



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15;
Psalm 102;
1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12;
Luke 13: 1-9

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

This Week 20th March - 27th March (Psalter Week 3)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 20th March Third Sunday of Lent Year C	8.30 am Peter Perry RIP (AK) 10.30 am Alice Lane (MS) 6.00 pm People of the Parish	During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy 5.15 pm Stations of the Cross
Monday 21st March Lent Feria	9.15 Mariyakkutty Varkki RIP	
Tuesday 22nd March Lent Feria	9.15 am Paulose Varghese RIP (JP)	
Wednesday 23rd March Lent Feria	9.15 am Holy Mass	10.00 am until 7.00 pm: Adoration
Thursday 24th March Lent Feria	9.15 am Della McCarthy Smith and Family (MM)	
Friday 25th March Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord	9.15 am Mattayi Madathikunnel RIP 9.45am: Novena to the Sacred Heart (soon after Mass)	6.30 pm: Youth Group
Saturday 26th March Lent Feria	11.00 am Gladys Remedios RIP (KA)	10.15 am -10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 27th March Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C	8.30 am George McClenaghan RIP(MM) 10.30 am Thanksgiving Mass (BB) 6.00 pm People of the Parish	During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy 12 Noon: Baptism 5.15 pm Stations of the Cross

"God is only the God of peace, he is not the God of war and those who support violence profane his name."

Pope Francis, 13th March 2022

**SACRED HEART
COMMUNITY**

Fr. George Mathew SCJ
(Parish Priest)

fr.george.mathew@
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**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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Mrs. Cath Bryan

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**PARISH SAFEGUARDING
REPRESENTATIVES**

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**Archdiocese of
Birmingham
Safeguarding Team**

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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.

LIVE SIMPLY - THE NEXT CHAPTER

The Pope is urging us to Live Simply; the bible urges us to help others. The parish is proposing to combine the two by setting up a Community Garden to grow vegetables for those in need, the Foodbank and the presbytery. We need to start quickly for this season and above all we need a Garden Leader and a bunch of helpers – the more hands the lighter the work! If you would like to help with this project please give your name to Fr George or the Parish Office or write your name on a card and put it in the box provided at the back of church. We will get in touch with you. Thank you for your support.

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.

ADORATION ON WEDNESDAYS

We are resuming the Wednesday Adoration on Wednesday 23rd March 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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2022

If your child is in Year 3 or above and you wish for your child to be prepared to receive this Sacrament in the summer 2022, please would you contact Fr. George SCJ or the Parish Office by Sunday 27th March. The first meeting for parents and children will take place on Saturday 2nd April at 10.00 am in the Parish Hall. This year the First Holy Communion Mass will be on Saturday 11th June at 11.00 am.

DAY OF RECOLLECTION FOR READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

The annual Day of Recollection will be on Friday 8th April from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm. Please remember to bring a packed lunch with you; tea and coffee will be provided.

SVP DROITWICH

Would you like some company on a Sunday afternoon? Come once a month to the Sacred Heart Church Hall for a friendly get together and have a cuppa, cake and biscuits and a chat. Initially we will meet on the second Sunday of the month 2.30 pm until 4.30 pm in the Sacred Heart Church Hall Elgar room. This is open to all and will be ecumenical and free. For more information please contact the SVP on 0777 292 7535. **We look forward to seeing you.**

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.

STELLA MARIS

On the one-year anniversary of the Ever Given ship getting stuck in the Suez Canal, Catholic charity Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) is hosting a webinar about modernisation in the shipping industry. It will look at the history of the container ship, the rise of the ultra-large container vessels, and explore what impact modernisation of the shipping industry has had on seafarers around the world. Please register now at www.stellamaris.org.uk/modernisation to join online on Wednesday 23rd March at 7.30pm to hear how shipping has changed in the last century, the impact this is having on seafarers today, and the important role Stella Maris has in supporting them.

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM: DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2022

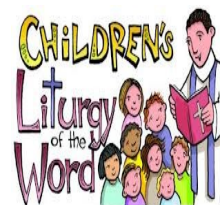
We have a few copies of the 2022 Diocesan Directory available for parishioners. These are £2.75 each and are available from the Parish Office.

FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND: HOW IS THE HOLY LAND?

On Tuesday 22nd March at 7.00pm Laila Asfoura will be in Worcester at St. George's Hall as part of her country wide tour to talk to all of our contacts about the current situation in the Holy Land and how our brothers and sisters are faring after two years of pandemic without pilgrimages. To reserve a seat, please contact Jim Quinn at j.quinn789@btinternet.com or phone on 01299 851021.

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. Thank you for your support.

MASS WITH THE SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING

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

ST. RICHARD & ST. HUBERT CHURCH, HADZOR

Mass has now resumed at 5.00 pm every Saturday.

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

Main Collection:

£282.30

Gift Aid: £2,864.00

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

Mass Attendance

Last Sunday: 176

**The retiring
collection for
CAFOD raised:
£533.88**

**Thank you for your
generosity.**

**GIFT AID
ENVELOPES**

Gift Aid envelopes for
the 2022/2023 Tax
Year are now
available to collect
from the back of
church.

ASYLUM SEEKERS

Anyone wishing to
learn more about the
work being done to
support the asylum
seekers locally are
welcome to attend
the 10.30 am service
at the Methodist
church, Droitwich on
Sunday 27th March
where Sam Cox will
be talking about the
work being done.



Next Sunday's Mass

Readings

Joshua 5: 9-12;

Psalms 33;

2 Corinthians 5: 17-21;

Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32.

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.

Are we producing fruits that God wants us to produce?

The proof of the tree is in its fruit, flower or whatever it contributes. Produce or perish - that is the rule. Any wise farmer will cut away a fruitless tree to make space for a fruitful one. Are we really productive plants in God's garden? We know we are sinners - all of us. Unless we change, stop producing evil fruit and start producing good fruit, we shall perish. God has no use of us, and no one has any use of us, if we obstinately refuse to think good thoughts, say good words and do good deeds. But we can change, correct ourselves and improve. Though a bad tree cannot produce good fruit, a human being can give up evil ways, take a new direction and begin a better journey. And so God gives us one more chance.

The fruitless fig tree in today's Gospel reading represents Israel, God's favourite people, the choice fig tree that He planted and cared for. But the people of Israel did not produce the expected fruit. They became rebellious and disobedient. Still, God granted them time for conversion, gave them more and more chances to improve and produce good fruit. Yet they failed time and again, thus inviting disaster. Being chosen by God is no guarantee of being fruitful or of escaping judgement. As St. Paul says, "Let anyone who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall" (2nd reading). Though we are the new Israel, God's chosen people, we have so often produced bad fruit. All the same, in His mercy, God has given us time for conversion, one more chance to change. If we do not correspond to His grace, and do not produce good fruit, our chance will come to an end. Then will come the moment of judgement and justice that no one can escape. God sent His Son Jesus to do for us all that was possible to liberate us from the slavery of sin, and to make us produce good fruit. If, after receiving all the care and support Jesus has given, we still do not produce good fruit, what will be our end? We are sinners, and unless we repent, we shall perish! We should neither do nor desire evil, as the 2nd reading tells us. Not only words and deeds but also desires are good or evil. Surely God does not wish any of His children to be lost, but no one is saved unless he or she cooperates with God. Does the parable of the fruitless fig tree apply to you and me? We still have hope. Christ has obtained for us one more chance to become fruitful.

In today's Gospel Jesus invites us to a genuine conversion. We need to change our track and adopt a better way of living. To repent is to learn to live in Christ, to leave the world of sin and to enter into the world of freedom and grace. The nation that chooses the wrong way will end up in the wrong place, i.e. in the hardship it does not want. If we do not make good use of the time granted us, it will elapse and no one can extend it. Like the people of Israel in Egypt, the entire humanity is in a state of misery, a prey to sin, death and evil, and unable to liberate itself. But Christ has come as the new Moses, walking ahead of us, leading us into freedom and the Father's house. This march is a perpetual exodus, a progressive pilgrimage out of our old sinful life into the life of grace. It is a continuous conversion. Let us really benefit from this Lenten season by walking this path of conversion with true repentance and sincere trust in Jesus our Saviour. God bless you. God Bless us all.