



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11;
Psalm 103;
Titus 2: 11-14, 3: 4-7;
Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

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

This Week 9th January - 16th January (Psalter Week 1)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
Sunday 9th January Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Year C	8.30 People of the Parish 10.30 am Tomas and Maureen Fahy RIP 6.00 pm John & Mary Ryan (DR)	
Monday 10th January Feria in Ordinary Time	10.00 am Private Intention (NL)	
Tuesday 11th January Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Natasha RIP and her Family (CT)	
Wednesday 12th January Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Sobin Sebastian RIP	6.00 pm: Adoration & Benediction (Live Streamed only)
Thursday 13th January Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am For the Sick and Housebound.	
Friday 14th January Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Matthaie Madathikunnel RIP	9.45am: Novena to the Sacred Heart (soon after Mass) 6.30 pm: Youth Group
Saturday 15th January Feria in Ordinary Time	11.00 am Annie Parry for healing (CT)	10.15 am -10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 16th January Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C	8.30 Holy Mass 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Holy Mass	

*“For us the wellspring of human dignity and fraternity is in the Gospel of
Jesus Christ”*

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 277)

**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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**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: Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how
great you are!**

6.00 pm: With joy you will draw water.

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, Bev
Griffiths, 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.**

PAX CHRISTI

Next Sunday, 16th January, is PEACE SUNDAY and this year Pope Francis
asks us to think about 'Education, work and dialogue between generations:
tools for building lasting peace'. The need for peace in the world is obvious.
People are struggling against violence and conflict, growing inequalities, the
effects of climate change and the covid pandemic. In this country we have
an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi, which does a great deal
of good work to promote peace and nonviolence through parishes, schools
and social media. Their website suggests many ways we can all become
better peacemakers. There are activities for families to do at home,
including a peace liturgy for young children. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2022>. There will be a retiring collection in aid of Pax Christi on
Sunday 16th January. Thank you for your generosity.

MESSAGE FROM KEVIN & ELIZABETH LARKIN

We would like to express our appreciation of the prompt and wide ranging
response to a recent appeal for help, purporting to be from us and
following the hacking of our e-mail facility. There was no basis to the
appeal, other than the sender's dishonesty. We seem to have had messages
expressing concern from half of the parish (well, at least those of you who
were on our e-mail list). While you all had some idea that the appeal was
spurious, your first concern was to ensure that we were not in some sort of
trouble. It was an inspiring example of parish friendship and solidarity.
Thank you, Kevin and Elizabeth.

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.

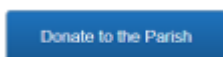
PARISH SECRETARY

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.



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

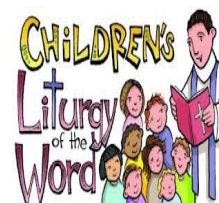
Thank you to everyone who wrote and returned Christmas cards. Over 100 have been sent to prisoners at Long Lartin Prison. We are very grateful to all of you. Justice and Peace Group.

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.*

**Main Collection (26th
December 2021):**

£103.58

**Gift Aid (26th
December 2021):**

£76.00

**Gift Aid (2nd January
2022): £270.00**

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass Attendance
Last Sunday: 170**

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 62: 1-5;

Psalms 95;

*1 Corinthians 12:
4-11;*

John 2: 1-11

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.

This is my son the beloved, with whom I am well pleased!

Since Christmas we are witnessing three manifestations of the Lord. The first at the Nativity of the Lord, secondly on the Epiphany and thirdly today, the Baptism of the Lord. With the Baptism of the Lord, Jesus has been completely revealed to humanity that he is the promised Messiah. Baptism of the Lord was the moment that Jesus came out from the relative obscurity of His private life to the public stage of His Mission. The scripture passage of this Sunday takes us to the River Jordan where John the Baptist was baptising all those who would respond to his message of repentance. The purpose of John's ministry was to direct people to Jesus who would baptise them with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus came from Galilee to the river Jordan to be baptised by his own cousin John. Baptism is the external expression of internal repentance of sin. The opening words of today's Gospel tell us that John the Baptist was proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. It is important not to misunderstand the meaning of these words. It would be quite wrong to think that people simply had to come for baptism in the river for all their sins to be wiped out. That would be little more than superstition. The baptism itself was a symbolic act that had to be accompanied by an inner change. Jesus had no sin therefore no need of baptism. Yet He set us an example so that all might follow. His example of being baptised was to tell us that the Sacrament of Baptism is the Way to the new life, to be born again of water and spirit. During the baptism of Jesus, the Heavens opened, and the voice came from above, "This is my son the beloved, with whom I am well pleased". It was the time when God the Father approved and reveals his son Jesus and the saviour of the world. This was a call to follow Him. The Baptism of Jesus marks His solidarity as the Messianic servant with his people. Incarnation was not only coming to the earth but also assuming the burden of life in the flesh. The significance of the Baptism of the Lord is well explained by St. Paul "He who knew no sin became sin for us in order that in Him we might become the righteousness of God".

The First Reading taken from the Book of Isaiah tells us that the promised Messiah would be God's chosen Servant in Whom the Divine Soul would delight. The Messiah would have the Spirit of God upon Him, bringing forth justice to all the nations, not just God's chosen people. As the Servant of God, the Messiah would not cry or lift up His voice or make it heard in the street. His mission would be modest and gentle in nature. He operates by his example and work and not by his word. The promised Messiah would not force the people to conform to His teaching. The transformation that would take place within those who heard the Word of God would be internal, a change of heart. He brings new life in them through his kindness and mercy. The Messiah would come to save the sinners, not those who are already saved. A dimly burning wick He would not quench. Faith says that there is always hope for souls when the grace of God is at work. Today let us try to think about our own baptism and to rethink of our baptism as a foundational event of our life. Are we thankful to the Lord for the gift of the Holy Spirit we have received? The new life is given to us as a seed to be nurtured: as Christians we have the responsibility towards who is entrusted to us. Let us thank God for the gift we have received and ask him the grace to rediscover it better and to live it in the fullness of the Spirit. God bless us.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ