



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM



SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6, 12-14;

Psalms 127;

Colossians 3: 12-21;

Luke 2: 41-52

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

This Week 26th December - 2nd January (Psalter Week 1)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
Sunday 26th December Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year C	8.30 am Cynthia Sharkey 10.30 am Anthony Pinnell RIP (GP) 6.00 pm No Mass	
Monday 27th December Feast of St. John, Apostle, Evangelist	10.00 am Lucy, George & Peter Albuquerque RIP (KA)	
Tuesday 28th December Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs	10.00 am Viv John (JC)	
Wednesday 29th December Feast of St. Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr	9.15 am Edwina Tyler (CP)	
Thursday 30th December Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas	9.15 am Brenda O'Keeffe (JC)	
Friday 31st December Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas	9.15 am Holy Mass	9.45am: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Year Ending Prayer Service (soon after Mass)
Saturday 1st January Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God	11.00 am Holy Mass	10.15 am -10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 2nd January Second Sunday after the Nativity Year C	8.30 Intention of Team Grievors (LD) 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Holy Mass	

“The different religions, based on their respect for each human person as a creature called to be a child of God, contribute significantly to building fraternity and defending justice in society. Dialogue between the followers of different religions does not take place simply for the sake of diplomacy, consideration or tolerance. In the words of the Bishops of India, “the goal of dialogue is to establish friendship, peace and harmony, and to share spiritual and moral values and experiences in a spirit of truth and love”

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 271)

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

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Primary School,
Droitwich

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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

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: O Blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!

6.00 pm: No 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, 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.

REMEMBERING ALL OF YOU WITH GRATITUDE

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all the parishioners of the Sacred Heart Church and all those who attend this church for your help and support during this unprecedented year 2021. A special thank you to all the staff and volunteers for your selfless service to the church; without which it would have been impossible to open the church for safe public worship. May God bless you all for all you do for this House of God.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ

ARCHBISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

A Christmas Video Message from Archbishop Bernard Longley can be found on the Archdiocese of Birmingham website at <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/News/archbishop-bernards-christmas-message-2021>.

GIVING TREE APPEAL 2021

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Giving Tree appeal that helps Fr. Hudson's Care support families at Christmas. Your generosity has raised £811.78, this is a wonderful contribution. Droitwich SVP.

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.

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.

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/>.

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.

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.

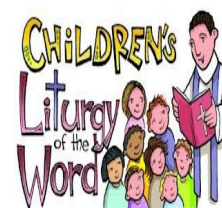
Act of Spiritual Communion Prayer

*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.*



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.



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.

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

**Main Collection (12th
December 2021):**

£155.52

**Gift Aid (19th
December 2021):**

£200.00

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass Attendance
Last Sunday: 173**

**The retiring
collection for the
Giving Tree (12th
December) raised:**

£811.78

**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 24: 1-2,
8-12;*

Psalms 147;

Ephesians 1: 3-6, 5-18;

John 1: 1-18

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.

What about your family?

The Feast of the Holy Family is celebrated every year on first Sunday after Christmas. It is appropriate that such be the case, because for centuries Christmas has been regarded as a family feast. Not only do members of a family get together to celebrate the feast, but the themes of Christmas like the birth of a child, naming of the child, gathering together as a family to celebrate this event, all lend themselves to reflection on the meaning of family. In this modern world family life is facing a great moral degradation. Broken families, domestic violence, the rampant rate of divorce, are all testimony to this fact. What can the Feast of the Holy Family mean in the face of this threat? The readings of today offer a response. St. Paul in his letter to the Colossians begins by giving the foundations of an ideal family where each member respect each other, forgive each other and encourage and look after each other and thus love on another as Jesus loves us. To achieve this each member of the family needs to let go of one's ego. If one holds on to one's point of view only, there cannot have any understanding and so what is required is an openness and receptivity to accept others point of view.

The pressures of secularism and modern life have again reduced the significance of family life in the lives of most people. Busy schedules, increased alienation from each other, and the inability on the part of some to keep up with the fast pace of life, means that families spend much less time together. Prayer before meals and the family rosary are things of the past. For many, family life is restricted to socially required ceremonies at births, weddings, and funerals. The result has been that God has receded from the awareness and experience of everyday family life. Their lives, on the other hand, move in a secular realm where God has no place. They never experience God in their daily experiences, which have no meaning beyond themselves, no opening to transcendence. Little room for mystery remains in the everyday life as it becomes increasingly subject to agnosticism and technology. This attitude is called moral relativism. That means there is no absolute truth, therefore if a hundred people together say something that is wrong as right then wrong become right.

Today's feast and readings challenge us to look at ourselves and our family life anew. We are called to rediscover the simple joys of family life. We need to learn that, even as individuals, we are not islands, but relational beings. We have come into this world because of family and it is through family that we can continue to sustain ourselves in the world. If we bypass family values, we ourselves are clearing up the path for the extinction of human race. As the late Pope John Paul II said to the families when he visited Ireland: "The future of the Church, the future of humanity depends in great part on parents and on the family life that they build in their homes. The family is the true measure of the greatness of a nation, just as the dignity of man is the true measure of civilization." May the Holy family bless us all.



Fr. George Mathew SCJ