



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Ecclesiasticus 27: 4-7;
Psalm 91;
1 Corinthians 15: 54-58;
Luke 6: 39-45

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

This Week 27th February - 6th March (Psalter Week 4)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
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
Monday 28th February Memorial of St. Oswald, Bishop	9.15 Paul Seddon RIP (RB)	
Tuesday 1st March Feast of St. David, Bishop, Patron of Wales	9.15 am Theresa Thennissen (30th Birthday) BB	
Wednesday 2nd March Ash Wednesday	9.15 am Claire Webster RIP 7.00 pm Holy Mass	6.00 pm: Adoration & Benediction (Live Streamed only)
Thursday 3rd March Thursday after Ash Wednesday	9.15 am Holy Mass	
Friday 4th March Friday after Ash Wednesday	9.15 am Holy Mass	9.45am: Novena to the Sacred Heart (soon after Mass) 6.30 pm: Youth Group Women's World Day of Prayer
Saturday 5th March Saturday after Ash Wednesday	11.00 am Gladys Remedios RIP (KA)	10.15 am -10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 6th March First Sunday of Lent Year C	8.30 am People of the Parish 10.30 am Holy Mass 6.00 pm Cillian Ryan RIP (DR)	Retiring Collection for Cathedral Maintenance During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy

"In my fraternal meeting, which I gladly recall, with the Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, "we resolutely [declared] that religions must never incite war, hateful attitudes, hostility and extremism, nor must they incite violence or the shedding of blood. These tragic realities are the consequence of a deviation from religious teachings...For this reason I would like to reiterate here the appeal for peace, justice and fraternity that we made together."

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 285)

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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rcaob.org.uk

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: It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

6.00 pm: I thank you Yahweh with all my heart. I thank you
Yahweh my God. Each time I call for help you hear
and answer me. I thank you Yahweh my God.

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.**

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 Jourdier as soon as you
can at mandcjourdier@gmail.com or on 01886 812259.

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

We still do not have sufficient numbers 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.

TEAS AND COFFEES

We are planning to resume offering refreshments after the 8.30 am and
10.30 am Sunday Masses from the First Sunday in Lent. If you would like to
volunteer to be on a rota to make the teas and coffees after either Mass,
please contact the parish office or speak to Fr. George.

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. If you 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 **avoid** attending 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

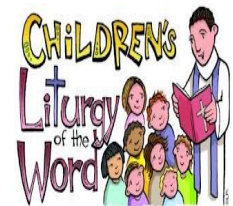
Treat yourselves to a life changing Marriage Encounter Experience Our next experiences are 4th-6th March, 14th & 21st May and 11th-12th June. Visit WWME.org.uk for more details and booking. A great marriage, lifts your family, Parish and personal happiness

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:
£191.10
Gift Aid: £210
Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.

Additional
donations for Racial
Justice raised:
Gift Aid: £92.80
Thank you for your
generosity.

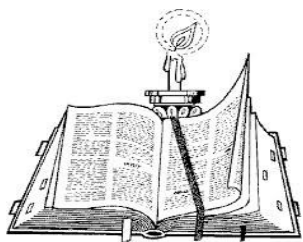
Mass Attendance
Last Sunday: 190

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

Deuteronomy 26: 4-10;
Psalm 90;
Romans 10: 8-13;
Luke 4: 1-13

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.

A True Disciple!

On this 8th Sunday of Ordinary Time the liturgical readings describe how one could be a true disciple of Christ today. What is the heart of a disciple according to the Scripture? What are the three basic criteria to determine a true disciple? The first reading and the Gospel use three images each to describe and clarify who is a true disciple. In the first reading the wisdom uses three images to explain a true disciple. Just as in a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, the kiln tests the work of the potter and the quality of the fruits are judged by the orchard where they are grown, the human heart is judged by ones words.

What is the heart in the light of the Gospel reading today? The heart is the centre of a person. St. Augustine would say that the heart represents what is deepest and truest in oneself. It is from the heart one communicates to God. The Bible says, "Man looks by the appearance, but God sees the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). In fact, God wants us to serve and love Him from our hearts, as "This people honour me with their lips but their hearts are far away" (Isaiah 29:13). Therefore, when our Christian day to day life is received by the word of God and tested by the furnace of suffering in life, does it bear good fruits to our neighbour? Each time we read and meditate on the word of God, our actions are sieved and pass through the furnace of tempests in life, do we still speak words that unites and that brings reconciliation between persons and communities?

The Gospel readings draws the conclusion of the sermon on the mountain. The objective of this passage is to bring about three criteria establishing the true heart of a disciple. This means that a true disciple should be able to link what is in their heart and put it into action. The three characteristics of a true disciple are to Guide, to Imitate Christ and Bear Good Fruits. The disciple who guides should not be a blind man but rather he/she should have a clear vision and understanding of Christ and his teachings. Pope France says in one of his homilies, "some people use rigidity to cover up ones own weakness and rank themselves as above all the others". Such people are blind by their own logs in their eyes. A true disciple needs conversion of the heart, the heart that accepts the love of Christ and transforms that love to the other. The second criteria of a true disciple is to imitate Christ: we are living in a world of hero worship; the Hollywood stars, the sports personalities etc. But all those models are imperfect. Christ as the model is the only perfect model to be imitated. In addition to that a true disciple learns from the master who is Christ. Are we living like our master Christ? The last criterion of a true disciple is to bear good fruit. Images of a tree are used in both readings to explain this in depth. Just as the fruits originate from the tree so the behaviour of a true disciple originates from Christ who is acting through him. When our hearts are rooted in Christ, we will bear good fruits. God bless us