



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

208 Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa,  
WR9 8AZ, Tel: 01905 773258  
Email: sacredheartdroitwich@hotmail.co.uk  
Web: www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk



### Today's Mass Readings

*Isaiah 2: 1-5;*

*Psalms 121;*

*Romans 13: 11-14;*

*Matthew 24: 37-44*

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

This Week 27th November – 4th December (Psalter Week 1)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
<b>Sunday 27th November</b> <b>First Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Year A</b> Retiring Collection for Droitwich SVP	8.30 am Deceased Members of the Baldry Family (MB) 10.30 am Private Intention (G & CP) 6.00 pm Denis O'Hara RIP	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy
<b>Monday 28th November</b> Advent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am John Mulhern (GF)	
<b>Tuesday 29th November</b> Advent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Bob Grant RIP (I & MM)	
<b>Wednesday 30th November</b> Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mike Ryan RIP (MR) 7.00 pm: Confirmation Mass	10.00 am until 6.00 pm: Adoration
<b>Thursday 1st December</b> Feast of St. Edmund Campion, Priest, Martyr	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Martin Quigley & Deceased Members of the Family (I & MM)	
<b>Friday 2nd December</b> Advent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Bob Grant RIP (DG)	9.45am: Novena to the Sacred Heart (soon after Mass) 6.30 pm: Youth Group
<b>Saturday 3rd December</b> Memorial of St. Francis Xavier, Priest	11.00 am Harry Remedios RIP (KA)	<b>10.15 am - 10.45 am:            Confessions</b>
<b>Sunday 4th December</b> <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Year A</b> Retiring Collection for the Poor Parishes	8.30 am Anne Dorricott RIP (MR) 10.30 am Bob Grant RIP (BB) 6.00 pm Betty Parry RIP (Folk Choir)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy

*"Good is hidden, silent. It requires slow and continuous excavation. Because God's style is discreet, it does not impose; it is like the air we breathe. We do not see it but it allows us to live, and we realize this only when it is missing."*

(Pope Francis, 19th November 2022)

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am & 10.30 am: I rejoiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to God's house."

6.00 pm: I rejoiced when I heard them say: Let us follow the path to the house of the Lord. I rejoiced when I heard them say: Let us follow the path to the mountain of God.

### 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

Kate Dalglish

Tel.: 01905 773258

Email:

sacredheart.droitwich@  
rcaob.org.uk

### PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

Gerry Ceclich

Kate Dalglish

Clare Tomlinson

Email:

sg.sacredheart.droitwich  
@rcaob.org.uk

### Archdiocese of Birmingham

**Safeguarding Team**

Tel.: 0121 230 6240

Email: safeguarding  
@rcaob.org.uk

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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, 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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### RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for **Frances Bourne** who died recently. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. The Requiem Mass will take place at 10.30 am on Monday 5th December at the Sacred Heart Church, followed by a burial at St. Mary's Churchyard. Please keep her family and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

### MASSES TODAY

Fr. George is away for a Mission Appeal on behalf of the SCJ. Fathers from Olton Friary will cover Fr. George at all Masses on Sunday 27th November. There will be an appeal and collection for Droitwich SVP at each Mass. Thank you for your generosity.

### CHRISTMAS FAYRE

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, like bric-a-brac, toiletries, books and children's toys etc. Items in good condition can now be brought to the Romero Room. Homemade cakes, marmalades and jams would also be greatly received, please bring them on Friday 9th December. Raffle Tickets are still on sale from the Parish Hall after each Sunday Mass. If you have already bought the raffle tickets and have not yet paid, could you please pay ASAP and please bring the counterfoil tickets well before the Fayre. If you are willing to help on the day, please speak to Fr. George or contact the Parish Office.

### JOB VACANCIES

Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College are currently recruiting for three job vacancies: Art Design Technology Technician, Admin Assistant and Teacher of Computing and Second in Department. Please visit <https://www.blessededward.co.uk/about-us/vacancies/> for full details.



*Congratulations to all our young people who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday.*

**YOUTH GROUP**

The youth group is currently running on Friday evenings from 6.30 pm for children aged 9-14 years. All young people are welcome to attend.

### **LIVE SIMPLY CHRISTMAS**

Have you started your Christmas shopping yet? THEN STOP AND THINK. We all need to save money and energy, as well as living simply. Prepare for Christmas by sharing ideas on our Eco Christmas tree in the entrance. Write your idea/promise on a Christmas bauble and put it on the tree. For example: rent a Christmas tree, buy a fresh tree with roots then plant it in the garden after Christmas ready for next year, if you've got a fake tree already, keep using it - make it last as long as possible, make a wreath that feeds the birds, make your own natural table decorations, turn off lights when you go out, watch TV with just the light from your Christmas tree, avoid buying crackers that contain plastic toys or items, make your own crackers and write your own jokes.

### **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. We will be collecting gifts from today 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**

Why not take 20 minutes each day for peaceful prayer on your own at home, or wherever you may be? 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](mailto:mandcjourdier@gmail.com)

### **REFUGEE COLLECTIONS**

Thank you so much once again for the baby items, scarves, hats, adult cardigans and crocheted blankets. A massive thank you too, for the pre-loved hats, scarves, gloves and other items of warm clothing. 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. 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.

### **RED WEDNESDAY PETITION**

The most dangerous place in the world to attend Mass is Nigeria, where an ongoing campaign of violence is part of the Christian experience throughout the country. Search on line [acnuk.org](http://acnuk.org) for petition calling on Foreign Office to put your concerns before the Nigerian government.



### **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

There will be Children's Liturgy today and on the following Sundays during the 10.30 am Mass: 4th & 11th December.

### **COMMUNITY MEAL**

The next Community Meal is the Christmas Lunch on Monday 12th December at 12.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

### **FOODBANK**

The countdown to Christmas calendar has been emailed with this newsletter and is on the noticeboard and the parish website. If you would like to support Foodbank then items can be left in the box at the back of church and would be gratefully received.



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

**Main Collection:**

**£302.48**

**Gift Aid last Sunday:**

**£286.50**

**Thank you for supporting your Parish.**

**Mass attendance last Sunday: 234**

**The retiring collection for Catholic Youth Services raised:**

**£51.44**

**Gift Aid: £82.60**

**Thank you for your generosity.**



**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 December 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.



**Next Sunday's Mass**

**Readings**

*Isaiah 11: 1-10;*

*Psalms 71;*

*Romans 15: 4-9;*

*Matthew 3: 1-12*

*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.*

We are in the first Sunday of Advent. After a tumultuous year, there is comfort to be found when we pause to read, pray, and reflect over the course of the Advent season, in which believers eagerly anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth. On this Sunday, the Liturgy gives us the opportunity to centre our thoughts on the virtue of hope. It's a beautiful chance to remember the hope God offers to our world which is desperately hungry for meaning in life, and that is given to us through Jesus.

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming." Advent in the 4th and 5th centuries was a time of preparation for the baptism of new Christians. Christians would spend 40 days in prayer and fasting to prepare for the celebration that accompanied the baptism of new believers. Over time, advent was connected to the coming of Christ. Originally Christians used this term to reference Christ's second coming, but by the Middle Ages, Advent was connected to Christ's first coming that we celebrate at Christmas. The tradition for the First Sunday of Advent includes lighting the candle of hope. This candle of hope symbolizes promises delivered through the prophets from God as well as the hope we have in Christ. God drafted a great rescue plan for the fallen humanity from slavery of sin to the freedom of life that He lays out in Scripture. This plan foretells years in advance the arrival of Christ. The Gospel reading today gives us a glimpse of the future and promises that God will come down to create a new Heaven and Earth. Today we read, pray, and reflect on the hope God's plan gives us (foretold by the prophets and fulfilled by the life and death of Christ), and we meditate on the promise of Christ's coming glory-filled return. Paul in his epistles to Galatians, articulates so perfectly the great hope we celebrate at Christmas! Without God's intervention, we were all slaves...bound up by our sin nature and hopelessly headed to the grave. Because of God's great love for us, He came down and rescued humanity by sending his Son as a sacrifice for our sin - so we could be free from the chains of sin and become fully part of God's glorious eternal family.

Therefore dear brothers and sisters, as we begin the season of Advent, as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus' arrival as a gift to all humanity; let's stir up in our hearts and homes a sense of anticipation. Over this Advent, we pray that hope would rise up in our spirits in a tangible and life-giving way. So let this be our prayer all through this advent season "Father, let your hope arise in our hearts! Lift our eyes up to see that you alone are where our hope comes from. Help us to shake off the anxiety, discouragements, and distractions that have filled this year and give us the grace we need to wrap up this year joyfully".

Fr. George Mathew SCJ