



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Isaiah 66: 18-21;
Psalms 116;
Hebrews 12: 5-7, 11-13;
Luke 13: 22-30

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

This Week 21st August - 28th August (Psalter Week 1)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
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
Monday 22nd August Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Betty Parry RIP	
Tuesday 23rd August Feast of St. John Wall, Priest, Martyr	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Bob Grant - Thanksgiving (BB)	
Wednesday 24th August Feast of St. Bartholomew, Apostle	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Brendan Wyatt RIP	10.00 am until 7.00 pm: Adoration
Thursday 25th August Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Betty Parry RIP (MR)	
Friday 26th August Feast of St. Mariam Baouardy	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Bridie Pringle RIP	9.45am: Novena to the Sacred Heart (soon after Mass)
Saturday 27th August Memorial of St. Monica	11.00 am Alan Remedios RIP	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 28th August Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C	8.30 am Holy Mass 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Denis Quinn RIP (DR)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall 12 Noon: Baptism

“It [The Gospel] is just like fire: while it warms us with God’s love, it wants to burn our selfishness, to enlighten the dark sides of life...to consume the false idols that enslave us.”

Pope Francis, 14th 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-
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HEAD TEACHER

Mrs. Cath Bryan

PARISH SECRETARY

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**PARISH SAFEGUARDING
REPRESENTATIVES**

Gerry Ceclich

Kate Dalgleish

Clare Tomlinson

Email:
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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 & 6.00 pm:

Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.

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

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for **Brendan Wyatt** and **Bridget Pringle** 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 Bridget Pringle will be at 10.00 am on Tuesday 30th August followed by a burial at Great Malvern Cemetery at 12 Noon. The funeral service for Brendan Wyatt will be on Tuesday 6th September at 10.30 am Please keep their families and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

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.**

SACRED HEART SPONSORED WALK

The Sacred Heart sponsored walk will be on Saturday 24th September. Your generous support would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to sponsor the walk please write your name on the clipboard at the back of church. If you would like to join the walk you are most welcome to join the Sacred Heart Fathers and Brothers. The walk will be held in Nottingham - the place and time will be announced in due course.

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.

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.

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.

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 beautiful items left recently, they really were exquisite and will bring such joy to the recipients. Wool, needles, buttons and patterns are available in the cupboard at the church entrance to help defray costs. Donations of the same are very welcome. Knit anything you feel would benefit the refugees of all ages particularly with the onset of autumn and winter. 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.

DONATION

Thank you very much to the person who recently made a donation to Ashray via the cashless device in church. We are very grateful for your generous donation and your support for our parish project overseas.

READERS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS ROTA

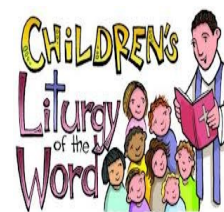
The new rota for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers is available to collect from the Sacristy.

COMMUNITY MEAL

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

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

If you would like some company, a drink, chat and cake then please come and join us on Sunday 11th September 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.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will resume on Sunday 11th September.

Main Collection

£253.86

Gift Aid: £217.00

Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.

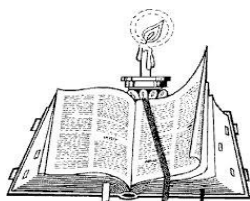
Mass attendance
last Sunday: 180



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

Ecclesiasticus 3:
17-20, 28-29;

Psalms 67;

Hebrews 12: 18-19,
22-24;

Luke 14: 1, 7-14

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.

Who will inherit eternal life?

Today, the Gospel raises the theme of the salvation for our souls. This is the essence of Christ's message. The salvation of our soul is an actual fact insofar as a gift from God, but for those of us that have not yet crossed the threshold of death, is only a possibility. To be saved or to be damned to hell! That is, to accept or to reject God's everlasting offer of love. St. Augustine said, "the man who self-annihilated his goodness, which could have been eternal, deserved the eternal damnation", which is against God's original plan. The purpose of God's creation of human being - 'is to be with Him, to love Him and to love all He created'. We have only two possibilities in our life: either God or the void, for without God nothing has any meaning. In this sense, when they do not participate of the essence of God, life, death, joy, pain, love, etc., are just concepts without any logic. When the man sins, he avoids the Creator's glance to centre it upon himself. God is constantly looking at the sinner with love, and in order not to force his freedom, He expects a minimum gesture of been willing to get back to him.

Christ does not respond to his disciples' question, 'Lord, is it true that few people will be saved? (Lk 13:23). Therefore, it remained unanswered, just as it is today, for "it is an inscrutable mystery between the holiness of God and the conscience of man. A few years ago Pope Francis, during a question-and-answer session with youngsters in one of Rome's parishes: A young boy, Emmanuel, wanted to know if his recently deceased dad, an unbeliever, was in Heaven. When the time came for him to pose his question to the Pope, the boy burst into tears and couldn't speak. Pope Francis called him to come close to him and whisper his question in his ear. Then, Pope Francis, with the boy's consent, shared his question with the audience. This is what the boy said: 'A little while ago my father passed away. He was a non-believer who had all four of his children baptized. He was a good man. Is dad in heaven?' 'God is the one who says who goes to heaven,' the Pope explained. He then asked the children to think about what God is like and, especially, what kind of heart God has: 'What do you think? God has a dad's heart. And with a dad who was not a believer, but who baptized his children and was a good man, do you think God would be able to leave him far from himself? Does God abandon his children when they are good?' The children shouted, 'No.' 'There, Emmanuel, that is the answer,' the Pope told the boy. 'God was surely proud of your dad, and you should be too, because he was a good man who wanted what was best for his children.'

As Pope Francis reminds us, we should leave to God the question of who will go to Heaven. It's not a question for us to answer. What should concern us is what God wants from us? What gateway is he setting before us? Perhaps, like the poet Robert Frost, we are being invited to opt for the road 'less travelled by' and that may make 'all the difference'. God is a loving dad, who always looks at our heart no matter how we appear externally. He sees our outmost desire to do good and avoid evil, even though many times we miserably fail. Salvation, cannot be bought, inherited or stolen, but simply gained by a life of doing God's will and living under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity. God bless you.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ