



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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### Today's Mass Readings

*Nehemiah 8: 2-6, 8-10;*

*Psalms 18;*

*1 Corinthians 12: 12-30;*

*Luke 1: 1-4, 4: 14-21*

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

This Week 23rd January - 30th January (Psalter Week 3)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
<b>Sunday 23rd January</b> Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C	8.30 Gillian Mardell RIP (PW) 10.30 am Mr. P. V. Joseph RIP 6.00 pm People of the Parish	
<b>Monday 24th January</b> Memorial of St. Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	9.15 am Holy Mass	
<b>Tuesday 25th January</b> Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, the Apostle	9.15 am Lisamma Joseph	
<b>Wednesday 26th January</b> Memorial of Ss. Timothy & Titus, Bishops	9.15 am For Victims of Cancer	6.00 pm: Adoration & Benediction (Live Streamed only)
<b>Thursday 27th January</b> Memorial of Blessed Edward Oldcorne, Priest, Martyr	9.15 am Holy Mass	
<b>Friday 28th January</b> Memorial of St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor of the Church	9.15 am Holy Mass	9.45am: Novena to the Sacred Heart (soon after Mass) 6.30 pm: Youth Group
<b>Saturday 29th January</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	11.00 am Harry Remedios RIP (KA)	<b>10.15 am -10.45 am:</b> <b>Confessions</b>
<b>Sunday 30th January</b> Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C	8.30 Marie Webb RIP (PW) 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Holy Mass	

*"We Christians ask that, in those countries where we are a minority, we be guaranteed freedom, even as we ourselves promote that freedom for non-Christians in places where they are a minority. One fundamental human right must not be forgotten in the journey towards fraternity and peace. It is religious freedom for believers of all religions."*

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 279)

## **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 Dalglish

Tel.: 01905 773258

Email:  
sacredheart.droitwich@  
rcaob.org.uk

## **PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES**

Gerry Ceclich

Kate Dalglish

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:** Your words are spirit Lord, and they are life.

**6.00 pm:** The word of God is more desired than gold; the word of God is sweeter than honey. Light to our eyes the Lord's command is clear; greater than gold the message of eternal life. (AK11)

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

## **NEW YEAR RAFFLE**

A big thank you to one and all for your support of the raffle, especially Terry and his team for organising it successfully. The total money raised was £1084.00. If you won a raffle prize please collect it from the Romero Room.

## **ADORATION ON WEDNESDAYS**

We are planning to resume the Wednesday Adoration from 10.00 am until 7.00 pm. If you are available to spend an hour watching with the Lord please let us know.

## **NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION – VOLUNTEER FOR CAFOD**

A vital aspect of church is people being willing to share their talents, experience and energy. Could your New Year's resolution be volunteering for CAFOD? We have lots of different ways you can get involved such as:

**In the parish** - where you will be highlighting CAFOD's work to support communities globally who are living with injustices and in poverty.

**In local schools** – where you'll deliver assemblies and workshops about CAFOD's work. No experience necessary. Full support, resources and regular training provided.

**Coordinating volunteers** to help us support, encourage and bring together a small group of volunteers.

If you'd like to know more, please get in touch by contacting [birmingham@cafod.org.uk](mailto:birmingham@cafod.org.uk) or 07919 045658.

## **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

## RED BOX HOLDERS

All recently emptied boxes will be returned to church, ready for collection, from today. Your box will have your name clearly shown. Should your box be the one that came in without a name, it will have no identification. Next time you return it, please let us know your name so that we can update our records. 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.

## 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.

## HALL BOOKINGS

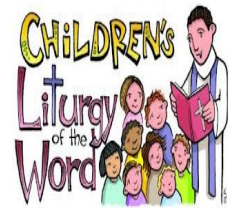
For Hall Bookings please contact Sally Spink on 07891 144870 or at [volunteers.sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:volunteers.sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk).

## READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

The new rota for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers is now available to collect from church.

### *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

Children's Liturgy will resume with two groups (4 to 7 year olds and 8 to 11 year olds) at the 10.30 am Mass on Sunday 6th February and continue on Sunday 13th February. All children are welcome. Thank you to the volunteers who will be leading these groups.

## SAFEGUARDING TRAINING: UPDATE

Safeguarding Training will take place on Saturday 12th March from 9.30 am until 11.30 am. Open to all. If you would like to attend, please contact the Safeguarding Team at [sg.sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk). If there are not sufficient numbers then the training will not go ahead. Many thanks. Safeguarding Team.

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

**Main Collection**  
**Gift Aid (16th January**  
**2022): £90.00**

**Thank you for**  
**supporting your**  
**Parish.**

**The retiring**  
**collection for Pax**  
**Christi raised:**

**Gift Aid: £93.50**

**Additional**  
**Donations for the**  
**Poor Parishes:**

**Gift Aid: £10.00**

**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.



**Next Sunday's Mass**  
**Readings**

*Jeremiah 1: 4-5,*  
*17-19;*

*Psalms 70;*

*1 Corinthians 12:*  
*31- 13: 13;*

*Luke 4: 21-30*

*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.*

***Proclaim the 'favourable year of the Lord'!***

The beginning of the Gospel of Luke is unique because Luke is the only one of the four evangelists who states the purpose of his writing. It seems, from what he states, that his intention is to supply an orderly account, a doctrinal truth, and an assurance about the meaning of the whole Christ-event, to Theophilus - for whom he is writing. Thus, his intention is not merely historical. He will also narrate the things "that have been fulfilled" so that Theophilus may know the "truth".

A summary of the Christ-event is given in the inaugural act of Jesus when he comes to the synagogue at Nazareth and reads from the scroll of Isaiah proclaiming the "favourable year of the Lord". What could be the possible reasons for the choice of this reading in his inaugural discourse? One important reason for the choice seems to be the mention of the Spirit. The Spirit plays an important role in the Gospel of Luke and, right at the beginning, Luke shows that Jesus' ministry, which he will soon begin, is empowered by the Spirit by whom Jesus was anointed at his baptism. Second, the poor are given special prominence in the Gospel of Luke, and so, Jesus begins with an option for the poor. While the rich are not excluded, it is very clearly the poor who will have preference. "Poor", Luke primarily means the economically poor, captives, the blind, and the oppressed in a word, Jesus has come primarily for the marginalized, the peripheries of society. These people considered as subhuman by the rest of society for centuries. Jesus was the first Rabbi who counted these people as equal to the rest of the society. What has Jesus come to proclaim to these? What are the implications of his proclamation for us today? Jesus has come to proclaim a year of God's favour. He has come to show, through his word and deeds, that the God He will reveal is a God whose intention is to liberate the impoverished and the oppressed and to fulfil the ideal year of God's favour, God's promise of liberation for all the poor and oppressed, regardless of nationality, gender, or race. The radical inclusiveness of his message was not easy for all to accept. Many preferred to be exclusive. They wanted a Messiah who would fit in with the categories they had set. Thus, not only was the message of Jesus scandalous, but He was himself a scandal for some. Since they closed their minds and hearts to his inclusive message of God's unconditional love, they were unable to receive this message.

The implications of the proclamation of Jesus for us today are, first, the kingdom that Jesus proclaimed, and that we must continue to proclaim, must be a kingdom that has the poor, the rich, the peripheries and the privileged all included. Even as we work for the kingdom, we must keep in mind that others, too, are called to the same task and responsibility. Thus, as Paul reminds the Corinthians, and us, we must remember always that we are one body made up of many parts. We must be able to accept, not only unity in diversity but unity, even in diversity. We must learn to work, not only for others, but with others, as well. God's word is a word that cannot be restricted to any particular group or community. It is a grace that is freely given to all who are willing to understand and to accept it. In the first reading of today, Ezra, the priest encourages the people to be optimistic. Because this is the case, and even though we realize that, despite our very best efforts, the kingdom will always remain beyond our grasp, we keep striving, never giving up, never giving in. We keep as our model and inspiration the mission and person of Jesus who, even on the Cross, continued to say "Amen, Amen". May God bless you all.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ