



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

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

Psalm 115;

Romans 8: 31-34;

Mark 9: 2-10

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

This Week 28th February - 7th March (Psalter Week 2)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
Sunday 28th February 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)	
Monday 1st March Feast of St. David, Bishop, Patron of Wales	9.15 am Patricia Ceclich RIP (GC)	
Tuesday 2nd March Feast of St. Chad, Bishop	9.15 am Johanna Jay RIP (SVP)	
Wednesday 3rd March Lent Feria	9.15 am Paul Seddon RIP (RB)	
Thursday 4th March Lent Feria	9.15 am Vocation to the priesthood, Diaconate and Religious life (DC)	
Friday 5th March Lent Feria	9.15 am Private Intention of Thanksgiving (J & MF)	Women's World Day of Prayer
Saturday 6th March Lent Feria	11.00 am Francis & Mary Hanson RIP (AM)	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 7th March Third Sunday of Lent Year B Retiring Collection for Cathedral Maintenance	8.30 am Colum MacCourt RIP (LH) 10.30 am Private Intention of Thanksgiving (J & MF) 6.00 pm Cillian Ryan (DR)	Day of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments.

“An appropriate and authentic openness to the world presupposes the capacity to be open to one’s neighbour within a family of nations. Cultural, economic and political integration with neighbouring peoples should therefore be accompanied by a process of education that promotes the value of love for one’s neighbour, the first indispensable step towards attaining a healthy universal integration.”

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 151)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.00 pm:

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

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

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SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

Gerry Ceclich
Kate Dalglish
Clare Tomlinson

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.

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. The Requiem Mass for Colum MacCourt will be on Monday 8th March at 1.00 pm at the Sacred Heart Church, followed by a cremation at Worcester Crematorium at 2.30 pm. **Due to Covid restrictions, attendance in church and at Worcester Crematorium will be by invitation only.** The whole service will be livestreamed and the information about the livestream will be given in due course. Please keep their family and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

COVID-19—UPDATE

Mass continues to be open to the public. 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.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

To keep up-to-date with all the latest news, information and online events from across the Archdiocese and beyond please sign up to the newsletter, issued every few weeks via email. To sign up please visit www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/e-news.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

We make every effort to accommodate Mass Intentions on the dates requested however this is not always possible due to prior bookings. When submitting a Mass Intention request, please could you provide a phone number or email address so that we can contact you if needed. Due to GDPR regulations, with the exception of deceased individuals, we are unable to publish names unless the Request for Mass Intention Form at the back of church is completed. If we do not have a form the Intention will be listed in the newsletter and stated at Mass as Private Intention. Please note that the next available date for Mass Intentions is currently Monday 5th April.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This annual service will be on Zoom on Friday 5th March at 10.30 am. This is prepared by the Christian Women of VANUATU; its theme is *Build on a sure Foundation*. The meeting id for zoom is 836 3320 8834, passcode, 115461 or use <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83633208834?pwd=RWRiNXFIN1NDLzREdWVrNGdqVzJjUT09> as a link to access the meeting.

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

If you would like a paper copy of the 200 club accounts for 2020 please contact the Parish Office. 200 Club ticket holdings have contracted yet again 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 OR 01905 776122.

STEWARDED ROTA

A new rota has been distributed via email. If anyone would like to join the team, please contact the Parish Office.

COUNTING THE SUNDAY COLLECTION

If you can count and if you can spare half an hour once a month, you would be a great help to us if you'd join the rota of counters.

The task is not onerous and becomes even less so when there are more of us and the half hour comes around only once in six or seven weeks.

For more information contact Kevin Larkin on 01905 776122 or at kevin.elizabeth@btinternet.com

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 14th
February): £181.70**
**Gift Aid (Sunday 21st
February): £144.00**
**Mass Attendance
Last Sunday (church
capacity with social
distancing 1m + = 80)**

8.30 am: 50

10.30 am: 41

6.00 pm: 44

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Retiring Collection for
Pro-Life: £38.90**

**Various Gift Aid:
£13.00**

**Thank you for your
generosity.**

FOODBANK

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

**Next Sunday's Mass
Readings**

Exodus 20: 1-17;

Psalms 18;

1 Corinthians 1: 22-25;

John 2: 13-25

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

This is my beloved, Listen to Him!

Transfiguration of Jesus, which is the subject of the Gospel text for today, is an event narrated by all three Synoptic Gospels. This scene in Luke makes three major points. The first is the revelation of who Jesus is; the second is the foreshadowing of his death, resurrection, and exaltation into heaven; the third is the training of the disciples, and each of us, about the meaning of the whole Christ-event. It is only in Luke that the Transfiguration occurs in the context of Jesus' prayer. The Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain confirms that Jesus was in the presence of God. It also serves to clarify that Jesus is, indeed, God's Son. While Moses and Elijah, who appear with Jesus on the mountain, might represent the Law and the Prophets, they are also mentioned because of the actions they performed.

This time, unlike at the time of the Baptism, the voice from the clouds adds, "Listen to him". This is one such event where God gives complete indication that Jesus is the promised Messiah that the whole humanity needs to listen to him. Therefore, it is an event which encapsulates the whole Christ event. It is here that we see His entire life, ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension unfold. It is a summary of what was, what is, and what will be. Only in the light of the cross and resurrection do we understand the character of God and the significance of Jesus. Though God will seem hidden at the passion and death of Jesus, and though Jesus might seem defeated, things are not as they seem. Rather, God is as present at the passion and death of Jesus as he was at the Transfiguration.

The purpose of the Transfiguration was to encourage and strengthen the apostles who were depressed by their master's prediction of His own Passion and Death. Despite seeing Jesus standing before them in snow-white glory and the splendour of His Divinity overflowing from His body, the apostles had not thought of leaving their Transfigured Lord. YET THEY HAD TO GO BACK DOWN THE MOUNTAIN. Like the Apostles we really need and want reassurances from Jesus that our earthly confusion and uncertainties will not last forever, but this joy and consolation will never end. Often in the Bible the mountain is God's place to reveal God's self and his plans. Jesus is accomplishing the coming of His Kingdom, the promise of the Resurrection for us, "And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all to Myself". A few were chosen to witness this mystery of Transfiguration, this manifestation and unveiling of GOD in all magnificence when His appearance was changed by a brilliant white light shone from Him and His clothing, whiter than any white we know. Jesus clearly calls this mysterious occurrence "a vision". It was not reality as we know it, but just a glimpse of what would be happening in the fullness of eternity. We look forward with great longing to have our Christ shown to us as the "fullest manifestation of God's Light", at the moment of our death.

In this revelation atop Mt. Tabor, God showed us the connection between the Old and New Testament. In times past, God spoke to us through the laws and the prophets, (Moses and Elijah); and now in these last days – through His Son. Finally, the Transfiguration occurred, not so much for the sake of Jesus, but it was so much more for the apostles and us. Like the apostles, we climb down the mountain once again, awed by our own experiences of God, encouraged that we know the Glory of God once again.