



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

1 Kings 19: 16, 19-21;
Psalm 15;
Galations 5: 1, 13-18;
Luke 9: 51-62

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

This Week 26th June - 3rd July (Psalter Week 1)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 26th June Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C Retiring Collection for Peter's Pence	8.30 am Fr. Terry Luxon RIP (MM) 10.30 am Special Intention (MD) 12 Noon: Baptism 6.00 pm People of the Parish	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall
Monday 27th June Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Catherine and Charles McGlinchey RIP (GM)	
Tuesday 28th June Memorial of St. Irenaeus, Bishop, Martyr	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Vincenza Eaton RIP (MF)	10.00 am: Church Tour (Private Group)
Wednesday 29th June Solemnity of Ss. Peter & Paul, Apostles	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Katie Hobday (GM) 7.00 pm Holy Mass	10.00 am until 6.45 pm: Adoration
Thursday 30th June Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Brenda O'Keeffe - 90th Birthday (JC) 1.15 pm: Funeral Service	
Friday 1st July Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Phil Yates RIP (Fr. G)	
Saturday 2nd July Feria in Ordinary Time	11.00 am Betty Parry (EK) 3.00 pm Wedding	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 3rd July Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C	8.30 am Anna Wilson RIP (EK) 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Phil Yates RIP (BO)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy

"There is hunger for food around us, but also of companionship; there is hunger for consolation, friendship, good humour; there is hunger for attention, there is hunger to be evangelized. We find this in the Eucharistic Bread - the attention of Christ to our needs and the invitation to do the same toward those who are beside us. We need to eat and feed others."

Pope Francis, 19th June 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-
droitwich.worcs.sch.uk

HEAD TEACHER

Mrs. Cath Bryan

PARISH SECRETARY

Kate Dalglish

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**PARISH SAFEGUARDING
REPRESENTATIVES**

Gerry Ceclich

Kate Dalglish

Clare Tomlinson

Email:
sg.sacredheart.droitwich
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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: O Lord, it is you who are my portion.

6.00 pm: Keep me safe O God I take refuge in you. X4, Laudate 40

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, Joan Graham, Bob Grant, Bev Griffiths, Beryl Hill, Alan Hurst, John Jennings, Sally McCool, Andrew McDermott, Jackie McLean, Michael Sheridan, Jacky Smith, Paul Smith, Margaret Steward, Breda Wightman, Mark Wightman, Richard Wightman, & Monsignor Graham Wilkinson.

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.

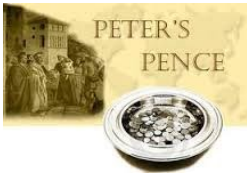
RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for **Phil Yates, Peg Heffernan** and **Rosemary McCabe** who died recently. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. The Funeral Service for Rosemary will be on Thursday 30th June at 1.15 pm, followed by a cremation at Worcester Crematorium at 2.30 pm. Please keep their families and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

**RETURNING TO MASS AT PENTECOST: AN INVITATION FROM THE
BISHOPS OF ENGLAND AND WALES**

“Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed. The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply. We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation. Our Catholic people and parishes have benefitted during these difficult times from the online streaming of Mass and other services. “Virtual viewing” of Mass online does not fulfil the Sunday Obligation. It may, however, be a source of continual spiritual comfort to those who cannot attend Mass in person, for example those who are elderly and sick, for whom the obligation does not apply. In this context, we recognise gratefully the ministry of those who administer Holy Communion to the elderly, sick and housebound. Looking forward to the forthcoming feast of Pentecost, we now invite all Catholics who have not yet done so to return to attending Mass in person.” The full letter is available at the back of the church and on the parish website.

RETIRING COLLECTION FOR PETER'S PENCE



In the second collection today, we are supporting Pope Francis in his charitable works. The Peter's Pence Collection is taken up worldwide to support our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and natural disasters. This collection is an opportunity to join with Pope Francis and be a witness of charity to our suffering brothers and sisters. Please be generous in today's collection.

GIFT AID

If you donate regularly to the Church and are a UK taxpayer please will you consider making a gift aid declaration so that the Church can claim the tax back from the Government on your donations. There will be someone standing outside Church after each of the Sunday Masses on July 10th. Any questions you have can be answered and a very simple form can either be filled in then or taken away for you to fill in and return later. **Making a gift declaration will not cost you anymore than what you already donate.**

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

A big thankyou for all the wonderful donations that we have received for the male asylum seekers who are currently in our area. We have been informed that they have sufficient in stock for the time being. Can we stop the donations for the time being and we will let you know when any other items are required. Thank you for your much needed support. If you would like some company, a drink, chat and cake then please come and join us on Sunday 10th July from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm in the church hall. Please see the notice at the back of church for more information. You can contact us at droitwichsvp@gmail.com or on 07772 927535.

REFUGEE KNITTING

If anyone would like to knit anything to benefit the Syrian and Ukrainian Refugees there is wool, patterns, needles and buttons to help defray your costs stored at the back of church. The knitting collections can now resume, as GAIN are able to once again receive donations. Unfortunately I am unable to accept other items these days, with the exception of new underwear. Many thanks to those who continued to knit and store items at home, I look forward to seeing your wonderful creations.

200 CLUB

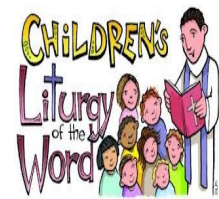
Our thanks to parishioners who have signed up to the 200 Club following our recent appeal for new members. Please complete and return application forms if you've not already done so. We would ask anyone who may be thinking of joining the 200 Club to turn those thoughts into actions; we need you to take on one of those remaining thirty tickets

THANK YOU

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School would like to thank the Catenian Society for their kind donation to the school and to Mike for presenting this to the school.

COVID-19 GUIDANCE

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. Please **avoid** attending church if you, or someone in your household, has symptoms of COVID. Thank you for your co-operation.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be no Children's Liturgy today.

COMMUNITY MEAL

The next Community Meal is on Monday 11th July at 12.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS - NEW ROTA

The new rota for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers is available to collect from the Sacristy.

JOB VACANCIES

Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College are recruiting for a Home Liaison Officer (closing date 10.00 am on Friday 1st July) and Cover Officer (closing date 10.00 am on Thursday 7th July).

Please see <https://www.blessed-edward.co.uk/about-us/vacancies/> for details and an application form.

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

Main Collection

£237.34

Gift Aid: £144.00

Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.

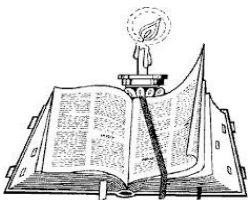
Mass attendance
last Sunday: 251

The retiring
collection for
Day for Life raised:
£99.10

Gift Aid: £84.45
Thank you for your
generosity.

CCTV

We have installed four CCTV cameras in the church covering the Narthex, main entrance and the path through the graveyard. For information access requests please contact the Archdiocese of Birmingham on 0121 230 6216 during office hours or the Parish Office on 01905 773258 outside of these times.



Next Sunday's Mass Readings

Isaiah 66: 10-14;

Psalms 65;

Galatians 6: 14-18;

Luke 10: 1-12, 17-20

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.

The work of the Kingdom will go on...!

Have we ever felt the healing touch of Christ in our lives? Sometimes our lives are shattered and disturbed by the burdens that we carry as a result of our own sufferings and those of our loved ones. We are troubled when those closest to us are troubled. And when our lives come to revolve around persistent problems that strike at our hearts, it is easy to lose hope and distrust God. Today on this Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, the church calls us to be fully committed to Christ. Without "Looking back," we must freely "let go" all the forces, distractions, and obstacles that prevent us from trusting in him and serving the Lord. In the first reading we see Elisha slaughters his oxen and detached everything he had to follow God. The slaughtering of his oxen is very significant for us today. He "killed and abandoned everything" that could have become an obstacle to his decision to serve God in the future. Also, he overcame the temptation to keep them. This was the proof of his total commitment to God. What have we sacrificed, and what is our evidence of it?

Coming to the Gospel to a different course of action by Jesus, responding to his disciple who urged him to call fire from heaven upon the wicked. Jesus' response is a clear indication that his mission is not to win through domination and subjugation, but rather through unconditional and continual love. As a matter of fact, it is precisely because his way is more challenging than the way of conquest and invasion. Jesus does not use coercion or force to gain disciples. He only invites. However, even as he invites, he makes it abundantly clear to those who would dare to follow what the consequences will be of their following. They will have to be as ones who have no security of home or hearth. They will have to be as ones who are ready to face opposition, hostility, and conflict. They will be as ones who profess total and complete detachment, detachment from all the attachments that stand on the way between God and oneself. This is the kind of detachment that Elisha shows when he slaughters his oxen and uses the equipment that comes with them for fuel. Through this act, Elisha, though allowed to say farewell to his father and mother, demonstrates that he is prepared for an unconditional following of God through his mentor, Elijah.

The work of the kingdom which Jesus inaugurated is heavy and demanding work. It requires a persevering commitment. It is easy to get discouraged and want to give up in the face of trials and difficulties. It is easy to give up in the face of rejection and challenges. Following Jesus will mean, as Paul illuminates in the second reading of today, the desire to communicate love and to do it constantly, even in the face of fear and rejection. Love indeed sums up the whole law. Those who decide to follow will have to show through both word and deed this love which Jesus manifested when he was on earth. This means first, living by the spirit and not by the flesh. That means, if I am too much attached to the worldly things, it will obviously be a hard task for me to attach to God and be faithful to him. May this Eucharistic celebration that unites us to Christ through his pascal mystery, be an opportunity to be attached to Jesus ever closer.