



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Isaiah 11: 1-10;
Psalms 71;
Romans 15: 4-9;
Matthew 3: 1-12

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



This Week 4th December – 11th December (Psalter Week 2)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 4th December Second Sunday of Advent Year A 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
Monday 5th December Feast of St. Birinus, Bishop	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Cecily Cowell RIP (K & EL) 10.30 am Requiem Mass	
Tuesday 6th December Advent Feria	9.15 am Holy Communion Service	
Wednesday 7th December Memorial of St. Ambrose. Bishop, Doctor of the Church	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Sue & Malcolm Nixon - 50th Wedding Anniversary (BB)	10.00 am until 6.00 pm: Adoration
Thursday 8th December Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Alan Howard RIP (DS)	
Friday 9th December Advent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Christine Hayward RIP (I & MM)	9.45am: Novena to the Sacred Heart (soon after Mass) 6.30 pm: Youth Group
Saturday 10th December Advent Feria	11.00 am Mary Pope RIP (EK)	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions 12 Noon: Christmas Fayre
Sunday 11th December Third Sunday of Advent Year A	8.30 am Elizabeth Wilson RIP (EK) 10.30 am Souls in Purgatory (MF) 6.00 pm Deceased members of the Larkin and McNeil families (K & EL)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy 2.30 pm: SVP Afternoon

"We must be awake, alert, vigilant. Jesus warns us: there is the danger of not realizing His coming and being unprepared for His visit. I have recalled on other occasions what Saint Augustine said: 'I fear the Lord who passes by'... that is, I fear that He will pass by and I will not recognize Him!" (Pope Francis, 27th November 2022)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am & 10.30 am: In his days, justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

6.00 pm: In his days justice will flourish. Peace will reign 'til the moon fades. May His name be blessed forever and endure like the noon-day sun.

SACRED HEART COMMUNITY

Fr. George Mathew SCJ
(Parish Priest)

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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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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 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 **Frances Bourne** and **Sandra Russo** who died recently. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. The Requiem Mass for Frances Bourne 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. The Requiem Mass for Sandra Russo will take place on Tuesday 20th December at 12 noon at the Sacred Heart Church followed by cremation at Wyre Forest Crematorium. Please keep their families and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

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.

HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

There will be no Mass on Tuesday 6th December. There will be a Holy Communion Service on this day at 9.15 am.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE - CAKE STALL

Paper plates are available after Mass today, please take one and fill it with a contribution to the cake stall - cakes large, small, homemade or bought will be grateful received.

PARISH 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.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY GIVING TREE

We are collecting gifts for Father Hudson's Homes and local families that are supported by SVP until Sunday 11th December. Father Hudson's Homes staff will collect the gifts on Wednesday 14th December to allow 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.

PARISH COUNCIL

A copy of the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 8th November 2022 is available on the notice board at the back of church. If anyone would like their own copy of the minutes please contact the Parish Office.

SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE

St. Joseph's School Carol Service is on Thursday 15th December at 6.30 pm at the Sacred Heart Church.

CARDS TO PRISONERS AND TO PRISONERS FAMILIES

This year the prison chaplain would be grateful if as well as cards to prisoners themselves, we could send blank Christmas cards for the prisoners to send to their families, which many cannot afford to do. Therefore there some blank cards for the prisoners' families and some with the prison address on in the normal way. These are in labelled boxes. Posting cards to arrive on time we should aim to have our cards there by 12/14 December. Donations gratefully received; boxes at back of church. Thank you.

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.

SAVE THE DATE

SVP are organising a free Family quiz night on Saturday 21st January 2023 at 7.00 pm in the Sacred Heart Church Hall. Teams of up to six people, but if you do not have enough for a team come along and join up with other parishioners to make a team. There will be a raffle, spot prizes for the children and a small gift voucher for the winning team.

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 If you might be interested, please contact Max and Cecilia Jourdier at mandcjourdier@gmail.com

THANK YOU FROM CAFOD

Thank you for your prayers and for holding a collection in your parish this Family Fast Day. Thank you to all for your parish's donation of £437.00 which we received to our World Food Crisis Appeal.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be Children's Liturgy today and on Sunday 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 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:

£295.10

Gift Aid last Sunday:

£162.45

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 214**

**The retiring
collection for
the SVP raised :
£728.76**

**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 35: 1-6;

Psalms 145;

James 5: 7-10;

Matthew 11: 2-11

We are at the Second Sunday of Advent. According to the statement released by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), over 100 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide by persecution, war, conflict, human rights violations or events seriously disturbing public order in 2022. The war between Russia and Ukraine has lasted almost 10 months now, the human rights violations continue in Afghanistan since the Taliban took control of the country. The vindictiveness of Christian persecution in Nigeria reached its height and there are many more sad stories of human suffering that we hear every day these days. In this state of the world dear brothers and sisters we lit the second candle of peace in the Advent wreath. By which we are invited to reflect on the change of heart, it calls to us for attitudinal change.

The first reading from the prophet Isaiah is set in a situation where northern kingdom - Samaria had been ambushed and deported by the Assyrians and they were threatening to do the same with the southern kingdom of Judah. The prophet Isaiah speaks about a time in the future, when the family tree of David would be cut down like a dead stump. It is from this dead stump a new shoot will emerge. This new shoot, the Messiah, will bear the fruit of justice and peace as He will be full of the Spirit of the Lord. In the reading we hear that the wolf will live with the lamb and the cow and the bear with grace and a child will lead them. When the Messiah reigns there will be peace among people and serenity in nature. It will be a world where sin no longer creates hostility among people – a world where people treat each other with mutual care and respect. There will be harmony and peace in the world. It is this harmony and peace our broken and fragmented world desperately requires today. While we do feel helpless and frustrated seeing our world in this condition, there are some important questions that we need to address ourselves. First, am I at peace with my family? Am I at peace with my neighbours? Am I at peace with my colleagues at work? And perhaps the most important one, am I at peace with myself? As long as the answer to any of these questions remain negative to each person in the world, peace in the world will remain a utopian dream and be always vulnerable. In the second reading from St. Paul's letter to the Romans, we see Paul urges the community in Rome to live in harmony with one another. He brings out the universality of the Kingdom of God. The Jews and Gentiles, the slaves and the citizens have to be united in Jesus Christ. He should be the facture that unites the nations and humanity in the form of ceremonial immersion, but typically was done to receive the Gentiles to Jewish community.

In the Gospel passage John the Baptist speaks about repentance. Though John the Baptist is generally associated with baptism and Christianity, it was already being practised in the Jewish community. John's Baptism was an occasion for the people to confess their sins and so prepare for the coming of the Messiah. The heart of John's message was a call to 'repent'. What do we mean by 'repent'? it is to feel sorry for our wrongdoing. This understanding is in line with the Greek word 'Metanoia'. However, the Hebrew word for repent is 'Shub' which has a far deeper meaning. While 'Metanoia' refers to turn from sin, the word 'Shub' is not 'turn from' but 'turn to'. It is more than feeling guilt or regret, but it is deciding, physically, emotionally and spiritually make a complete 'U-TURN' from where you are moving back to God. It is more than abstaining from a wrong behaviour or being sorry, but it is a continues decision to return to God. Real repentance must show itself in our life. We are called to contribute in establishing God's Kingdom of peace in this world by first establishing that peace in our own lives and the lives of others. I invite you to spend little time in prayer asking God, 'what do you want me to do Lord to turn to you?'

Fr. George Mathew SCJ