



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Exodus 17: 8-13;

Psalms 120;

2 Timothy 3: 14 - 4: 2;

Luke 18: 1-8

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

This Week 16th October – 23rd October (Psalter Week 1)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 16th October Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C Retiring Collection for Catholic Education	8.30 am James Sexton RIP (BB) 10.30 am Christine Herriot RIP (CL) 6.00 pm People of the Parish	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy
Monday 17th October Memorial of St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop, Martyr	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Stella and Hugh McDermott RIP (GM)	
Tuesday 18th October Feast of St. Luke, Evangelist	9.15 am Holy Communion Service	
Wednesday 19th October Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Holy Communion Service	No Adoration
Thursday 20th October Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Holy Communion Service	
Friday 21st October Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Holy Communion Service	
Saturday 22nd October Feria in Ordinary Time	11.00 am Mrs. Catherine McGlinchey (Anniversary)	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 23rd October Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C Retiring Collection for Missio	8.30 am Patrick McLoughlin RIP (BB) 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Holy Mass	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall

“This is an immense grace, the basis of all the others: to allow the Lord, as in the Gospel, to work miracles for us. Because He too has a great desire for us: to make us share in His fullness of life.”

Pope Francis, 12th October 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,
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HEAD TEACHER

Mrs. Cath Bryan

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PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

Gerry Ceclich

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**Archdiocese of
Birmingham
Safeguarding Team**

Tel.: 0121 230 6240

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@rcaob.org.uk

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am & 10.30 am: Our help is in the name of the Lord who
made heaven and earth.

6.00 pm: I lift up mine eyes, O I lift up mine eyes, I lift up mine
eyes to the Lord. From whence shall come my help?
From whence shall come my help? I lift up mine eyes
to the Lord. (34 AK)

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 **John Edwards** who died recently. May his soul
and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in
peace. The Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 25th October at 11.30 am,
followed by a cremation at 2.00 pm at The Vale Crematorium. Please keep
his family and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES/ADORATION

There will be no weekday morning Masses or Morning Prayer from Tuesday
18th October until Friday 21st October. There will be Holy Communion
Services on these days. There will be no Adoration on Wednesday 19th
October.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE 2022

SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER - 12 NOON UNTIL 3.00 PM

The Christmas Fayre will take place on Saturday 10th 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 Fayre.
Toys and books in good condition can be brought to the Romero Room
from the first week in November. Raffle Tickets are now on sale from the
Parish Hall after each Sunday Mass. If you are willing to help on the day,
please speak to Fr. George or contact the Parish Office.

SCARVES, GLOVES, HATS

As part of their strategy to help beneficiaries face the cold in the coming
months, our SVP are looking to supply these basics to anyone finding it
expensive to keep warm and are looking to assemble a collection of
scarves, gloves and woollen hats to help in this. SVP will make good use of
any such items you may have surplus to your needs.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY GIVING TREE

For many years we have collected Christmas gifts for Father Hudson's Homes and our local families that are supported by SVP. Due to Covid this was replaced by a cash collection but we have been asked by Father Hudson's Homes to revert back to collecting gifts this year. We will be collecting gifts from Sunday 27th November until Sunday 11th December as Father Hudson's Homes staff will collect the gifts on Wednesday 14th December to allow them time to distribute gifts to their families. Any late presents will go to local families supported by SVP. Your support for this project will be very much appreciated. Any queries can be directed to SVP at DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk or 0777 292 7535.

THANK YOU EVENING

If you are a volunteer at the church and you would like to come to the Thank You evening on Saturday 22nd October at 6.00 pm please could you RSVP today to Fr. George or the Parish Office.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY: 23RD OCTOBER 2022

Next Sunday is World Mission Sunday, when the Holy Father invites all Catholics to contribute to a special collection for Missio, his charity for world mission. Please support Missio in helping missionaries to work alongside communities throughout the world that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. Join in on this special day, that unites Catholics all over the world in prayer and celebration of our Church's mission to share God's love with all people. If you use the donation envelopes to give by credit/debit card, please return the envelopes directly to Missio. Do not put them in the Church collection. Please call 020 7821 9755 (office hours) or visit Missio's website to give a single gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation if possible: missio.org.uk

MISSIO 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

JOB VACANCIES

The Maryvale Institute are currently recruiting for a Registry Assistant. For full information please visit <https://www.maryvale.ac.uk/staff-vacancies.html>. The closing date is Monday 24th October.

The Archdiocese of Birmingham are looking to recruit a **Secretary/PA to the Vicar General**. The appointee will support the operations of the Birmingham Diocesan Trust (The Archdiocese of Birmingham) by acting as the Secretary/PA to the Vicar General. You will need excellent communications skills, the ability to work on your own initiative, experience of working with senior post-holders/officers and be proficient with Microsoft Office. For an informal discussion about this role and further information, please call the Human Resources Officer on 0121 230 6224. The closing date is 12 Noon on Monday 31st October. Further information at <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Category/jobs>.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be Children's Liturgy today.

COMMUNITY MEAL

The next Community Meal is on Monday 7th November 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 13th November 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.

REFUGEE

KNITTING/ DONATIONS

If anyone has any knitting stored at home could you please bring it to church for collection by Monday 17th October, as there is an urgent need for warm winter items. Pre-loved scarves, hats and gloves would also be most welcome. Many thanks for your continual support of this worthy cause.

Main Collection:

£218.01

Gift Aid last Sunday:

£215.00

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 185**

**The retiring
collection for
CAFOD**

raised: £330.26

**Thank you for your
generosity.**



FOODBANK

There is a new wish list of items on the noticeboard and the parish website. If you would like to support the Foodbank then items can be left in the box at the back of church and would be gratefully received.



Next Sunday's Mass

Readings

Ecclesiasticus 35:

12-14, 16-19;

Psalms 32;

*2 Timothy 4: 6-8,
16-18*

Luke 18: 9-14

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.

Will Jesus find that we have persevered?

We live in a world of "instant solutions!" There is instant communication, instant coffee, instant tea, instant food, and an instant weight loss programme. Thus, in every area of our lives, we expect instant results. This leads to inability on the part of many to be patient and, to an even greater degree, a lack of perseverance. Perseverance is the theme in all the readings of today. Precisely perseverance in prayer. In the first reading when Moses continues to keep his hands raised in prayer, victory is assured. When Moses begins to grow weary and drop his hands, in a gesture which symbolises that he is on the verge of giving up, Joshua has to struggle. It is difficult for Moses to persevere in prayer and so, it is difficult for Joshua to persevere in battle. However, because Moses will not give up and perseveres, Joshua is finally victorious.

This is also the case with the widow in the Gospel text of today. She pleads and perseveres. She does not give up. Even though she had so many things going against her, she does not give in. She is a woman living in a patriarchal society where women had very little chance of getting respect and justice. Yet her perseverance wins the widow justice. The exhortation that Paul gives to Timothy, about being persistent, at the end of the second reading of today is an example of the early Christians who were patient and able to wait for what God had in store for them. Timothy is asked to remain firm and persevere whether the external situation is good or not so good and whether things are going his way or not. He is to be patient and not give up. He is not to give in.

One of the grave dangers that many of us face today is that of quick fix solutions. Many of us are hardly able to endure obstacles and difficulties without getting weary and tense. We are hardly able to be serene and calm in the face of challenges that come our way. One reason for this may be that we do not believe enough in ourselves. Another reason is that we do not believe enough in God. We have faith but not deep enough to believe the act that God will always do what is best for us, even when it doesn't appear to be. Some interpreters of the Gospel parable of today see, God who, like the widow, will not give up on human beings. Until they relent, he will persevere with them. Even if one accepts this interpretation, the point being made is the same. God does not give up on us. Why must we give up on ourselves? Why must we give up on others? Why must we give up on God. The Gospel text of today ends with a question asked by Jesus: "And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" To answer affirmatively, we must be ready to profess a faith like that of the persistent widow. We need to be like Moses and Joshua and not give up or give in even when we imagine that we are fighting a losing battle. We need to take to heart the exhortation of Paul to Timothy, to persevere in the face of all odds. God bless us.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ