



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM



SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Micah 5: 1-4;

Psalm 79;

Hebrews 10: 5-10;

Luke 1: 39-45

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

This Week 19th December - 26th December (Psalter Week 4)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
Sunday 19th December 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)	
Monday 20th December Advent Feria	9.15 am McGinley Family (LM)	
Tuesday 21st December Advent Feria	9.15 am Mr. & Mrs. Barry Wyton RIP (BB)	
Wednesday 22nd December Advent Feria	9.15 am Aleyamma RIP (S & A) 7.00 pm Penitential Service	10.00 am Church Cleaning
Thursday 23rd December Advent Feria	9.15 am Siwan Smith RIP (CP)	
Friday 24th December Christmas Eve Advent Feria	9.15 am Holy Mass 5.00 pm First Mass of Christmas (Family Mass) 8.00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass with carols from 7.30 pm	10.00 am Flower Arranging
Saturday 25th December Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord	9.00 am Christmas Mass during the Day	Christmas Offering for the Parish Priest
Sunday 26th December Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year C	8.30 am Cynthia Sharkey 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm No Mass	

"From our faith experience and from the wisdom accumulated over centuries, but also from lessons learned from our many weaknesses and failures, we, the believers of the different religions, know that our witness to God benefits our societies. The effort to seek God with a sincere heart, provided it is never sullied by ideological or self-serving aims, helps us recognize one another as travelling companions, truly brothers and sisters."

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 274)

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

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PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

Gerry Ceclich

Kate Dalgleish

Clare Tomlinson

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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: God of hosts, bring us back; let your face
shine on us and we shall be saved.

6.00 pm: Let the Lord enter in, He is the King of Glory.
Let the Lord enter, let the Lord enter, enter into your
heart.

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 Wight-
man, 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.**

*Merry
Christmas*

**Fr. George SCJ , Fr. Brian SCJ, Fr. Tom SCJ and
Bro. Patrick SCJ wish everyone in our parish community
a blessed and peaceful Christmas. May the blessings of
Christmas embrace you and your family. Sincere thanks
for your prayers, cards, gifts, support and help during
2021.**

COVID-19 GUIDANCE: UPDATED 10TH DECEMBER 2021

The church is now open as usual. It is now **mandatory to wear a face
covering in church unless exempt**. Capacity has been increased to 150.
Please sanitise your hands on entrance and exit. 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.

PARISH DIARIES - NOW AVAILABLE

The 2022 Parish Diaries have arrived and
are available to collect from the Narthex.
The diaries are free, but any donations
would be much appreciated and will be
given to the Sacred Heart Missions



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.

GIVING TREE APPEAL 2021

Thank you all for your generous donations to the Giving Tree Appeal. The amount raised will be announced in due course.

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.

MISSIO RED BOXES

Thank you to all who have returned boxes. All money has now been banked and boxes will be put out for collection in the new year.

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

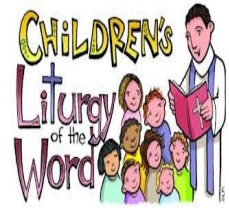
There is also an online donation button on the homepage of our website at <http://www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk/>.

ALTAR SERVERS

Please be aware that Father George will need servers for the three Masses over Christmas. Kevin is unable to attend, so it's over to you to show how well you can cope in his absence -which, I do realise, is very well. This year, as St. Stephen's Day falls on a Sunday, precedence is given to the Feast of the Holy Family, as is customary on the Sunday following Christmas. Nonetheless, give some thought to our patron Saint on Sunday 26th December, and to the example he sets us all. May you all have a happy and blessed Christmas.

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 (5th
December 2021):**

£142.41

**Gift Aid (12th
December 2021):**

£243.00

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass Attendance
Last Sunday: 196**

**The retiring
collection for the
Poor Parishes (5th
December) raised:**

£76.40

**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.



**Next Sunday's Mass
Readings**

*Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6,
12-14;*

Psalm 127;

Colossians 3: 12-21;

Luke 2: 41-52

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.

Last week we celebrated "Gaudete" Sunday when the church encouraged us to rejoice because our Lord is near. As we gradually approach the fulfillment of God's promise to us, the gospel of this Sunday presents us with the visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. In spite of her pregnancy, Mary still found time to visit her cousin in order to share her joy and to assist her. This is a proof of her spirit of hospitality, generosity, humility, love and her faith in God who chose her. This is why she is blessed. It was not only Mary that visited Elizabeth but also, the Divine Child and Prince of peace did. Hence, this visit was divine.

The visit of Mary to Elizabeth was not a mere coincidence. It was a well thought plan of God, which was executed at the appropriate time. This season, God has planned to honour each one of us personally with a divine visit. This visit is not by an accident. Rather, it is a well-planned visit. He knows the way to our house and our whereabouts. He comes quickly to visit us personally in order to bring about some remarkable changes in our lives.

This season dear brothers and sisters, what we are about to have is a divine visitation and encounter with the child Jesus. This encounter will fill us with the Holy Spirit who will empower us as he empowered Elizabeth. This divine encounter with Christ will bring us transformation and it will provoke peace and greater joy in our hearts as it did for Elizabeth and the child in her womb.

Finally, soon and very soon, we shall hear a knock at our door, and hear the voice of Mary the new arc of the covenant bearing the divine child. They are close to us. So let prepare our hearts and minds to receive them, so that our joy may be complete this season. As we wait for our divine visitation and encounter this season, let us implore the Lord: "God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved."

May God bless us.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ

