



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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### Today's Mass Readings

Genesis 9: 8-15;  
Psalm 24;  
1 Peter 3: 18-22;  
Mark 1: 12-15

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

This Week 21st February - 28th February (Psalter Week 1)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
<b>Sunday 21st February</b> First Sunday of Lent Year B	8.30 am Arthur Blizard RIP (RB) 10.30 am Annie Farrell RIP (ME) 6.00 pm Johanna Jay RIP (LH)	
<b>Monday 22nd February</b> Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, Apostle	9.15 am Vincenza Eaton RIP (MF)	
<b>Tuesday 23rd February</b> Lent Feria	9.15 am Gladys Remedios RIP (KA)	
<b>Wednesday 24th February</b> Lent Feria	9.15 am Siwan Smith RIP (CP)	
<b>Thursday 25th February</b> Lent Feria	9.15 am Leo Kuriakose (KK)	
<b>Friday 26th February</b> Lent Feria	9.15 am George & Lucy, Peter Philips RIP (KA)	
<b>Saturday 27th February</b> Lent Feria	11.00 am Peter Pinfield RIP (BB)	<b>10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions</b>
<b>Sunday 28th February</b> Second Sunday of Lent Year B Retiring Collection for CAFOD	8.30 am Frank & Joan Patterson RIP (MJ) 10.30 am Lucy George & Peter Albuquerque RIP (AK) 6.00 pm N.S. Mathew RIP (S & A)	

*“For a healthy relationship between love of one’s native land and a sound sense of belonging to our larger human family, it is helpful to keep in mind that global society is not the sum total of different countries, but rather the communion that exists among them.”*

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 149)

## 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:

**Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who  
keep your covenant.**

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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, 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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## RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for **Johanna Jay** and **Colum MacCourt** who died  
recently. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through  
the mercy of God rest in peace. Please keep their 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.

## 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>.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS: LENT 2021

Due to the pandemic we are advised not to have the traditional Stations of  
the Cross in the church. In place of this each week we will make available a  
copy of the Stations of the Cross with different themes so that you can  
reflect and meditate about it by yourself at home. These will be sent by  
email and made available at the back of the church to take home.

*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.*

### **FUNERAL: JOHANNA JAY RIP**

The funeral Mass for Johanna will be on Tuesday 9th March at midday at St George's Church in Worcester. Due to Covid restrictions, attendance in church and at Worcester Crematorium will be by invitation only, but the Mass will be streamed so that all who wish to can participate remotely. A short committal service at the Crematorium will follow the mass and will also be streamed. For those wishing to make a charitable donation in memory of Johanna they can do so via Just Giving. Search on Just Giving **SVP Droitwich Johanna Jay RIP**. Alternatively donations in an envelope, clearly marked, can be passed to the presbytery to be forwarded to the family.

### **ONLINE LENT RETREAT 2021**

There is an online Lent Retreat (from the Jesuits in Scotland) running until Sunday 11th April. 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.

### **200 CLUB**

The January 2021 winners are as follows:

<u>Prize</u>	<u>Ticket Number</u>	<u>Winner</u>
£75.00	86	M-CE
£50.00	138	GT
£25.00	197	LC

The 200 Club accounts for 2020 have been distributed with the emailed version of the newsletter. If you would like a paper copy, please contact the Parish Office. 200 Club ticket holdings have contracted yet again, to much the same levels as they were when we took over as promoters twenty years ago, and stand at some sixty less than the maximum achieved in 2010. There is evidence of newly-arrived parishioners joining us from the housing developments around the town. If, as a fresh face in our parish family, you are reading this, the parish 200 club offers monthly prizes of £75, £50, £25; in return we ask for an annual subscription of £26. With 200 tickets in the draw, we look to provide the parish with £3000 a year; your contribution can bring you an occasional reward and you can be sure that it is valued by the parish. Interested in joining? Please contact Kevin and Elizabeth Larkin. [kevin.elizabeth@btinternet.com](mailto:kevin.elizabeth@btinternet.com) OR 01905 776122.

### **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 [droitwichtsvp@googlemail.com](mailto: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.

### **ADVENT JOURNEY**

The "Walk with Me" booklet for the Lenten journey is available at the back of the church. This booklet is to help focus on our relationship with God and with people during Lent. Please consider taking a copy home to help prepare for Easter. These are free but donations would be gratefully received and given to the Missions in India. Thank you.

**Main Collection  
(Sunday 7th  
February): £203.20**  
**Gift Aid (Sunday 14th  
February): £260.00**  
**Mass Attendance  
Last Sunday (church  
capacity with social  
distancing 1m + = 80)**

**8.30 am: 49**

**10.30 am: 27**

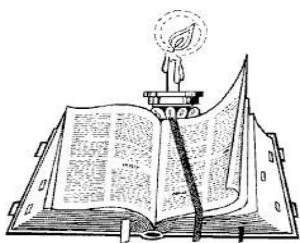
**6.00 pm: 33**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

**Retiring Collection for  
Pro-Life:**

**Gift Aid: £56.00**

**Thank you for your  
generosity.**



**Next Sunday's Mass  
Readings**

*Genesis 22: 1-2, 9-13,  
15-18;*

*Psalms 115;*

*Romans 8: 31-34;*

*Mark 9: 2-10*

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, we are on the First Sunday of Lent. Lent brings to our mind the forty days of fasting and prayer undertaken by Jesus before starting His public ministry. Lent calls to mind humanity's transgressions which caused ineffable pain to the Creator and invites everyone to repent and to believe in the Gospel. Lent is also a special time in the life of every Christian to intensify his or her commitment to live as a true disciple of Christ.

The first reading and the second reading speak about the theme of covenantal relationship between God and humanity. We could find some relationship between the two covenants seen in the first and second readings. In the first reading, water was the object of destruction while it became the object of salvation in the second reading through the waters of baptism. While a few were saved in the first, all who desire to be saved will be saved in the second. The Ark was the vehicle of salvation in the first while the Church, which is the New Ark, is the vehicle of salvation in the second. In the first, a group of created things represented covenantal relationship with Yahweh, while in the second, Jesus Christ is the focal point of the covenant through whom all the human beings are saved. Thus, St Peter affirms that Jesus represents the whole humanity in establishing covenantal relationship with God.

God's faithfulness to the covenant is again revealed during the temptation scene narrated in the gospel of today. By overcoming temptations, Jesus shows himself to be faithful to God and to the covenant. Not giving in to temptations Jesus confirms that he will never betray God and the covenant, come what may! Indeed, the temptations of Jesus represent all the attractions and trials he would have encountered in his life. This experience of Jesus indicates an essential condition of human being, that is, everyone is subjected to temptations, attractions, trials and difficulties. By his victory over the attractions of the devil, Jesus communicates to us of the possibility of being victorious over them.

Firstly Jesus was the kind of person who did not let his body dictate to his spirit. He did not let his feelings influence his actions. There is something attractive about a person like that. We cannot help but admire someone who lives so completely by the Spirit. Secondly, because Jesus experienced temptation himself, he knows how overwhelming temptation can be. He knows how easy it is to be swept away by temptation. For this reason, Jesus can sympathize with our weakness or be compassionate with us when we are tempted. He understands when we give in to temptation. Because he was tempted like us, Jesus is someone we can turn to in time of temptation. Jesus in the desert is our model during Lent. If Jesus had given in to any temptation of the devil, he would have wrecked his Father's plans. When we give in to temptation, we wreck God's plans for us. Sin separates us from what God intends for us. Sin separates us from God. But our love for Jesus impels us to want to overcome sin during Lent so that we will not be separated from Him. Our love for Jesus impels us to take Lent seriously so that at the end of Lent we will be closer to Jesus. It is only when we admit that we are sinners and we need God's mercy something that we can deal with it. The first stage in overcoming anything is to admit the problem. If we remain in denial, we miss out on the grace of God to heal us and renew us and make us whole. During Lent we say no to the devil's temptations to continue committing sin, and instead we trust in our heavenly Father like Jesus in the desert. Lent is not only about helping others, about doing something, it is also very much about the type of person we are.

In fact, the whole life of Jesus is characterized by transforming the problems into opportunities, weakness into strength and disadvantages into advantages. For him, every problem was a hidden opportunity to do something good and positive. This attitude of Jesus invites us to transform our weakness into strength, our poverty into wealth, and our difficulty into opportunities and thus to have fruitful Lent.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ