



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

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

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

This Week 6th March - 13th March (Psalter Week 1)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
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
Monday 7th March Lent Feria	9.15 Holy Mass	
Tuesday 8th March Lent Feria	9.15 am Bernadette Violet Duffy	10.30 am: Church Visit (Private Group)
Wednesday 9th March Lent Feria	9.15 am People of the Ukraine (CP) 5.00 pm Adoration & Rosary	6.00 pm: Adoration & Benediction (Live Streamed only)
Thursday 10th March Lent Feria	9.15 am Michael O'Grady RIP (CE)	
Friday 11th March Lent Feria	9.15 am David Veale RIP (AM) 9.45am: Novena to the Sacred Heart (soon after Mass) 5.15 pm Stations of the Cross	6.30 pm: Youth Group Lent Fast Day
Saturday 12th March Lent Feria	11.00 am Harry Remedios RIP (KA)	10.15 am -10.45 am: Confessions Safeguarding Training: 9.30 am
Sunday 13th March Second Sunday of Lent Year C Retiring Collection for CAFOD	8.30 am Pat Tomlinson (EK) 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Holy Mass	During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy Day of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments

"Those who wage war forget humanity. They...do not look at the real life of people, but place partisan interests and power before all else. They trust in the diabolical and perverse logic of weapons, which is the furthest from the logic of God. And they distance themselves from ordinary people, who...are the real victims in every conflict...I think of the elderly, of those who seek refuge in these times, of mothers fleeing with their children...They are brothers and sisters for whom it is urgent to open humanitarian corridors, and who must be welcomed...I repeat: put down your weapons! God is with the peacemakers, not with those who use violence."

Pope Francis, 27th February 2022

**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-
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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: Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.

6.00 pm: And He will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of His hand.

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 Wednesday 9th March at 5.00 pm there will be an hour of Adoration and Rosary to pray for the people in Ukraine and for peace in the world.

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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Lent is a time to reflect more deeply on Jesus's journey to Calvary. This year this traditional devotion is at 5.15 pm on each Sunday of Lent. In previous years individuals and groups have offered to lead the reflection. If you wish to lead this devotion on one of the Sundays, please speak to Fr. George SCJ. Many thanks.

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

This training will take place on Saturday 12th March from 9.30 am until 11.30 am in the Parish Hall. 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.

ONLINE LENT RETREAT

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

SVP & UKRAINE

SVP have active conferences in Ukraine and neighbouring Romania. If anyone would like to use SVP as a conduit for refugee relief donations, the appeal website is: www.svp.org.uk.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

Cafod's Family Fast Day is on Friday 11 March. This is a great opportunity to give support to the poorest in the world. Please look for the CAFOD envelopes and the information in the Church. Justice and Peace Group.

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 27TH FEBRUARY

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.

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.

A SPONSORED WALK ON THE FEAST OF ST. GEORGE

SATURDAY 23RD APRIL 2022

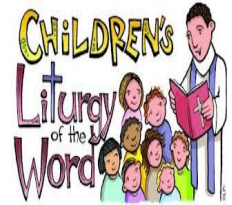
Friends of the Holy Land in Wyre Forest are planning a sponsored walk to Harvington on the Saturday in the Octave of Easter which, this year, is on the Feast of St. George, with the following objectives:

- 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.

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

There will be Children's Liturgy for two groups (4 to 7 year olds and 8 to 11 year olds) at the 10.30 am Mass. All children are welcome.

COMMUNITY MEAL

Caroline is looking for volunteers to help with the Community Meal, which she is hoping to start at the end of March or the first week in April. Caroline will be at the back of the church after each mass today to take names. Thank you for your support.

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

Main Collection:
£203.90

Gift Aid: £161.00

Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.

**Mass Attendance
Last Sunday: 162**

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

*Genesis 15: 5-12,
17-18;*

Psalms 26;

Philippians 3: 17 - 4: 1;

Luke 9: 28-36

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.

Dear beloved in the Lord, on Wednesday we began the season of Lent which is our preparation for the Easter celebration of Jesus' resurrection. It is a time in imitation of Jesus spending forty days in the desert. "By the solemn forty days of lent, the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert" (CCC 540). By choosing the temptation of Jesus as the Gospel for this Sunday, the church gives us an orientation to how each of us must approach Lent and life itself.

The three temptations of Jesus have been seen as corresponding to the temptations of Israel. The temptations involved bread, testing the Lord, and idolatry. Luke describes that the temptations come after the period of forty days and thus highlight the fact that Jesus would have been vulnerable. He would have been weakened by hunger. This is why the first temptation arises out of Jesus' physical need. It was a temptation to use his power for his own benefit. A temptation to be selfish and to satisfy one's own needs. It is also a temptation to concern oneself with the material alone as is evident in the response of Jesus: "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God". The second temptation, to acquire power, authority, and dominion by worshipping Satan, is really a temptation to take the easy way rather than the right way. In the third and final temptation, the devil quotes scripture since Jesus has used scripture to overcome the previous temptations. This temptation is to put God to the test. Jesus' response, with words taken from the Book of Deuteronomy, is clear and unambiguous. God is to be worshipped and obeyed and not put to the test. The final verse in Luke, which states that the Devil left him till an opportune time, is Luke's way of saying that Jesus continued to be tempted throughout his life. The uniqueness of Jesus is not merely that he was without sin, but that, even after being tempted, he continued to remain sinless. Thus, the temptations must be interpreted as the constant struggle or conflict between God's reign and the reign of evil.

This struggle continues today, even after the death and resurrection of Jesus. We continue to be lured by numerous temptations. One of these is the temptation to be successful at all costs, even if it means demeaning others or riding roughshod over them. Other temptations are to have more, rather than to be more, or to choose the easy way rather than the right way, or to sit on the fence rather than to take a stand, or to take the broad road rather than the road of pain and sacrifice, or even to focus so much on the external that the internal is forgotten. How are we to overcome these temptations? Lent is the time of spring, of new growth to wake up into a new spirit that was kept dormant during the rest of the year. To raise up from an ordinary Christian to a holy person, a person infused by Christ. We are offered today an example to follow and imitate. To be sure, the story of the temptations does not give us readymade answers to all the allurements and enticements we face every day, but they do point us to the response of Jesus, which always remained a response in God's will, rather than his own. As we begin the grace filled season of Lent, we are invited and challenged by Jesus' response to Satan. We are invited and challenged to make Jesus' response our own.

God bless you. Fr. George Mathew SCJ