



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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### Today's Mass Readings

Zephaniah 3: 14-18;  
Isaiah 12;  
Philippians 4: 4-7;  
Luke 3: 10-18

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



This Week 12th December - 19th December (Psalter Week 3)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
<b>Sunday 12th December</b> Third Sunday of Advent Year C	8.30 am Whiteman Family (M & BW) 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Private Intention (JD)	Giving Tree Appeal: Retiring Collection for Fr. Hudson's
<b>Monday 13th December</b> Memorial of St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr	9.15 am Katie Hobday (GM)	
<b>Tuesday 14th December</b> Memorial of St. John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church	9.15 am Devasiya RIP	
<b>Wednesday 15th December</b> Advent Feria	9.15 am Francis McCabe RIP (GM)	6.00 pm: Adoration & Benediction (Live Streamed only)
<b>Thursday 16th December</b> Advent Feria	9.15 am Brendan McGlinchey RIP (GM)	
<b>Friday 17th December</b> Advent Feria	9.15 am Michael Waldron RIP (GM)	9.45am: Novena to the Sacred Heart (soon after Mass) 6.30 pm: Youth Group
<b>Saturday 18th December</b> Advent Feria	11.00 am Mass Intention: William Henry Mason & HMS Neptune 764 Crew RIP (SS)	<b>10.15 am - 10.45 am:</b> <b>Confessions</b>
<b>Sunday 19th December</b> Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C	8.30 am Rosemary O'Grady RIP - Anniversary (CE) 10.30 am Deceased Members of the Mason Family (MM) 6.00 pm Alan Remedios RIP (KA)	

*“There is yet another way to eliminate others, one aimed not at countries but at individuals. It is the death penalty. Saint John Paul II stated clearly and firmly that the death penalty is inadequate from a moral standpoint and no longer necessary from that of penal justice...the Church is firmly committed to calling for its abolition worldwide.”*

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 263)

**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 Dalgleish

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Email:  
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rcaob.org.uk

**PARISH SAFEGUARDING  
REPRESENTATIVES**

Gerry Ceclich

Kate Dalgleish

Clare Tomlinson

Email:  
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**Archdiocese of  
Birmingham  
Safeguarding Team**

Tel.: 0121 230 6240

Email: safeguarding  
@rcaob.org.uk

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.00 pm:

**Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One  
of Israel.**

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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, 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 Dalgleish. Please note that the newsletter is also placed on the parish website. Thank you for your understanding.**

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**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. Today 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.

**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.

**PARISH SECRETARY**

Following the government directive to work from home, the parish secretary will return to being home-based for the majority of the working week. Please contact the parish secretary via email. If you urgently need to speak to the parish secretary or do not have access to email, please contact the parish secretary at the Presbytery during morning Mass on Wednesday or Fridays or leave a message with Fr. George or Brother Patrick.

## 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 are now available after each Mass. The draw will take place on Sunday 16th January after the 8.30 am Mass.

## RED BOXES

Thank you to all who have returned a Missio Red box. Year-end return will be finalised this week. This is last call for any boxes still out there. Will collect if needs be. 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 GUIDANCE: UPDATED 10TH DECEMBER 2021

The church is now open as usual; capacity has been increased to 150. Please sanitise your hands on entrance and exit. Following the announcement by the Prime Minister this week, it is now **mandatory to wear a face covering in church unless exempt**. Please leave the family pews for families with children. Holy Communion will continue to be under one kind. Indoor congregational singing is permitted. 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

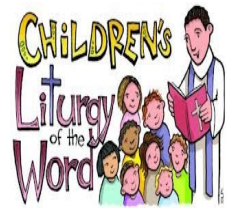
There is also an online donation button on the homepage of our website at <http://www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk/>.

## 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 in is suffering a cardiac arrest you may find it useful.

## *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.*



## 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:**  
**Gift Aid: £425.00**  
Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.

**Mass Attendance**  
**Last Sunday: 184**

**The retiring**  
**collection for the**  
**Poor Parishes**  
**raised:**

**Gift Aid: £148.00**  
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**

*Micah 5: 1-4;*

*Psalms 79;*

*Hebrews 10: 5-10;*

*Luke 1: 39-45*

*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.*

### **Rejoice in the Lord always!**

The Third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete Sunday". "Gaudete" means "Rejoice!". This is the theme expressed by St. Paul in his Letter to the Philippians: "Rejoice in the Lord always!" The word "rejoice" is composed of two words: "re" (again) and "joy". So St. Paul repeated his exhortation: "I shall say it again: rejoice!" Why does St. Paul insist that we rejoice? We must remember that he wrote this Letter to the Philippians while he was in a dark Roman prison and without any certainty that he would come out alive. Definitely, there was nothing to rejoice about in that situation. But joy is a virtue and a gift of the Holy Spirit. It is not dependent on any external condition. Rather, it all depends on one's intimate relationship with God. Rightly, then, that St. Paul said: "Rejoice in the Lord always." A person who knows the Lord is with him at all times, that the Lord is near, always has the reason to rejoice, that is, to be filled with joy. And that spirit leads him to be more kind and understanding towards others.

There is the story about a man known as Joe the Farmer. Every day, on his way to the farm, he would make it a point to drop by the Church at exactly eight o'clock in the morning. In less than a minute, he can be seen leaving the church. The priest noticed his daily routine, and asked him about it one day. Joe said, "Father, I just drop by every day to say hello to my friend. I look at him. He looks at me. Then I tell him, 'Hi, Jess! This is your friend, Joe. Have a great day!' Then I go." One day, Joe got sick, and was brought to the hospital. He had no family, and so no one visited him. But the nurses were surprised that Joe provided joy and laughter to his fellow patients. His humor and cheerful spirit were just contagious. A nurse asked him: "Joe, what is the secret of your happiness?" He replied, "Well, it is because of my friend who comes to visit me every day." The nurse was surprised "But you have no visitor. You have no family and friends." But Joe insisted, "Yes, I have a friend. He comes here every day at eight o'clock in the morning. He looks at me, and says, 'Hey, Joe. This is your friend, Jess. I just dropped by to say hello!'" Joe had no family. He had no money. He had no health. But he was happy, because he had a friend, Jesus, who visits him every day. That was the secret of his happiness. And his happiness makes him more kind and loving towards others. This is exactly the meaning of St. Paul's exhortation: "Rejoice in the Lord always!" Christmas is near.

We often hear people complaining about the economic crisis. Many are jobless, homeless and still many others are sick. The recent series of calamities and tragedies have left many families and communities devastated. There is so much bad news every day. What is there to rejoice about? Rejoicing in the Lord is not just a matter of thanking and praising God. Rather, it means two things. First, it is an attitude of trust in the midst of life's difficulties and troubles. Worries and anxieties have no part in the life of a Christian. Instead, St. Paul said: "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God" (Phil 4:6). Secondly, rejoicing should manifest itself in acts of kindness. Again, St. Paul said: "Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near." St. John the Baptist, therefore, calls us to action. Christmas is always the busiest season of the year. While others are stressed and anxious about so many things, we are reminded to focus our attention on Jesus, the centre of this joyous season, the cause of our rejoicing. There is no reason for worries and anxieties. Whatever problems and difficulties we may encounter, we take them all up to the Lord in prayer. Turn worries into prayers. "Then," St. Paul said, "the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:7).

May God bless us with His joy in this season of advent. Fr. George Mathew SCJ