



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Wisdom 9: 13-18;

Psalm 89;

Philemon 9-10, 12-17;

Luke 14: 25-33

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

This Week 4th September – 11th September (Psalter Week 3)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 4th September Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C	8.30 am For the Victims of Natural Calamities 10.30 am Betty Parry RIP (SD) 6.00 pm People of the Parish	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall
Monday 5th September Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Stella & Hugh McDermott RIP	12.30 pm Community Meal
Tuesday 6th September Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Bridget Pringle RIP (BB) 10.30 am Requiem Mass	
Wednesday 7th September Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Brendan Wyatt RIP	10.00 am until 7.00 pm: Adoration
Thursday 8th September Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am For all the Expecting Mothers	
Friday 9th September Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Helen McCourt RIP (MC)	9.45am: Novena to the Sacred Heart (soon after Mass)
Saturday 10th September Memorial of St. Egwin, Bishop	11.00 am Harry Remedios RIP	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 11th September Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C Retiring Collection for the DEC Pakistan Floods Appeal	8.30 am Marie & Frank Webb RIP (PW) 10.30 am Thanksgiving for the Richter Family (MR) 6.00 pm Kevin O'Hara RIP (BO'H)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy 2.30 pm: SVP Afternoon

"If we learn how to listen, we can hear in the voice of creation a kind of dissonance. On the one hand, we can hear a sweet song in praise of our beloved Creator; on the other, an anguished plea, lamenting our mistreatment of this our common home...Listening to these anguished cries, we must repent and modify our lifestyles and destructive systems...The present state of decay of our common home merits the same attention as other global challenges such as grave health crises and wars."

Pope Francis, 1st September 2022

SACRED HEART COMMUNITY

Fr. George Mathew SCJ
(Parish Priest)
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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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RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am & 10.30 am: O Lord, you have been our refuge from
one generation to the next.

6.00 pm: Abba Father, you are always our refuge and our joy.
So we thank you and we worship, we worship you in
song.

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 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 **Brendan Wyatt** who died recently. May his soul
and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in
peace. The funeral service for Brendan Wyatt will be on Tuesday 6th
September at 10.30 am Please keep his families and friends in your kind
thoughts and prayers.

DEC PAKISTAN FLOODS APPEAL: SUNDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

Devastating floods have hit Pakistan, leaving millions in urgent need of help
to survive. A third of the country is now underwater (that's an area almost
the size of Great Britain). A second collection for the DEC Pakistan Floods
Appeal will be held on Sunday 11th September. Your donation will help
CAFOD's local partners support communities with clean drinking water,
food, emergency medical assistance and shelter. Please pray for those
affected. Donations can be made via the second collection, the cashless
device, online via the parish website or at cafod.org.uk/give. The planned
second collection for the Catholic Education Service will be postponed until
later in 2022, date to be confirmed.

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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will resume on Sunday 11th September. If your child is 4 years old or older, they are welcome to attend at the 10.30 am Mass. It is an opportunity for your child to learn about our faith, liturgy of the day and Jesus in a friendly way. We need volunteers to help to run the children's liturgy. If you would like to help the children's liturgy it will be great help for the faith formation of our children. Thank you to all volunteers for all your continued help.

FR. HUDSON'S CARE ANNUAL PARISH COLLECTION

On Sunday 25th September the second collection will be for Father Hudson's Care to support their mission of supporting vulnerable people throughout the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Father Hudson's reaches out to people of all ages who need support many of whom will be badly affected by the cost-of-living crisis. Please give generously to this worthy cause.

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.

SVP

We are looking for a pressure cooker in good working order for one of our beneficiaries. Please contact us on droitwichsvp@gmail.com or 0777 292 7535 or 0771 362 3997 if you can help. Thank you for your help and support.

COVID-19 GUIDANCE

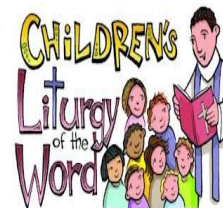
Face coverings are now advised rather than mandatory. Please sanitise your hands on entrance and exit. Holy Communion will continue to be under one kind. Social distancing is not required but please be sensitive to the needs of others in church. Please **avoid** attending church if you, or someone in your household, has symptoms of COVID. Thank you for your co-operation.

RIDE & STRIDE FOR CHURCHES

As in previous years, we are encouraging people to cycle, walk or ride (or even drive) between as many churches as possible to raise money for the church of their choice and the Worcestershire & Dudley Historic Churches Trust. This year the date is Saturday 10th September. On the website below there are some suggested routes, but any route is fine. For further information please contact Tobias Thornes at tobiastjw@googlemail.com and/or visit the website at <https://www.worcesteranddudleyhistoricchurches.org.uk/events/ride-and-stride-2013>.

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO HARVINGTON HALL

This year the Annual Pilgrimage to Harvington Hall, Shrine of the English Martyrs, is today. 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.**



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be Children's Liturgy on Sundays 11th, 18th and 25th September.

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.

Main Collection

£262.60

Gift Aid last Sunday:

£225.00

Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.

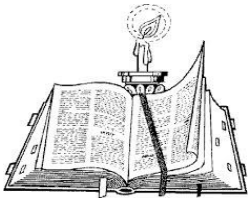
Mass attendance
last Sunday: 195



FOODBANK

There is a new wish list that is on the website and was emailed with this newsletter. Any donations would be gratefully received.

Thank you.



Next Sunday's Mass

Readings

*Exodus 32: 7-11,
13-14;*

Psalms 50;

1 Timothy 1: 12-17;

Luke 15: 1-32

*Registered as a
Charity, Birmingham
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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.

"Look before you leap" is a phrase which might be used to summarise the readings of today. While this is true of any decision, and especially of important ones, it is all the more true of the decision to decide whether to follow Jesus. This is because Jesus demands total commitment, total dedication, and total loyalty. There can be no turning back. There can be no half-hearted measure. There can be no sitting on the fence once one has decided to follow Christ.

The Book of Wisdom speaks of how our mortal nature makes us vulnerable. It tells of how, because we are human, we are limited and lack understanding and perseverance. It is only with the assistance of God's spirit of wisdom that it is possible for us to discern God's will and to do what is required of us. In another word to say that it is the language of the cross. However, it must be noted that the term "carrying cross" has been misinterpreted over the centuries. Bearing a cross has nothing whatsoever to do with chronic illness, painful physical conditions, or trying family relationships. It is instead what we do voluntarily because of our commitment to Jesus Christ. It is the outcome of an unconditional following of Jesus. Cross bearing requires deliberate sacrifice and exposure to risk. It requires opening oneself to ridicule to follow Jesus. This commitment is not just to a way of life, it is a commitment to the person Jesus Christ. This is a call to discipleship. In a sense, no one can know whether he or she will be able to fulfil a commitment to Christ. This is precisely why the discernment and wisdom given by the Spirit is required. In the parables, Jesus is not providing a lesson on cost, accountancy, or a strategy for war. Rather, he is calling for preparedness and perseverance before deciding to follow him. Jesus did not set his face towards Jerusalem without being prepared to face all that would happen to him there, including laying down his life. Thus, he expects anyone who takes the first step must be prepared.

The cost of discipleship is paid in many ways. For some, it means a redirection of time and energy. For others, it means a change in personal relationships with the Lord in vocation, or in a commitment of financial resources. But, for each person, the call to discipleship is all consuming. A complete change in priorities is required of anyone who decides to follow. No part-time disciples are accepted. No seasonal Christians are welcomed. No partial commitments are allowed. Since the demands are tough, Jesus does not lure his listeners into unconsidered commitments with false promises. He makes it explicitly clear that following him will not be easy and it requires the involvement of the whole person and a full-time commitment. He does not force anybody to follow Him. He simply extends an open invitation to everybody without looking for any qualification. He calls us first and then he qualifies the one who accepted His invitation. More than the quantity or number of disciples, what mattered to him was the quality and depth of commitment and fidelity. He was not interested in numbers or size, but in depth and intensity. He demanded from others what he gave himself. His life was the example of what he demanded of others. Once one has weighed all the options, once one has made a discernment, and once one has decided to follow, there can be no turning back. The path to Jesus is a one-way journey. No return ticket is needed.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ