



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM



SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Ecclesiasticus 24: 1-2, 8-12;

Psalm 147;

Ephesians 1: 3-6, 5-18;

John 1: 1-18

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

This Week 2nd January - 9th January (Psalter Week 2)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
Sunday 2nd January Second Sunday after the Nativity Year C	8.30 Intention of Team Grievors (LD) 10.30 am For an SVP Beneficiary RIP (SVP) 6.00 pm People of the Parish	
Monday 3rd January Christmas Feria	10.00 am Special Intention - Sufferers from cancer (P & CI)	
Tuesday 4th January Christmas Feria	9.15 am Private Intention for a person who is sick (AM)	
Wednesday 5th January Christmas Feria	9.15 am Thanksgiving Mass (P & CI)	6.00 pm: Adoration & Benediction (Live Streamed only)
Thursday 6th January Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord	9.15 am Matthew RIP (MA)	
Friday 7th January Christmas Feria	9.15 am George Hancock (AM)	9.45am: Novena to the Sacred Heart (soon after Mass) 6.30 pm: Youth Group
Saturday 8th January Christmas Feria	11.00 am Gladys Remedios RIP (KA)	10.15 am -10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 9th January Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Year C	8.30 People of the Parish 10.30 am Holy Mass 6.00 pm Holy Mass	

"It is wrong when the only voices to be heard in public debate are those of the powerful and "experts". Room needs to be made for reflections born of religious traditions that are the repository of centuries of experience and wisdom"

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 275)

**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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**PARISH SAFEGUARDING
REPRESENTATIVES**

Gerry Ceclich

Kate Dalgleish

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 & 6.00 pm:

The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

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

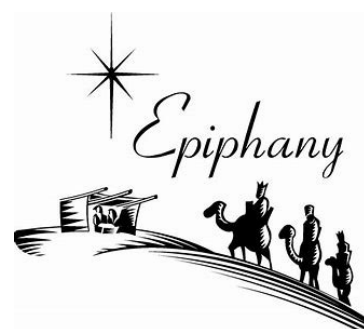
A Christmas Video Message from Archbishop Bernard Longley can be found on the Archdiocese of Birmingham website at <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/News/archbishop-bernards-christmas-message-2021>.

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.

CHRISTMAS CARDS TO PRISONERS

Thank you to everyone who wrote and returned Christmas cards. Over 100 have been sent to prisoners at Long Lartin Prison. We are very grateful to all of you. Justice and Peace Group.

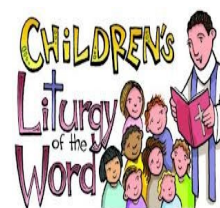
Act of Spiritual Communion Prayer

*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.

Gift Aid (26th December) : £76.00

Thank you for supporting your Parish.



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.



PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for the repose of the soul of an SVP beneficiary and her family.



Next Sunday's Mass

Readings

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11;

Psalms 103;

Titus 2: 11-14, 3: 4-7;

Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

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.

John's Gospel begins with a flourish, with a powerful prologue that makes huge claims about who Jesus is and his cosmic significance. At the beginning of John's Gospel, John draws us to the Christological explanation of the Incarnated Son, Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of John traces the Word back to the very beginning before time, before the creation of the world. The Word is not part of the creation, was not created but stood with God before the creation. This is important, because it is contrary to the prevailing Jewish thought of God working alone in creation. "In the beginning was the Word": Why John used logos (which means "word") for Jesus? We use words to communicate with each other, to get a thought from one person's mind to another person's mind. "Exactly! that was the reason that John referred to Jesus as the logos. He was a living, breathing Word from God sent to reveal who God is and His kingdom to us." Logos is a brilliant choice of words to bridge the gap between the Jewish and Greek worlds. The first Christians were Jewish, but the Gospel spread quickly to Greeks, who know nothing of the Messiah or the fulfilment of prophecy. John's task is to communicate this Gospel in language that they can understand and appreciate. Logos is a common word in Greek philosophy. Greeks believe that the world is highly volatile but is under the control of Logos. John is saying that Jesus is that Logos. How much more directly could God have spoken than to send his Word to live "among us...full of grace and truth". How much more visible could God make himself.

"And the Word was God" This is not traditional Jewish theology of the Messiah, whom they expect to be like King David, a great man, a God-empowered man but only a man. Jesus is something different from what they thought to be the Messiah. John's emphasis on the creative role of the Word counters Gnostic heresy which claim that matter is evil and therefore, could not be created by God. The incarnation of Jesus reveals to us that all that a human being is created in the image of God therefore is holy even though man could make it unholy. "And lived (tabernacled) among us". The distance between God and humans would seem so great as to be unbridgeable (Luke 16:26). However, God, in love, bridges these worlds, using himself as bridge-building material. The word, eskenosen, "tabernacled," is quite familiar to Jewish readers. During their wanderings in the wilderness, God commanded the Israelites to build the tabernacle, an elaborate and beautiful tent that served as the symbol of God's presence in their midst (Exodus 25-27) the precursor of the Jerusalem temple. The God who once dwelt among the people in the tabernacle and the temple, now chooses to dwell among us in Jesus. Jesus makes it clear that his bodily presence supersedes the tabernacle and temple.

Being a Christian is being in partnership with Jesus in his saving of the world. Pope Francis says, 'The Church is fruitful and a mother when she witnesses to Jesus Christ.' Unless we are in friendship with Jesus and in partnership with him, Christian life is dull, sterile. What Jesus offered was first a relationship with human being. The message of peace, justice and compassion is as relevant now as it was for Jesus. Pope Francis again: 'We are not a 'religion' of ideas, of pure theology, beautiful things, of commandments. No, we are a people who follow Jesus Christ and bear witness – who want to bear witness to Jesus Christ and sometimes this witness leads to laying down our lives'. As did John the Baptist in the name of the One he not only knew but loved. Fr. George Mathew SCJ