



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM



SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Baruch 5: 1-9;

Psalms 125;

Philippians 1: 3-6, 8-11;

Luke 3: 1-6

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

This Week 5th December - 12th December (Psalter Week 2)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
Sunday 5th December Second Sunday of Advent Year C	8.30 am Francis George (LD) 10.30 am Tony Pinnell (CP) 6.00 pm Jackie Kelly (GC)	Retiring Collection for the Poor Parishes
Monday 6th December Advent Feria	9.15 am Gladys Remedios RIP (KA)	
Tuesday 7th December Feast of St. Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	9.15 am Deceased Friends RIP (MB) 7.00 pm Confirmation Mass	
Wednesday 8th December Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.15 am Private Intention (I & MM)	6.00 pm: Adoration & Benediction (Live Streamed only)
Thursday 9th December Advent Feria	9.15 am Deceased members of the Kang Family RIP (BB)	
Friday 10th December Advent Feria	9.15 am Catherine & Charles McGlinchey RIP (GM)	9.45am: Novena to the Sacred Heart (soon after Mass) 6.30 pm: Youth Group
Saturday 11th December Advent Feria	11.00 am Harry Remedios RIP (KA)	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 12th December Third Sunday of Advent Year C	8.30 am Whiteman Family (M & BW) 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Holy Mass	Giving Tree Appeal: Retiring Collection for Fr. Hudson's

"International peace and stability cannot be based on a false sense of security, on the threat of mutual destruction or total annihilation, or on simply maintaining a balance of power... In this context, the ultimate goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons becomes both a challenge and a moral and humanitarian imperative."

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 262)

SACRED HEART COMMUNITY

Fr. George Mathew SCJ
(Parish Priest)

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**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

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Safeguarding Team

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RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

6.00 pm: To be announced during Mass.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for all our parishioners, and/or their friends and relatives, who are unwell:

Mary Arulandhu, Barbara Conway, Barbara Coomber, 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.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for **Edwina Tyler** 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.

CHRISTMAS CARD FOR PRISONERS

The Justice and Peace Group are once again organising Christmas Cards to send to prisoners at Long Lartin Prison. Cards are available at the back of church. **Do not sign your name**; put "from Sacred Heart, Droitwich" after your own message and **do not stick down the envelope**. Please return your card with a 30p donation by Tuesday 14th December. Thank you.

SVP DROITWICH - GIVING TREE APPEAL 2021

Father Hudson's Homes are again unable to accept gifts from the Giving Tree. They do however still have a need to support families that need gifts for their families. Next Sunday there will be a second collection in lieu of gifts after each Mass. Donations can be made via the second collection box or the cashless giving device. We have always had wonderful support from our parish for this worthwhile cause so please be as generous as possible in these difficult times. If you are unable to attend church, donations can be left at the presbytery with Father George clearly marked Giving Tree Gifts or given via our parish donations page at sacredheartdroitwich.myдона.com. The donation page can also be accessed via the parish website by using the Donate to the Parish button. Please select Giving Tree Appeal 2021. Cheques should be made payable to Father Hudson's Homes. Thank you all for your support.

DEFIBRILLATOR

We have recently installed an emergency cardiac defibrillator. This is mounted on the wall of our Parish Hall in a yellow box. If someone is suffering a cardiac arrest you may find it useful.

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.

NEW YEAR RAFFLE

The Parish will be organising a New Year Raffle in January. Your support would be greatly appreciated. Thank you to all who have donated prizes. Raffle tickets will be available from Sunday 12th December. The draw will take place on Sunday 16th January after the 8.30 am Mass.

RED BOXES

Do you hold a Red Box? Whether your box is unused or full of money, please identify yourself to us as this year's contributions need to be in the bank by the end of December. Please return boxes to church as soon as you are able. If necessary, we can arrange to collect boxes. Please contact Kevin Larkin on 01905 776122 or email kevin.elizabeth@btinternet.com.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE

Christmas Cards are on sale after each Mass from the parish hall. A pack of 8 cards cost only £3.00. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

COVID-19 STEP 4 GUIDANCE

The church is now open as usual; capacity has been increased to 150. Please sanitise your hands on entrance and exit. We strongly recommend that you continue to wear a face mask in church. Please leave the family pews for families with children. Holy Communion will continue to be under one kind. Indoor congregational singing is permitted. It is recommended face coverings should be worn by members of the congregation whilst singing together. Please use both the main door and the side door to exit the church. A big thank you to all of you for your cooperation and understanding during the time of the pandemic.

WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING CONTACTLESS & ONLINE DONATIONS



Our new cashless giving device is now in the church. Just use your contactless debit/credit card or smart phone/device to make a donation. Simply choose the amount you wish to donate and hold your card onto the reader. You can also opt-in for Gift Aid to increase your donation by 25% for some donation options. If you are a UK taxpayer then donating with Gift Aid means that we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 received. Contactless donations are simple to administer, secure and convenient.

Donate to the Parish

There is also an online donation button on the homepage of our website at <http://www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk/>.

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.*



Congratulations to all our young people who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

We are hoping to be able to resume Children's Liturgy at the 10.30 am Mass but cannot do so without more volunteers to run the groups. If you would be interested in helping or would like further information please speak to Fr. George or contact the Parish Office.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Please save the date: Saturday 12th March from 9.30 am until 11.30 am. Open to all. Further information to follow in the New Year.



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

Main Collection:**£142.28****Gift Aid: £214.00****Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.****Mass Attendance****Last Sunday: 145****Additional donation
for Catholic Youth
Services raised:****Gift Aid: £20.00****Thank you for your
generosity.****ST. VINCENT DE
PAUL SOCIETY**

If you know of
anyone in need
please do not
hesitate in contacting
us on

0777 292 7535 or at
droitwichsvp
@gmail.com.

FOODBANK

There is a new wish
list for Sunday 14th
November that is on
the website. Thank
you for your
generosity.

**Next Sunday's Mass
Readings***Zephaniah 3: 14-18;**Isaiah 12;**Philippians 4: 4-7;**Luke 3: 10-18*

When I started reflecting about today's readings, an incident came to my mind that had occurred in the life of Swamy Vivekananda an Indian mystic and philosopher. He had been invited to speak about Hinduism in the world parliament of religions held in Chicago in 1893. On his turn he spoke eloquently about his religion, and he was asked many questions, in which there were two questions which are relevant to us today. The first question was: "Did you ever experience God?" and the second question was: "According to you, what is the difference between Hinduism and Christianity?" To answer these questions, he began to explain his own life. When he was young, he had a great desire to encounter God. To search, to meet and to know God. He started his pilgrimage and after 20 years of his pilgrimage he reached at the foot of the Himalayas in a small temple where he encountered God. As he came out of the temple, he said to the people waiting for him that he had a God experience and he added "Religion divides people but spirituality unites". This was the answer to the first question. To the second question, perhaps he gave the classical answer. He said, "the God of Christians, He comes in search of His people". Then he said about himself "But we Hindus, go in search of our God". If we rewrite these two sentences in the light of today's readings, we will be able to say that Advent is the time when God comes in search of us.

Dear Brothers and sisters, since God comes in search of us, it is important that we need to prepare ourselves to meet him with a mind made pure. With a great hope and faith that He will deliver us from our bondage. The first reading from Baruch, is clear and unambiguous: A mourning and dispirited Jerusalem and people will have cause for celebration because God is about to act to bring those people home to freedom from exile. The God of mercy and righteousness will not leave God's people scattered in exile. What a wonderful message for Advent. It evokes hope and expectation in the hearts of those of us who wait for the coming of Jesus, those of us who sometimes feel we are in exile in a strange land following a crooked path.

In the Gospel, John the Baptist comes preaching the gospel of repentance. The word is "metanoia." It means more than just repentance, turning around on your knees and being sorry for our sins. It means a change in our whole life, a paradigm shift - a transformation in consciousness and spiritual awakening because the Messiah is about to appear. It is a time we reshuffle our lives to look at what is important and what is not important, to look at what is perhaps more of a distraction than more of a life, to turn, once again, to becoming the kind of people that Jesus has taught us to become, that God has desired us to become: people who are self-sacrificing, those who reach out to their brothers and sisters. Advent is a time to renew and deepen our relationship with God. It is a time of patient waiting for God, prayerful and trusting waiting for God. John the Baptist preaches in the wilderness. The world wilderness has a special significance in Christian spirituality. It is the symbol of solitude and dryness where we encounter God and speak to Him. One cannot encounter God in a noisy world but in the inner castle of our self, in the silence of our heart. Therefore, during this advent, let us spend some time away from the noisy world to listen to the voice of our Lord. It is an opportunity to step back from that which preoccupies and distracts us daily and make a straight way for the Lord to receive the special grace God has planned for us this Advent. And what John, when he finishes his preaching, will tell us, which is true, that if I prepare my heart, straighten the pathways, and make it an easy road and ride for God Himself to embrace my heart, then I will have found the Messiah.