



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

1 Samuel 26: 2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23;

Psalm 102;

1 Corinthians 15: 45-49;

Luke 6: 27-38

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

This Week 20th February - 27th February (Psalter Week 3)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
Sunday 20th February Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C	8.30 am For the Sick & Housebound Parishioners 10.30 am Pat Smith RIP (AM) 6.00 pm People of the Parish	
Monday 21st February Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 Jenifer Cornwall RIP (AM)	
Tuesday 22nd February Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, Apostle	9.15 am Holy Communion Service	
Wednesday 23rd February Memorial of St. Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr	9.15 am Elizabeth Larkin (KL)	6.00 pm: Adoration & Benediction (Live Streamed only)
Thursday 24th February Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Paul Ingram (FG)	
Friday 25th February Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Holy Mass	9.45am: Novena to the Sacred Heart (soon after Mass)
Saturday 26th February Feria in Ordinary Time	11.00 am Holy Mass	10.15 am -10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 27th February Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C	8.30 am Michael McCorry (MM) 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Mr & Mrs Mathew Naduvilekattu RIP (SM)	Day for the Unemployed 12 Noon: Baptism

"At times fundamentalist violence is unleashed in some groups, of whatever religion, by the rashness of their leaders. Yet, 'the commandment of peace is inscribed in the depths of the religious traditions that we represent.'"

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 284)

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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HEAD TEACHER

Mrs. Cath Bryan

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PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

Gerry Ceclich

Kate Dalglish

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: The Lord is compassion and Love.

6.00 pm: My soul give thanks to the Lord all my being bless
His holy name. X2

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.

ADORATION ON WEDNESDAYS

We are planning to resume the Wednesday Adoration from 10.00 am until 7.00 pm. If you would like to pledge an hour with the Lord in Adoration on Wednesdays, please write your names and the desired time in the list at the back of the church.

ONLINE LENT RETREAT

There will be an online Lent Retreat (from the Jesuits in Scotland) starting on Ash Wednesday (2nd March) and running until Easter Sunday (17th April). If you are interested, or would like to join in, or for more details, please contact Max and Cecilia Jourdiier as soon as you can at mandcjourdiier@gmail.com or on 01886 812259.

RAISING AWARENESS OF EXPLOITATION AND VULNERABILITY – TRAINING SESSION BY WEST MERCIA POLICE

We have yet to receive any names for the Safeguarding Training that is planned to take place on Saturday 12th March from 9.30 am until 11.30 am. This is **open to all**. If you would like to attend or would like further information, please contact the Safeguarding Team at sg.sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk. If we do not meet the minimum number of attendees before 28th February 2022 then the training will not go ahead. Many thanks, Safeguarding Team.

ZIMBABWE MEDICAL CENTRE APPEAL: ONE THOUSAND HEARTS

Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College has made links with people from a village called Nyandoro, in the Nyanga Province of Zimbabwe and are currently appealing for donations to help fund the completion of a medical centre for the village. Their nearest medical centre is currently 20km away. Full information is available in the letter (originally sent to parents and carers) emailed with this newsletter. If you would like to donate to this appeal any cash donations can be passed to the parish office clearly marked Blessed Edward Oldcorne Medical Centre Appeal and we will arrange to pass the money on to Blessed Edward Oldcorne.

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

Droitwich CVS have some Government Household Support funding to assist Droitwich residents with shopping vouchers, household goods, mobile top ups, essential warm clothes etc. Information about this fund has been emailed with this newsletter. If you are not on the email list, are in need of support yourself or know someone who would benefit, and would like more information about the support available and how to apply please contact the Parish Office or Droitwich SVP at droitwichsvp@gmail.com.

WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING CONTACTLESS & ONLINE DONATIONS

Our cashless giving device is now in the church. Just use your debit/credit card or smart phone/device to make a donation. There is also an online donation button on the homepage of our website at <http://www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk/>.

COVID-19 GUIDANCE: UPDATED 6TH FEBRUARY 2022

The Archdiocese have recently updated their Covid-19 guidance. Please note that the wearing of face covering is now advised rather than mandatory. Please sanitise your hands on entrance and exit. Holy Communion will continue to be under one kind. Social distancing is not required but please be sensitive to the needs of others in church. As has always been good practice during pandemic, please **DO NOT** attend church if you, or someone in your household, has symptoms of COVID. A big thank you to all of you for your cooperation and understanding.

A SPONSORED WALK ON THE FEAST OF ST. GEORGE

SATURDAY 23RD APRIL 2022

Friends of the Holy Land in Wyre Forest are planning a sponsored walk to Harvington on the Saturday in the Octave of Easter which, this year, is on the Feast of St. George, with the following objectives:

- To pray for all who have suffered as a result of COVID.
- To raise funds for Christians in the Holy Land who have suffered more than many due to the consequences of the pandemic.
- To petition the support of St. George in this venture.

Full information has been emailed with this newsletter. If you would like to join the walk or would like further information, please contact Deacon John O'Brien at jmcobrien@btinternet.com or on 07482 098158.

WANT TO GIVE YOUR MARRIAGE A BOOST

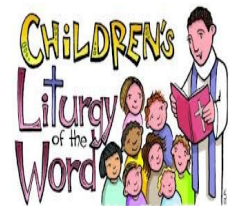
Treat yourselves to a life changing Marriage Encounter Experience. Our next experiences are 4th-6th March, 14th & 21st May and 11th-12th June. Visit WWME.org.uk for more details and booking. A great marriage, lifts your family, Parish and personal happiness.

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.*

JOB VACANCY: BLESSED EDWARD OLDCORNE CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College are currently have a vacancy for a college librarian. If you are interested in applying, please visit their website at <https://www.blessed-edward.co.uk/about-us/vacancies/>. The closing date is 9.00 am on Friday 4th March.



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 after half term. All children are welcome. Thank you to the volunteers who will be leading these groups.

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

Main Collection:
£119.84

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**The retiring
collection for
Racial Justice raised:**
£44.08

**Thank you for your
generosity.**

**Mass Attendance
Last Sunday: 158**

MASS WITH THE SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING

The Anointing Mass
has resumed on every
third Saturday of the
month.

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 27: 4-7;

Psalm 91;

*1 Corinthians 15:
54-58;*

Luke 6: 39-45

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.

Love as Jesus did!

On this Seventh Sunday, the Church reminds us of the essential virtues and elements of our Christian life. They include: mercy and compassion, love of God and neighbour, self-control and appreciation of values, moral responsibility, awareness of sin and the sense of the sacred. These are marks of our spiritual progress and Christian growth. A famous quotation of Mahatma Gandhi is, "Non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of humankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction". Non-violence is not being passive. Gandhi would never suggest that you silently put up with injustice. He said injustice must be fought but not with violence. One might say, "I can accept that non-violence is the best way to achieve results. We can see its logic. But when one says to me, to love my enemy that is a step too far". For that is what we are called to do in today's Gospel reading.

Jesus explains what this means, "do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly". Loving our enemies is not avoiding them or tolerating them. Instead, it is being positive to them. That is what David showed to Saul in our first reading. He had every opportunity to kill Saul but did not. From the human point of view, he was foolish and imprudent because Saul wanted to kill him, but David is an example of the love that Jesus talks of in our Gospel. As you listen to me you might say, "It is all very well for us to preach, but if you knew what so-and-so did to me you would not be preaching about love of enemies. When the hurt caused to us by the other person is severe, we have painful memories. The first step in forgiving the other person is to heal those painful memories. As we remember the painful event imagine Jesus with us comforting us. Do that for as long as we need. If the hurt is very painful the most courageous thing to do is to seek therapy or counselling of some kind. When memories are being healed, we can forgive. You might say to me that I still don't have a clue and there is no way that you could love your enemy after what has been done to you. If the pain and hurt is as bad as that, and sometimes it is, I would say, that forgiving in this situation is a grace or a miracle for which we need to pray. People have forgiven the most extraordinary crimes because they were blessed by the grace of God to do so.

It is not impossible to love enemies. If it were impossible, Jesus would not have asked us to do so. If he asked us to love enemies it is certainly possible though difficult. So let us pray for the grace to forgive. If we exact an eye for an eye the whole world will go blind. Jesus asks us to put love into life, to break the spiral of violence and hatred and negativity by putting love into life. When Jesus looks at His executioners from the cross and offers forgiveness, can there be any doubt of His love for them? His love conquers all, even our hurts, fears, prejudices and griefs. Only the cross of Jesus Christ can free us from the tyranny of malice, hatred, revenge, and resentment and give us the courage to return evil with good. Such love and grace have power to heal and to save from destruction. What a powerful teaching Jesus left for us. Nobody in the world ever taught such teachings that of Christ. If at all the whole humanity accept the teachings of Jesus and lives accordingly, that would be the Heaven on earth for which Jesus came to this earth. Let us pray today that our hearts might truly be open to forgiveness and to the acceptance of being treated badly. Let us love all our enemies: the enemies of our country, the enemies of our families, and our personal enemies. Let us bless them and pray for them. Fr. George Mathew SCJ