



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Ecclesiasticus 35: 12-14, 16-19;

Psalm 32;

2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18

Luke 18: 9-14

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

This Week 23rd October – 30th October (Psalter Week 2)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 23rd October Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C Retiring Collection for Missio	8.30 am Patrick McLoughlin RIP (BB) 10.30 am Bob Turner RIP (ST) 6.00 pm Catherine Eaton 60th Birthday (CE)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall
Monday 24th October Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Stella and Hugh McDermott RIP (GM)	
Tuesday 25th October Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Robert Grant (I & MM) 11.30 am Requiem Mass	
Wednesday 26th October Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Fred and Dorothy Wareham RIP (ST)	10.00 am until 7.00 pm: Adoration
Thursday 27th October Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Gerard Colley RIP	2.30 pm: Church Visit
Friday 28th October Feast of Ss. Simon and Jude, Apostles	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Margaret Harding (MM)	
Saturday 29th October Feria in Ordinary Time	11.00 am Alan Remedios RIP	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 30th October Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C	8.30 am The Dodd Family (LD) 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Holy Mass	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall

“Prayer. Yes, prayer is the medicine for faith, it is the restorative of the soul. It needs to be constant prayer, however...Let us think of a houseplant: we need to water it consistently every day. We cannot soak it and then leave it without giving it water for a week! Even more so with prayer. We cannot live only on strong moments of prayer or occasional intense encounters, and then “go into hibernation”. Our faith would dry up. We need the daily water of prayer, we need time dedicated to God, so that he can enter into our time, into our lives; we need consistent moments in which we open our hearts to him so that he can daily pour out on us love, peace, joy, strength, hope, thus nourishing our faith.”

Pope Francis, 16th 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,
Droitwich
Tel: 01905 773572

Email: office@st-josephs-
droitwich.worcs.sch.uk

HEAD TEACHER

Mrs. Cath Bryan

PARISH SECRETARY

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**PARISH SAFEGUARDING
REPRESENTATIVES**

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Birmingham
Safeguarding Team**

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RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**8.30 am & 10.30 am: This poor man called; the Lord heard
him.**

**6.00 pm: I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise always on
my lips. In the Lord my soul shall make its boast; the
humble shall hear and be glad.**

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 **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.

CANONICAL VISIT OF SCJ SUPERIOR GENERAL

Fr. Gustavo Agín SCJ, The Superior General of the Sacred Heart Fathers and
Brothers of Betharram from Rome, is making his canonical visit to all the
SCJ parishes in UK this month. He will be visiting our parish this weekend.
We as a Sacred Heart parish community extend a warm welcome to
Fr. Gustavo and wish him a fruitful visit to our parish.

TODAY IS WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

World Mission Sunday is being celebrated in every Catholic parish around
the world today! It supports missionaries who work alongside communities
that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. By
supporting Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission, you will help
missionaries like Maria witness to their faith and offer vulnerable women in
Ethiopia hope for a better future. Please pray for the mission of the Church
throughout the world and give what you can to this very important
collection which will sustain the future of our Church. 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

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.

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.

ONLINE ADVENT RETREAT 2022

The last few weeks before Christmas can be so hectic, so stressful. Why not take 20 minutes each day for peaceful prayer on your own at home, or wherever you may be? You may well find that the rest of the day goes better than expected. On the website <https://www.onlineprayer.net/advent-retreat/> The Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow has for each day of Advent, a piece of Scripture, a picture, a short reflection and a piece of music – you can use any or all of this for your prayer, as you choose. The website also has helpful suggestions of different ways of praying with these resources. If you might be interested, please contact Max and Cecilia Jourdier at mandcjourdier@gmail.com

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.

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>.

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.

MISSIO RED BOXES

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

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

Main Collection:

£274.79

Gift Aid last Sunday:

£173.50

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 231**

**The retiring
collection for
Catholic Education
raised: £61.13**

Gift Aid: £40.00

**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

*Wisdom 11: 22 –
12: 2;*

Psalms 144;

*2 Thessalonians 1: 11
- 2: 2;*

Luke 19: 1-10

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.

When we listen today's Gospel, it is possible to think that we are not like this Pharisee. That we are not very holy and righteous. If that is the case, we are already like the Pharisee. We must remember that the Pharisees were good people, for instance Nicodemus. They were strict Jews who interpreted the Law and suggested the practical applications of the law in their daily lives. Sometimes these interpretations were very extreme and therefore missed the spirit of the law for which the law was given. What really went wrong with this pharisee? The problem with the Pharisee was that he was too aware of his goodness and hardly aware of his faults. Thus, he was self-righteous and arrogant. Even though he begins by addressing God, his focus was totally on himself, as if the good he did were of his own making without need of God's grace or help. He didn't seem to be aware of his need of God and just wanted God to approve of what he was doing and reward him. He said, 'Thank you Lord, for I am not like this tax collector'. He considered his greatness in being better than somebody else. He compared himself with someone who he thought much lower than himself in the practise of the law, therefore, he considered the tax collector as a sinner. For him goodness means to be better than the other.

This can happen to us too. We easily can have the wrong conception that we are better than the other who may not be a Christian or does not appear to be a gentleman etc. However, can that really make us great and holy? The scripture would say no! There is a danger when we measure our goodness in comparison with the other. Here we are discovering only 'relative goodness' not the 'absolute goodness'. This is the reason why Jesus criticised the Pharisee and hailed the tax collector. The Pharisee saw relative goodness in him and thus did not see any need to improve his life. He felt he was doing all that was asked of God, but he was not honest himself. Jesus wants us to possess absolute goodness. This is possible only by imitating Jesus who is the source of absolute goodness. In Matthew 11:29 He says, "Learn from me, that I am gentle and humble in heart". He wants us to learn from Him. In Leviticus 11:44 the Lord says, "Be holy, for I your God am holy". In all these we see that the Lord does not want us to compare ourselves with the other, but rather He wants us to follow the model presented by Himself. It is not about how better we are in comparison with the others that matters, but how much more we need to do to become like Christ. So, true righteousness is not to become better than others, but in being like Christ Himself.

The invitation to pray is an invitation to be honest. The object of prayer is not 'to babble words as the pagans do' but to listen quietly to hear the truth about us as God reveals it and to change accordingly with the help of the Holy Spirit. Humbling ourselves doesn't mean that we deny our goodness. It means telling the truth, accepting our giftedness from God and calling on his help in the areas we need to improve. Prayer is not simply something we do but what we are. In real prayer we receive the truth about ourselves from God, just as we are. Humility leads to a deeper knowledge of oneself and of one's need for a deeper relationship with God. This is equally true of us as a Church. The Church is not only a sanctuary for saints but also a hospital for sinners! Let us beware of making the publican in the story a hero as if he had no faults. In fact, he was not a righteous man, but he knew he needed God. His focus was on a God of mercy to whom he turned humbly and acknowledged his great need. His main virtue was his awareness that he thought he had no virtue and therefore felt in total need of God's mercy.
Fr. George Mathew SCJ