



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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### Today's Mass Readings

Wisdom 11: 22 – 12: 2;  
Psalm 144;  
2 Thessalonians 1: 11 - 2: 2;  
Luke 19: 1-10

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

This Week 30th October – 6th November (Psalter Week 3)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
<b>Sunday 30th October</b> <b>Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <b>Year C</b>	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
<b>Monday 31st October</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Betty Grant RIP	
<b>Tuesday 1st November</b> Solemnity of All Saints	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Holy Mass 7.00 pm Holy Mass	
<b>Wednesday 2nd November</b> The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Deceased Members of the Van der Heijden Family (MB)	10.00 am until 7.00 pm: Adoration
<b>Thursday 3rd November</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Sathish Thomas RIP	
<b>Friday 4th November</b> Memorial of St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am John Edward RIP	
<b>Saturday 5th November</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	11.00 am Holy Mass	<b>10.15 am - 10.45 am:</b> <b>Confessions</b>
<b>Sunday 6th November</b> <b>Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary</b> <b>Time</b> <b>Year C</b> Retiring Collection for the Johnson Association	8.30 am Arthur & Mary Leason RIP (MB) 10.30 am Holy Mass 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

*"In order to rise towards him, we must descend within ourselves: to cultivate the sincerity and humility of the heart that give us an honest outlook on our frailties and our inner poverty. Indeed, in humility we become capable of bringing what we really are to God, without pretense: the wounds, the sins and the miseries that weigh on our hearts, and to invoke his mercy so that he may heal us, restore us and raise us up."*

Pope Francis, 23rd 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

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**HEAD TEACHER**

Mrs. Cath Bryan

**PARISH SECRETARY**

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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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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

8.30 am & 10.30 am: I will bless your name for ever, O God  
my King.

6.00 pm: The promises of the Lord are true and loving are all  
his deeds. I will give you glory O God my king and  
praise your name forever, and praise your name  
forever.

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**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.**

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**CANONICAL VISIT OF SCJ SUPERIOR GENERAL**

Fr. Gustavo Agín SCJ thanked all the parishioners for all you do for the  
church. He was pleased with his visit to our parish.

**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. Items 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.

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**

Thank you very much for your donations to World Mission Sunday last  
week. Your prayers and support of World Mission Sunday will help  
missionaries work alongside communities throughout the world that are  
poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. Please pray for  
the work of Missio and all those working to offer the love of Jesus, that we  
may remain strong in our witness to Christ's love for all peoples. To  
continue supporting Missio throughout the year, please go to  
missio.org.uk or call 020 7821 9755 (office hours).

**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](mailto: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 Jourdiier at [mandcjourdiier@gmail.com](mailto:mandcjourdiier@gmail.com)

## **REFUGEE COLLECTIONS**

Thank you so much once again, for the vast quantity of exquisite knitted baby items, scarves, hats, adult cardigans and crocheted blankets. A special thank you also to the lady who consistently packages items so beautifully. A massive thank you too, for the pre loved hats, scarves, gloves and other items of warm clothing. All these articles will be sent to Kosovo, Serbia and Ukraine imminently. Please continue knitting as it is hoped to send more consignments before the end of the year. We would be grateful if you could keep the items at home until needed because of storage problems. Once again thank you so much for your magnificent support of this worthy cause. Wool, patterns and buttons are available in the cupboard at the back of church to help defray your costs. Donations of the same will be gratefully accepted.

## **HOMES FOR UKRAINE MATCHING SERVICE**

Caritas Social Action Network, in partnership with St. John of God Hospitaller Services, an international Catholic charity with many services for the vulnerable in the UK and Ireland, have launched a service to bring together Ukrainian people displaced by the brutal war in their country with people in the Catholic community willing to host them in their homes for six months. Once the match is confirmed the Ukrainian guest can apply for their visa. We know that coping with the cost of living crisis will be the main concern for people this winter, but if you have room in your home and in your heart to consider welcoming a stranger displaced by war, then we'd love to hear from you. Please visit <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/> for more information.

## **FAITH AT WORK IN WORCESTERSHIRE**

Faith at Work in Worcestershire are seeking a part-time Communications and Administration Officer. For full details, please see the poster that was distributed with this newsletter via email or the parish website or contact [dickjohnson@faithatwork.org.uk](mailto:dickjohnson@faithatwork.org.uk) or phone 07946 655450.

## **ALL SAINTS DAY**

There will be evening Mass at 7.00 pm on All Saints Day

## **SPONSORED WALK**

I take this opportunity to thank you all for your generous support for the SCJ sponsored walk. The total money we raised from the parish was £ 1320.

## **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](mailto:DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk) or on 07772 927535.

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

**Main Collection:**

**£188.40**

**Gift Aid last Sunday:**

**£136.00**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

**Mass attendance  
last Sunday: 155**

**The retiring  
collection for  
Missio raised:  
£215.00**

**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**

*2 Maccabees 7: 1-2,  
9-14;*

*Psalm 16;*

*2 Thessalonians 2: 16  
- 3: 5;*

*Luke 20: 27-38*

*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.*

The only Gospel that people read is the gospel of ourselves. People notice very easily the gospel that we live every day. In the Gospel reading today we see Zacchaeus writes a new gospel himself, the gospel of conversion. This is one of the most beautiful stories of conversion. Luke tells that Zacchaeus was not an ordinary tax collector but was a wealthy man, of course he became wealthy by unfair means. Knowing that Jesus was passing by, Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, not that he wanted to follow Jesus, but out of curiosity. That means, there is a longing in every person to see God and experience Him. This interior longing is innate to every human person and has been instilled in each one of us from the very first moment of our life.

Jesus entered the city of Jericho and was passing by the town. Knowing this, Zacchaeus climbed on the Sycamore tree so that he can see Jesus, at the same time he thought Jesus would not see him because he had guilt feeling of his sin. When we live in sin, we will not be able to see God, because our vision of eternal life gets blurred in our confused state of mind where we can never encounter God face to face and so we try to hide. But in the stillness of our heart, we would certainly be able to experience God, so we need to keep ourselves away from the noisy and wicked world and get closer to God. Zacchaeus in spite of his wealth and the pleasures and the comfort provided by them was apparently unhappy, empty and lonely in his heart without God. Even though he had everything, at the end of the day there was a vacuum in his life. Nothing in this world could fill that vacuum. It would be interesting to know how did Jesus know that Zacchaeus was on the tree. Had they met in a coffee shop before? Jesus called Zacchaeus by name and he posed a question to him, "Are you willing to come down from your tree of sinfulness?" And Zacchaeus agreed to come down from the tree of his worldliness and follow the master who is the way, the truth and the life. – John 14:6.

Once he encountered Jesus, Zacchaeus decided to improve his relationship with one another and to restore his relationship with God. When he desired to meet Jesus, Jesus expressed his decision to stay with him that day. This attitude of change saved Zacchaeus and that would bring the message of salvation to his whole household. Zacchaeus was a true son of Abraham, a spiritual son. Jesus is the one who seeks and saves the lost. He is the one who sought out Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus put himself in a position to see Jesus. Jesus by his gentle gesture touched the heart of Zacchaeus to receive him. Only after Zacchaeus accepted Jesus, did Jesus save him. Unless we accept Jesus as our master and Lord, he cannot take us along. We need to expose ourselves to be noted by God. In the case of Israelites, though they had heard the good news all did not accept it. Zacchaeus had heard about Jesus from others. He was eager to meet him, and he took the necessary steps to encounter the Lord, and Jesus responded to fulfil Zacchaeus' wish. So only if we preach about Jesus to others, through our own gospel of life, like Zacchaeus, can we hear about Jesus. As St. Paul says in Rom 10:16-17, "Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ". Therefore, the preaching comes from what is seen and experienced. Let us ask the Lord to have heart longing for him.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ