



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

Jeremiah 31: 7-9;  
Psalm 125;  
Hebrews 5: 1-6;  
Mark 10: 46-52

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

This Week 24th October - 31st October (Psalter Week 2)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
<b>Sunday 24th October</b> Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B	8.30 am Margaret Harding (MM) 10.30 am Elizabeth Wilson RIP (EK) 6.00 pm Alan Remedios RIP (KA)	World Mission Day Retiring Collection for the APF (Missio)
<b>Monday 25th October</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Vincenza & Dennis Eaton RIP (MF)	
<b>Tuesday 26th October</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Burke Family (BB)	
<b>Wednesday 27th October</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Private Intention (GP)	6.00 pm: Adoration & Benediction (Live Streamed only)
<b>Thursday 28th October</b> Feast of Ss. Simon & Jude, Apostles	9.15 am Sheila Manion (EK)	
<b>Friday 29th October</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am James Sexton RIP (BB)	9.45am: Novena to the Sacred Heart (soon after Mass)
<b>Saturday 30th October</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	11.00 am Lucy, George & Peter Alburqueque RIP (KA)	<b>10.15 am - 10.45 am:</b> <b>Confessions</b>
<b>Sunday 31st October</b> Solemnity of All Saints Year B	8.30 am Vincenza Eaton RIP 10.30 am Paddy McLoughlin RIP (BB) 6.00 pm People of the Parish	

*“When conflicts are not resolved but kept hidden or buried in the past, silence can lead to complicity in grave misdeeds and sins. Authentic reconciliation does not flee from conflict, but is achieved in conflict, resolving it through dialogue and open, honest and patient negotiation.”*

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 244)

## **SACRED HEART COMMUNITY**

Fr. George Mathew SCJ  
(Parish Priest)

fr.george.mathew@  
rcaob.org.uk

**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 Catholic  
Primary School,  
Droitwich

Tel: 01905 773572

Email: office@st-josephs-  
droitwich.worcs.sch.uk

## **HEAD TEACHER**

Mrs. Cath Bryan

## **PARISH SECRETARY**

Kate Dalglish

Tel.: 01905 773258

Email:  
sacredheart.droitwich@  
rcaob.org.uk

## **PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES**

Gerry Ceclich

Kate Dalglish

Clare Tomlinson

Email:  
sg.sacredheart.droitwich  
@rcaob.org.uk

**Archdiocese of  
Birmingham  
Safeguarding Team**

Tel.: 0121 230 6240

Email: safeguarding  
@rcaob.org.uk

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**8.30 am & 10.30 am: What marvels the Lord has worked for  
us! Indeed we were glad.**

**6.00 pm: They go out they go out full of tears, carrying the  
seed for the sowing. They come back they come back,  
full of song, carrying their sheaves.**

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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, Finbarr Cronin, Eileen Dalton, Delores  
Delaney, Frank Fawcett, Sheila Ferriter, Tony Gilroy, Joan Graham, Beryl  
Hill, Alan Hurst, John Jennings, Sheila Manion, Sally McCool, Andrew  
McDermott, Jackie McLean, Michael Sheridan, Jacky Smith, Paul Smith,  
Margaret Steward, Angela Wardle, Breda Wightman, Mark Wightman,  
Richard Wightman, Monsignor Graham Wilkinson & Phil Yates.

**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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## **WORLD MISSION SUNDAY: 24TH OCTOBER 2021**

World Mission Sunday is being celebrated in every Catholic parish around  
the world today! It supports missionaries who work alongside communities  
that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. By  
supporting Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission, you will help  
missionaries like Sister Veronica build peace in Nigeria and share the love of  
Christ with those most in need. Please pray for the mission of the Church  
throughout the world and give what you can to this very important  
collection which will sustain the future of our Church. Please call 020 7821  
9755 (office hours) or visit Missio's website at [missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk) to give a single  
gift, set up a Direct Debit and, if possible, Gift Aid your donation. Thank you  
for your support.

## **CENTENARY CELEBRATION**

Thank you to everyone who helped and supported the Centenary  
Celebration. Fr. George would especially like to thank Caroline Healy for  
providing food for the day.

## **CASHLESS GIVING**

It is now possible to donate via the cashless giving device at the back of  
church or via the link to the donation page on the homepage of our website  
at [www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk](http://www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk). More options have now been added.  
If you have any questions regarding cashless giving, please contact the  
Parish Office.

## **HALL BOOKING SECRETARY**

Sally Spink has taken over the role of Hall Booking Secretary. Please contact  
Sally at [volunteers.sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:volunteers.sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk) or on 01905  
773258 if you would like to book the hall.

## COVID 19 STEP 4 GUIDANCE

- **Sanitise** your hands at the entrance and exit.
- **Masks:** We highly recommend you to wear a mask in the church.
- **Seating:** There will not be any cordoned pews, so you can occupy any pew you wish to sit. In a pew a maximum of four people can sit, except family pews. Please leave the family pews for the families with children.
- **Holy Communion:** Holy Communion will continue to be under one kind.
- **Congregational Singing:** Indoor congregational singing is permitted. It is recommended that singing should be phased in gently as part of worship and that face coverings should be worn by members of the congregation whilst singing together, until infection levels reduce.
- **Exit:** To exit please use both the main door and the side door.
- **Capacity of the Church:** Increased to 150
- **Church visiting by the public:** The church will be open to the public for private prayer and for visiting from 8.00 am until 1.00 pm.

A big thank you to all of you for your cooperation and understanding during the time of the pandemic. We expect the same cooperation and support to continue. Always be considerate and kind towards others so that together we can defeat this pandemic.

### PARISH YOUTH GROUP

The youth group is currently running on Friday evenings from 6.30 pm –8.00 pm. The weekly group is aimed at 9-11 year olds. In the coming weeks we have lots of games, activities and potentially some trips planned. For those that are slightly older we will also soon be launching the youth cafe which will run every other week.

### DATES FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION - PARISH CHILDREN

The FHC preparation sessions will be held on Saturdays 6th, 13th & 27th November. The First Holy Communion Mass will be celebrated on Saturday 4th December at 11.00 am.

### A MESSAGE FROM CAFOD

Thank you for supporting our Climate Crisis Appeal for our recent Family Fast Day. Every donation helps us in our work and is gratefully received. Please pray for the success of the upcoming UN climate talks in Glasgow, COP26, from Sunday 31st October to Friday 12th November, that world leaders will put the needs of marginalised communities around the world, those most affected by climate change, right at the heart of these climate talks. For more information see [cafod.org.uk/COP26](http://cafod.org.uk/COP26). *May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 and instill in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions for the most vulnerable.*

### *Act of Spiritual Communion Prayer*

*My Jesus,  
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,  
come spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself completely to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*

### PARISH SECRETARY

The parish secretary is now back in the office full-time. Please use the contact number 01905 773258 if you wish to speak to the Parish Secretary. The Parish Secretary is available from 9.00 am until 12 Noon on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

### JOB VACANCY

The Diocesan Education Service are currently recruiting for a Senior Adviser (Senior Leadership Recruitment and Training) and an Office Administrator. For full details please see the posters that are on the website.

### CONFIRMATION

The Confirmation Mass is on Tuesday 7th December at 7.00 pm. Confirmation classes for parish children will start on Saturday 30th October.

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

**Main Collection:**

**£123.80**

**Gift Aid: £209.00**

**Mass Attendance**

**Last Sunday: 172**

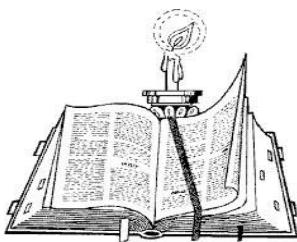
**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

**The retiring  
collection for the  
SVP raised: £720.74**  
**Thank you for your  
generosity.**



### **FOODBANK**

There is a new wish list for Sunday 10th October that is on the website. Thank you for your generosity.



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

#### **Readings**

*Apocalypse 7: 2-4,  
9-14;*

*Psalms 23;*

*1 John 3: 1-3;*

*Matthew 5: 1-12*

*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.*

The story of Blind Bartimaeus at first glance looks like one ordinary episode of healing by Jesus Christ but then, as with every single miracle performed by Jesus, there is more to what simply meets the eye. Today, the church calls us to place ourselves in the scenario of that powerful healing account that we may learn certain lessons and grow in our faith. The first lesson is that do we recognise the presence of Jesus? In our daily life? It is an irony that while a blind man did not have trouble recognising Jesus as the promised Messiah, many of those who could see clearly with both eyes were having trouble believing that this "son of a carpenter" was really the Son of God. How many of us Catholics are able to "see" Jesus present, soul and divinity, in the Holy Eucharist? Bartimaeus was blind but deep inside him, he could see God present in the person of Jesus. This inner sight eventually brought about his physical sight. The book of Hebrews 11:1 says "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Secondly, merely seeing is NOT always believing: For many people today, seeing is believing. Now, let's assume that after St. Thomas saying that, "Unless I place my hands in the holes made by the nails and feel his pierced side, I refuse to believe.", something entered his eyes and he became blind, would he have been able to believe? Many of us are like Thomas, our faith in God is limited to what we can see. But the real faith in Jesus is to accept things that are beyond our human comprehension. The third lesson is do not allow anyone to discourage you from following Jesus just because they don't believe in Him. It is very sad that while Bartimaeus was trying to get Jesus' attention, some people following Jesus told him to keep quiet. How do people try to silence us when we try to call out to God? One, by discouraging us from praying. Be like Bartimaeus, ignore their voice and continue calling out to Jesus. Another way those close to Jesus silence us is by scandal. When we see and hear scandals in the church, we feel like giving up on the Christian faith itself. However, by so doing, we actually cheat ourselves. Imagine if Bartimaeus had kept quiet because of the scandalous attitude of Jesus' followers, would he experience Jesus and get his sight back? Our Faith should not be dependent on the merit of the other.

The fourth lesson is that do not allow your possessions act as obstacles? Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was calling him, he sprang to his feet throwing off his cloak and came to Jesus. The throwing off his cloak is quite significant here. For this blind beggar his cloak must have been the only passion of security. Therefore, losing it might make him more vulnerable. But he knew that getting closer to Jesus will bring him with the sight which might solve all his problems. What are those things I need to drop so that I can become a prayerful Christian? What are those things preventing me from going to Church? Finally, prayer is not Just a Matter of Words. When Bartimaeus came to Jesus, Jesus asked him: "What do you want me to do for you?" This is the attitude of Jesus when we drop down on our knees to pray, when we come to church or when we visit the Blessed Sacrament. After asking us that question, Jesus looks into our hearts, he listens not only to our words but measures the level of our faith. As soon as Bartimaeus responded: "Master, let me receive my sight" Jesus said: "Go, your faith has made you well." It is not enough that we tell Jesus our problem, we must do so with faith. Faith is like a pair of glasses for one who is visually impaired. Faith enables us to see that our ordinary eyes cannot see. Faith is believing things that are not yet and the reward of faith is to see that which we believe.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ