
after Mass. We appreciate your co-operation in helping us keep those who
attend Mass safe from Covid-19.

ASH WEDNESDAY - 17TH FEBRUARY

There will be two Masses on Ash Wednesday at 9.15 am and 7.30 pm. There
will be no need to book for these Masses.

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. A retiring
collection in aid of St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School will be held on
Sunday 14th March. Alternatively, there is also a fundraising page at
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/fundraising-after-st-josephs-fire>. 2

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.

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.

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).

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 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 31st
January): £186.10
Gift Aid (Sunday 7th
February): £146.00
Mass Attendance
Last Sunday (church
capacity with social
distancing 1m + = 80)**

8.30 am: 42

10.30 am: 46

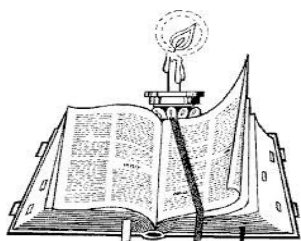
6.00 pm: 43

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Additional donation
for Racial Justice:**

Gift Aid: £1.10

**Thank you for your
generosity.**



**Next Sunday's Mass
Readings**

Genesis 9: 8-15;

Psalms 24;

1 Peter 3: 18-22;

Mark 1: 12-15

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

There is a story about a discourse between Jesus and Satan at the foot of the cross while Jesus was still on the Cross. Satan asked Jesus, "What happens now to the work you began?" Jesus whispered, "I do not need to worry, I have taught my disciples and they will carry it on!". "Well, what happens if they fail you, Son of Man?" Satan sneered. "I have no other plan" Jesus sighed and then He died. Dear friends, in the Gospel today we saw Jesus healing a leper. The leper seems to be desperate. He threw himself in front of Jesus and pleads, "Lord, if you wish you can make me clean". The reaction of Jesus was sudden and sure; "of course, I do will it, be clean" and the leper was healed immediately. In the Old Testament, there was always a belief that the sickness was a curse from God. Evidently, we can see this in today's first reading from the book of Leviticus. Once a person is found with the symptoms of leprosy, he/she is examined by Aaron the high priest and if he declared a leper, he is to be considered unclean, that means he must be self-isolated from the public and live a secluded life. There are also instances even today when the sickness or the sufferings that come our way are considered to be a curse from God.

But through the Gospel of today, Jesus affirms that God does not wish the suffering of any, vice or virtuous. Our God is not a sadist, but rather He wishes the wellbeing of every one of us. As Saint Irenaeus would tell us, "the glory of God is human being fully alive". If sickness and suffering are attributed to one's sin and as curse from God, what one is trying to do is to give a superficial answer to the problems of once life. In the book of Job, Job asked this question to God about his suffering. But Yahweh answers his questions by asking him several questions in return. Did you create the universe? Do you know the working of the planets? Do you control the stars, the wild beasts and the ocean creatures? Dear friends, what should be our attitude towards the sufferings of the other? In the Gospel Jesus saw the leper and He does not shrug His shoulders and blame him for his sin, but he tries to alleviate the suffering of that person. St. Mark the evangelist says, 'moved with pity and compassion, Jesus stretches His hands, touches him and heals him'.

Dear friends, when we hear about people suffering, we feel sorry or sympathy for them, but do we really go down to their problems and desolations to be with them, to show empathy with them? That means to get into the shoes of the other. The liturgy invites me and you to go down to the sufferings of the other, stretch our helping hands and heal them like Jesus did. And if we do not do this who will do this? And Jesus will not have any further plan.

In his message to mark the 29th World Day of the Sick on 11th February 2021, Pope Francis said: "Dear brothers and sisters, the commandment of love that Jesus left to his disciples is also kept in our relationship with the sick. A society is even more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love. Let us strive to achieve this goal, so that no one will feel alone, excluded or abandoned". The Pope is giving us the model of the virgin Mary standing at the foot of the cross. Jesus entrusted Mary to His beloved disciple John and in turn John accepts her as his mother. It is also a sign for us that, in our suffering, in our lives journey, Mary is there with us guiding us and helping us. May the Lord bless us, may Mother Mary, healer of the sick intercede for us. Amen.