



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Isaiah 35: 1-6;

Psalms 145;

James 5: 7-10;

Matthew 11: 2-11

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

This Week 11th December – 18th December (Psalter Week 3)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
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
Monday 12th December Advent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Frances Bourne RIP (AM)	12.30 pm: Community Meal
Tuesday 13th December Memorial of St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Anthony Pinnell RIP (G & CP)	
Wednesday 14th December Memorial of St. John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Bob Grant RIP (ST)	10.00 am until 6.00 pm: Adoration
Thursday 15th December Advent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Frances Bourne RIP (BB)	6.30 pm: Carol Service
Friday 16th December Advent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Alan Remedios RIP (KA)	9.45am: Novena to the Sacred Heart (soon after Mass) 6.30 pm: Youth Group
Saturday 17th December Advent Feria	11.00 am Gladys Remedios RIP (KA)	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 18th December Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A	8.30 am Rosemary O'Grady RIP (C & M) 10.30 am A Sick Person (AM) 6.00 pm Holy Mass	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall

“Advent is a moment of grace to take off our masks – every one of us has them – and line up with those who are humble, to be liberated from the presumption of the belief of being self-sufficient, to go to confess our sins, the hidden ones, and to welcome God's pardon, to ask forgiveness from those whom we have offended. This is how to begin a new life...to see Jesus as the Saviour who comes for us, not for the others, for us, just as we are...with our need to be raised up, forgiven and saved.”

(Pope Francis, 4th December 2022)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am & 10.30 am: Come, Lord, and save us.

6.00 pm: Come Lord and save us X2 Maranatha! Come into our world.

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

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Archdiocese of Birmingham Safeguarding Team

Tel.: 0121 230 6240

Email: safeguarding
@rcaob.org.uk

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for **Sandra Russo** 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 on Tuesday 20th December at 12 noon at the Sacred Heart Church followed by cremation at Wyre Forest Crematorium. Please keep her family and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Thank you to all those who supported the Christmas Fayre, either by making cakes, advertising the event, helping set up the stalls, being a stall holder, selling raffle tickets, providing refreshments, clearing up afterwards, donating items, counting the takings and/or attending on the day and supporting the event. The total raised for the parish will be announced in due course.

PARISH DIARIES - NOW AVAILABLE

The 2023 Parish Diaries have arrived and are available to collect from the Narthex. The diaries are free, but any donations would be much appreciated and will be given to the Sacred Heart Missions

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. E.g.: plan meals carefully, don't buy too much food, shop locally to avoid food miles, don't buy food items that are traditional if nobody likes them, avoid plastic wrapped fruit and vegetables, compost food waste, eat your leftovers, cut down on meat and dairy portions, share a meal with someone near who lives on their own, freeze any extras as treats for January.

SERVICES AT CHRISTMAS

The details for Christmas services and other activities are available to collect from the back of the church.

SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE

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

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.

CHURCH CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS

Just as we all clean and decorate our homes before Christmas, we need our beautiful church cleaned for Christmas. Would you be able to set aside a couple of hours of your precious time before Christmas to clean and tidy our church on Wednesday 21st December after morning Mass?

PARISH COUNCIL

A copy of the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 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.

CARDS TO PRISONERS AND TO PRISONERS FAMILIES

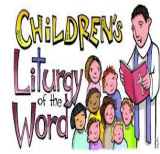
This year the prison chaplain would be grateful if as well as cards to prisoners themselves, we could send blank Christmas cards for the prisoners to send to their families, which many cannot afford to do. Therefore there some blank cards for the prisoners' families and some with the prison address on 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.

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

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.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be Children's Liturgy today.

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:

£319.74

Gift Aid last Sunday:

£190.00

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 257**

**The retiring
collection for
the Poor Parishes
raised : £147.85**

Gift Aid: £106.00

**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 today 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 or on Facebook, SVP Sacred Heart Droitwich



Next Sunday's Mass

Readings

Isaiah 7: 10-14;

Psalms 23;

Romans 1: 1-7;

Matthew 1: 18-24

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.

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, which is characterized by Saint Paul's invitation: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.... The Lord is at hand" (Phil 4:4-5). It is not a superficial or cheerfulness of worldliness or of consumerism. But rather, it is an expression of authentic joy, the taste of which we are called to rediscover. The taste of true joy. It is a joy that touches our innermost being, as we await Jesus, who has already come to bring salvation to the world. The liturgy of the Word offers us the appropriate context for understanding and living out this joy. Isaiah speaks of wilderness, of dry land, of plains (Is. 35:1); the Prophet sees before him weak hands, feeble knees, fearful hearts, people who are blind, deaf and dumb. The context of this situation is desolation, an inevitable fate without God.

But finally, salvation is proclaimed: "Be strong, fear not, behold, your God.... He will come and save you". Everything is transformed: the desert blooms, comfort and joy permeate hearts. These signs proclaimed by Isaiah as signs of salvation which is already present; they are fulfilled in Jesus. God has entered history in order to free us from the slavery of sin; he set his tent in our midst in order to share our existence, to heal our lesions, to bind our wounds and to give us new life. Joy is the fruit of this intervention of God's salvation and love. We are called to let ourselves be drawn in by the feeling of exultation. A Christian who isn't joyful is a Christian who is lacking something, or else is not a Christian! We are not talking about the joy that come from absence of sorrow. But It is heartfelt joy, the joy within which leads us forth and gives us courage. The Lord comes, he comes into our life as a liberator; he comes to free us from all forms of interior and exterior slavery and bondage. It is he who shows us the path of faithfulness, of patience and of perseverance because, upon his return, our joy will be overflowing. Advent is a time of grace. It tells us that it is not enough to believe in God: it is necessary to purify our faith every day. It is a matter of preparing ourselves to welcome not a fairy-tale character, but the God who challenges us, involves us and before whom a choice is imposed. The Child who lies in the manger has the face of our brothers and sisters most in need, of the poor who are "a privileged part of this mystery; often they are the first to recognize God's presence in our midst".

Christmas is near, the signs of his approach are evident along our streets and in our houses; These outward signs invite us to welcome the Lord who always comes and knocks at our door, knocks at our heart, in order to draw near to us; he invites us to recognize his footsteps among the brothers and sisters who pass beside us, especially the weakest and most needy. As today we are called to rejoice for the imminent coming of our Redeemer; and we are called to share this joy with others, giving comfort and hope. So, at this advent time let us do something concretely to share our joy, by visiting or speaking to somebody who is sick or housebound, lonely or unhappy, feeling rejected and unwanted. When we share the joy, our joy will multiply and when we share the sorrow of somebody the pain of sorrow will reduce. Thus we prepared for the Christmas appointment, preparing our hearts to welcome Jesus.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ