



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Amos 6: 1, 4-7;

Psalm 145;

1 Timothy 6: 11-16;

Luke 16: 19-31

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

This Week 25th September – 2nd October (Psalter Week 2)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 25th September Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C Retiring Collection for Fr. Hudson's Care	8.30 am Stella and Hugh McDermott RIP (GM) 10.30 am John Cornell (JF) 6.00 pm Holy Mass	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy Day of Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Harvest
Monday 26th September Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Tony Ringer RIP (PR)	
Tuesday 27th September Memorial of St. Vincent de Paul, Priest	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Ken - 90th Birthday (BB)	
Wednesday 28th September Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Frances Grosveld RIP (MB)	10.00 am until 7.00 pm: Adoration
Thursday 29th September Feast of Ss. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Holy Mass	
Friday 30th September Memorial of St. Jerome, Priest, Doctor of the Church	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mary Leason RIP (MB)	9.45am: Novena to the Sacred Heart (soon after Mass)
Saturday 1st October Memorial of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin, Doctor of the Church	11.00 am Holy Mass	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 2nd October Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C	8.30 am Fr. Giles Goward RIP (MB) 10.30 am Anthony Pinnell RIP (C & GP) 6.00 pm Holy Mass	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy

"We are called to be creative in doing good with the prudence and the cleverness of the Gospel, using the goods of this world, not only material but all of the gifts we have received from the Lord, not to enrich ourselves, but to generate fraternal love and social fellowship."

Pope Francis, 18th September 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

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**PARISH SAFEGUARDING
REPRESENTATIVES**

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**Archdiocese of
Birmingham
Safeguarding Team**

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@rcaob.org.uk

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am & 10.30 am: My soul give praise to the Lord.

6.00 pm: Come Lord and save us, come Lord and save us,
Maranatha! Come into our world! (X2)

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.

FR. HUDSON'S CARE ANNUAL PARISH COLLECTION

Today 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.

GIFT AID CLAIM: 2021 - 2022 TAX YEAR

The parish received £11,778.82 from the Gift Aid Scheme on regular donations and an additional £1995.00 via the Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme. Thank you to all parishioners to giving so generously to the parish. If you are taxpayer and interested in donating via Gift Aid please contact the parish office or speak to Gerry Ceclich.

CHRISTMAS FAIR 2022

SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER - 12 NOON UNTIL 3.00 PM

The Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday 17th December from 12 noon until 3.00 pm. A big event like this needs the involvement of everyone in the parish so please put the date in your diary. Please could you look for any items that would be suitable to sell at our Christmas Fair. Toys and books in good condition can be brought to the Romero Room from the first week in November. Raffle Tickets will be on sale soon from the back of church. If you are willing to help on the day, please speak to Fr. George or contact the Parish Office.

PARISH THANK YOU EVENING

Fr. George SCJ is hosting a Thank You Evening in the Parish Hall on Saturday 22nd October to thank the many volunteers who give their time to the Sacred Heart Parish. Mass will be at 6.00 pm followed by a meal at 7.00 pm. Please RSVP by Friday 14th October to confirm attendance.

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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

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.

MISSION RED BOXES

Would Red Box holders please note that it is now time for counting and banking of contents. If your box can be left in the sacristy, it will be dealt with as promptly as possible. Thank you.

Job vacancy. Parish Red Box Secretary. If there is anyone out there, who is younger and more able than I am and, perhaps, willing to take on this very worthwhile task, I would happily introduce them to its few simple rules. kevin.elizabeth@btinternet.com

REFUGEE KNITTING/DONATIONS

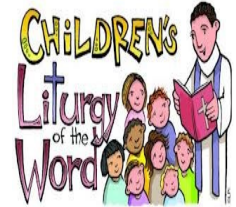
Thank you so much for the beautiful items left recently, they really were exquisite and will bring such joy to the recipients. Wool, needles, buttons and patterns are available in the cupboard at the church entrance to help defray costs. Donations of the same are very welcome. Knit anything you feel 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.

UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

The Universe Catholic Weekly is true to its mission of being "a light to guide the world, and a mirror to reflect it" keeping Catholics informed about their faith, and bringing them ever closer to God. In order to keep our high standard going and maintain a strong weekly Catholic voice at a time when it is much needed in the world, please consider taking out a subscription. We have an excellent website full of trustworthy articles and an online shop with all subscribers receiving a 10% discount. Order your Digital 4 weeks FREE introductory offer by contacting Michelle at michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk or on 0743 661 7650.

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.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be Children's Liturgy today.

COMMUNITY MEAL

The next Community Meal is on Monday 3rd October 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 9th October from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm in the Parish Hall. Please see the notice at the back of church for more information. You can contact us at DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk or on 07772 927535.



FOODBANK - HARVEST

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

Thank you.

Main Collection

£281.54

Gift Aid last Sunday:

£172.00

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 213**

**The retiring
collection for
Evangelii Gaudium
raised: £100.75**

Gift Aid: £59.70

**Thank you for your
generosity.**



Next Sunday's Mass

Readings

*Habakkuk 1: 2-3,
2: 2-4;*

Psalms 94;

*2 Timothy 1: 6-8,
13-14;*

Luke 17: 5-10

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

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, last year on the World Day of the Poor, Our Holy Father Pope Francis said: "Christians cannot stand with arms folded in indifference or thrown up in the air in helpless resignation. As believers, we must stretch out our hands as Jesus does with us, freely and lovingly offering help to the poor and all those in need." He urged everyone to pray for the grace to hear the cries of all the poor.

Today's gospel has a lesson for all of us in this regard. The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus. Many people may be wondering why the rich man had to go to hell. We are not told he acquired his wealth by foul means. We are not told he was responsible for the poverty and misery of Lazarus. In fact we are not even told that Lazarus begged him and he refused to help. We are not told he committed any crime or evil deed. All we are told is that he was feeding and clothing himself well as any other successful human being has a right to do. Why then did he go to hell? The problem why the rich man went to hell has a lot to do with what we think sin is. We often think that we sin only by thought, word and deed. We forget a fourth and very important way through which we sin, namely, by omission. In the "I Confess" we say these words: "I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do." Yet how readily we forget the sin of omission. Today's parable reminds us that the sin of omission can take us away from God. This is what happens to the rich man. The poor man Lazarus was lying at his gate. And the rich man simply didn't care and the poor man died. The rich man of course did not harm Lazarus but he did nothing when he actually could. He failed to reach out and share a little of his blessings with someone in need. His sin is that of omission, and for that he is condemned.

Another problem we have with this parable is why Lazarus went to heaven. Was he a man of God? Or did he do a good deed? In biblical stories of this nature, names are very significant because they often convey the person's basic character or personality. In fact this is the only parable of Jesus where the character in the story has a name. So the name must be significant for interpreting the parable. The name "Lazarus" is the Hellenised form of the Hebrew name "Eleazar" which means "God is my help." Lazarus, therefore, is not just a poor man, but a poor man who believes and trusts in God. This must be why he found himself in Abraham's bosom in Paradise because of his faith and trust in God, not just because he was poor. Rich people who use their wealth to serve God in their fellow human beings will be rewarded in the next life. Poor people who spend their lives in bitterness and envy, refusing to believe and trust in God may yet be condemned in the next life.

In the first reading too from the Prophet Amos we read that those who have a very comfortable life and ignore the needs of others will eventually have to live with the results of that uncaring attitude. We can hear the Lord calling us today to respond in the same way described in the second reading, from the First Letter to Timothy: pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. We live in a world which has shrunk. The poor are right at our doorstep. We cannot help them all, but we can help some. As Pope Francis reminds us, pray for the grace to hear the cries of all the poor. The Scriptures don't give us an easy answer because there never is an easy answer to the cry of the poor and the oppressed. Each of us must take the time to listen to that cry first and then try to respond to it. We must always remember St Theresa of Calcutta who felt a call to help those who were poor. I end with her quote: "I see Jesus in every human being. I say to myself, this is hungry Jesus, I must feed him. This is sick Jesus. This one has leprosy; I must wash him and tend to him. I serve because I love Jesus." God bless you. Fr. George Mathew SCJ