



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Apocalypse 11: 19, 12: 1-6, 10;
Psalm 44;
1 Corinthians 15: 20-26;
Luke 1: 39-56

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

This Week 14th August - 21st August (Psalter Week 4)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 14th August Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Year C	8.30 am Betty Parry RIP (EK) 10.30 am Francis Ouseph RIP (MF) 6.00 pm Daniel Kavanagh RIP	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall 12 Noon: Baptism 2.30 pm: SVP Afternoon
Monday 15th August Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Daphne RIP (P & CI)	
Tuesday 16th August Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Michael Mason RIP (PS)	
Wednesday 17th August Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Betty Parry RIP (P & CI)	10.00 am until 7.00 pm: Adoration 5.00 pm: Reception of the Body
Thursday 18th August Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Daphne RIP (CS) 10.30 am Requiem Mass	
Friday 19th August Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am John & Ruby Martin, Frank & Molly Quigley RIP (I & MM)	9.45am: Novena to the Sacred Heart (soon after Mass)
Saturday 20th August Memorial of St. Bernard, Abbot, Doctor of the Church	11.00 am Gladys Remedios RIP Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 21st August Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C	8.30 am Daphne Bath RIP (AM) 10.30 am Betty Parry RIP (LH) 6.00 pm Deceased Members of the Bullock Family (BB)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall 12 Noon: Baptism

“Jesus reassures us: Do not be afraid! Trust in the Father who wants to give you all that you truly need. He has already given you His Son, His Kingdom, and He will always accompany you with His providence, taking care of you every day.”

Pope Francis, 7th August 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

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**Archdiocese of
Birmingham**

Safeguarding Team

Tel.: 0121 230 6240

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RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.00 pm:

On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for all our parishioners, and/or their friends and relatives, who are unwell:

Barbara Conway, 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 & Brendan Wyatt

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 **Betty Parry** who died recently. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. The Requiem Mass will be at 10.30 am on Thursday 18th August with the reception of the body into church at 5.00 on Wednesday 17th August. The Requiem Mass will be followed by a burial at St. Mary's Churchyard. Please keep her family and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL:

FOUNDATION GOVERNORS

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School has vacancies for Foundation Governors on the governing body. Foundation Governors are appointed by the Bishop specifically to preserve and develop the Catholic ethos of the school and must be practising Catholics. The governors of a Catholic school work as a team, in close co-operation with the headteacher and all the staff. Foundation governors share the responsibilities of all governors:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

If you think you can support the school in this way, please speak to Fr. George or Mrs. Lamb (Clerk to Governors) at office@st-josephs-droitwich.worcs.sch.uk

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO HARVINGTON HALL

This year the Annual Pilgrimage to Harvington Hall, Shrine of the English Martyrs, is on Sunday 4th September. Mass is at 3.00 pm with Confessions from 1.45 pm until 2.30 pm. Very Rev. Canon Richard Walker, Vicar General, will be the principal celebrant. Free timed tours of Harvington Hall are available to all pilgrims on the day and can be booked in the Hall's courtyard when you arrive. **Please bring your own chairs.**

BARNARDO'S REPORT

An independent review undertaken by the charity Barnardo's on behalf of the Archdiocese of Birmingham in relation to the management of concerns about Joseph Quigley, a priest in the Archdiocese, is now available on the Diocesan website: at <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/review-into-archdiocese-safeguarding-published>. The Trustees of the Archdiocese of Birmingham have accepted this review and its 18 recommendations in full and you can also see the full response on the website. As an institution it is for the present Bishops and Trustees to take corporate responsibility, to apologise, learn and ensure best safeguarding practice now and in the future. There has been a significant amount of positive change in Diocesan safeguarding practice. However, these recommendations will help inform ongoing learning and improvement within the Archdiocese.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

This year the Parish will be organising a Christmas Raffle. Your support would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to donate a raffle prize, please give your name to Terry as soon as possible so that we will be able to print the tickets well in advance. Thank you.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2022

Children who will be in Year 6 or above in September and are not at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School can be prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Autumn Term 2022. If you would like your child to be part of this parish preparation group please could you contact Fr. George SCJ or the Parish Office by Saturday 27th August. Confirmation preparation classes will begin in September.

REFUGEE KNITTING/DONATIONS

Thank you so much for the items left recently for the refugees. There are buttons, patterns, needles and wool in the first cupboard at the church entrance to help with costs, please help yourselves. Donations of the same are always welcome. For new parishioners, knit anything you feel would bring joy to these desperate people. We are also seeking donations of walking boots (just over ankle height) in sizes 37, 38 or 39 that are no longer needed for the Ukrainian Refugees in the local area. Any donations would be gratefully received and can be left in the box at the back of church. Many thanks.

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT GRANT

Droitwich CVS are able to offer financial support to residents from Droitwich and surrounding villages in receipt of State Pension who are struggling financially through the Wychavon District Council Household Support Fund. Financial help is in the form of a one-off grant (which does not have to be repaid). Grants will be paid out on a first come first served basis and must be claimed by end of September 2022 or before if the money runs out. Please contact 01905 779115 for further information.

COVID-19 GUIDANCE

Face coverings are 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.

READERS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS ROTA

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

COMMUNITY MEAL

The next Community Meal is on Monday 5th September at 12.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

PARISH SECRETARY

The Parish Secretary is on annual leave from Monday 22nd August until Monday 29th August inclusive. Please contact Fr. George if urgent, everything else will be dealt with on my return to the office on Tuesday 30th August.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

If you would like some company, a drink, chat and cake then please come and join us today 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.

Main Collection

£278.20

Gift Aid: £976.10

Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.

Mass attendance
last Sunday: 204



FOODBANK

There is a new wish list that is on the website. Any donations would be gratefully received.

Thank you.



Next Sunday's Mass

Readings

Isaiah 66: 18-21;

Psalm 116;

*Hebrews 12: 5-7,
11-13;*

Luke 13: 22-30

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

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.

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary. One of the four Marian Dogmas. The doctrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven was defined and declared by Pope Pius XII in his apostolic constitution "Munificenissimus Deus" (Nov. 1, 1950) "Did Mary actually die? Neither the Scriptures nor Church tradition, explicitly answer that question. Throughout the centuries, Catholics believed that she did, in fact, die but not as a result of any original or human sin, from which she was uniquely spared, but in conformity to the experience of her Son, Jesus, who died.

What is the meaning of "assumption"? Most simply stated – and the reality is anything but simple to understand by reason alone – "the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory" (Pope Pius XII, "Munificentissimus Deus," 44). The document continues by saying "God, the King of the universe, has granted her favours that surpass nature. As he kept her a virgin in childbirth, thus he has kept her body incorrupt in the tomb and has glorified it by his divine act of transferring it from the tomb."(12) It is important to note that, unlike with Jesus her Son, Church teaching does not use the terms "resurrection" or "ascension" to define or describe the "assumption" of Mary. She was not "raised from the dead" or "brought back to life" on earth nor did she "ascend into heaven by her own power."

What is the meaning of the Assumption of Mary for us? Mary's Assumption anticipates our ultimate union with Christ. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) states: "The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is a singular participation in her Son's Resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians" (CCC, 966). "From Mary we learn to surrender to God's will. From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone. From Mary we learn to love Christ, her Son and the Son of God, to be always faithful, to trust that God's Word to you will be fulfilled, and that nothing is impossible with God. Mary's Assumption shows us our destiny in Christ. This supernatural vision sustains our daily pilgrimage. Mary teaches about life. By looking at her, we understand better the relative value of earthly greatness and the full sense of our Christian vocation. Taken up into heaven, Mary shows us the way to God, the way to heaven, the way to life. She shows it to her children baptized in Christ and to all people of good will. (Pope John Paul II, Homily at St. Peter's Basilica, Rome, Aug. 15, 1999). Mary's Assumption is an event that concerns us precisely because every human being is destined to die. But death is not the last word, Mary's Assumption completes her work on earth and invites us to join her in eternity. The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is, indeed, more than just an obligation. It is a truth of our faith that is rich and full of meaning, so much so that we are drawn to celebrate it regardless of its obligation in the Church's law. Every feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary during the Church's calendar year leads us closer to Christ her Son because of her maternal union with him. St. Bernard of Clairvaux expressed it beautifully: In dangers, in doubts, in difficulties, think of Mary, call upon Mary. With her for your guide, you shall never go astray; while invoking her, you shall never lose heart; so long as she is in your mind, you are safe from deception; while she holds your hand, you cannot fall; under her protection you have nothing to fear; if she walks before you, you shall not grow weary; if she shows you favour, you shall reach the goal. May Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church, assumed into Heaven, pray for us, now and at the hour of our death. Amen! Fr. George Mathew SCJ