



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 7: 10-14;  
Psalm 23;  
Romans 1: 1-7;  
Matthew 1: 18-24

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



This Week 18th December – 25th December (Psalter Week 4)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
<b>Sunday 18th December</b> 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 Special Intention (AM)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall
<b>Monday 19th December</b> Advent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Sheila Lynam RIP (CL)	
<b>Tuesday 20th December</b> Advent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Frances Bourne RIP (MR) 12 Noon Requiem Mass	
<b>Wednesday 21st December</b> Advent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Diane Conti RIP (AK)	10.00 am Church Cleaning
<b>Thursday 22nd December</b> Advent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Brenda O'Keeffe (JC) 7.00 pm Advent Penitential Service	
<b>Friday 23rd December</b> Advent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Fergus O'Toole RIP (CH) 12 Noon Funeral Service	10.00 am Flower Arranging
<b>Saturday 24th December</b> Christmas Eve Advent Feria	5.00 pm First Mass of Christmas (Family Mass) 8.00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass with Carols from 7.30 pm	
<b>Sunday 25th December</b> Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord Year A	9.30 am Christmas Mass during the Day	After 9.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall Christmas Offering for the Parish Priest

*“Preparing the Nativity display for the Infant Jesus, we learn again who our Lord is; a time to leave behind certain mindsets and prejudices about God and our brothers and sisters; a time in which, instead of thinking about gifts for ourselves, we can give words and gestures of consolation to those who are wounded, as Jesus did with the blind, the deaf and the lame.”*

(Pope Francis, 11th December 2022)

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am & 10.30 am: Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory

6.00 pm: Let the Lord enter in. He is the King of Glory. Let the Lord enter, let the Lord enter, enter into your heart.

### 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

---

### 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.**

---

**Fr. George SCJ , Fr. Brian SCJ, Fr. Tom SCJ and Bro. Patrick SCJ wish everyone in our parish community a blessed and peaceful Christmas. May the blessings of Christmas embrace you and your family. Sincere thanks for your prayers, cards, gifts, support and help during**

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for **Sandra Russo** and **Nicole Syddall** 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 Sandra Russo will take place on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon at the Sacred Heart Church followed by cremation at Wyre Forest Crematorium. The Funeral Service for Nicole Syddall will take place on Friday 23rd December at 12 Noon at the Sacred Heart Church followed by a burial at St. Mary's Churchyard. Please keep their families 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 amount raised was £2,618.38, of which £1470.00 was from selling of raffle tickets. The list of winners of raffle prizes is at the back of the church. Please have a look to see if you have won a prize. The Raffle prizes can be collected from the Romero room after each Mass.

### CRIB OFFERINGS

Our parish will be donating crib offerings to Friends of the Holy Land. Every penny will help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel with education, employment, health and housing initiatives. FHL is apolitical and ecumenical. Please keep our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land in your prayers at this time.

## 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.: turn the heating down if you have a full house with family or friends, save a mince pie for Santa, use fabric table cloths / napkins that can be used again, go out for a long winter walk, you will feel warmer when you get home, give food treats to the more senior members of the family, don't always buy new Christmas clothes - reuse your Christmas jumper, if you are all in the kitchen, turn off lights in the living room, take your own treats to the cinema or pantomime, sell unwanted items, enjoy your time with your lovely family - precious times.

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> December after morning Mass?

## 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

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank you all for your continued support for the work that we do. Your generosity is wonderful both for the Giving Tree and the second collection that we had recently. It gives us the means to help the many people who need support in our town. We could not offer the help without your generosity. For information about what we do please visit our new Face Book page SVP Sacred Heart Droitwich and like and share it with your friends. We can be contacted at [DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk](mailto:DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk) or on 0777 292 7535.

## CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

The newsletter for Christmas Day will be printed on Wednesday 21st December. Please could any items for the newsletter be submitted by 12 Noon on Tuesday 20th December. The newsletter for New Year's Day will be printed on Thursday 29th December. Please could any items for the newsletter be submitted by 12 Noon on Wednesday 28th December. The Parish Secretary will be out of the office from Thursday 22nd December until Wednesday 28th December and from Friday 30th December until Monday 2nd January inclusive. All matters will be dealt with on my return to the office; if it is urgent, please contact Fr. George Mathew SCJ.

## SAVE THE DATE

SVP are organising a free family quiz night on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

## ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM DIRECTORY 2023

If you would like to purchase a copy of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Directory 2023, these are available at a cost £2.90. Please speak to Fr. George or contact the Parish Office if you would like one.



## SERVICES AT CHRISTMAS

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

## COMMUNITY MEAL

The next Community Meal is on Monday 16th January 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:**  
**£203.02**

**Gift Aid last Sunday:**  
**£232.50**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

**Mass attendance  
last Sunday: 181**

**Additional donation  
for the Poor  
Parishes**

**Gift Aid: £20.00**

**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 on Sunday 8th January 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 or on Facebook, SVP Sacred Heart Droitwich



**Next Sunday's Mass**

**Readings**

*Isaiah 52: 7-10;*

*Psalms 97;*

*Hebrews 1: 1-6;*

*John 1: 1-18*

*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.*

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, the anticipation is building for the fast-approaching celebration of Christmas. Today's readings indicate that anticipation. The first reading from the Prophet Isaiah speaks of the coming of the Messiah. Written centuries before the birth of Christ, it tells us that the Messiah would come from Bethlehem. He would not only be the "ruler in Israel," as David was, but would rule the entire world, his kingship shall bring peace.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we hear the account of the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. Mary's journey to Elizabeth immediately followed the Annunciation when she learned that she would give birth to the Messiah. Scripture tells us that she went "in haste" to see Elizabeth, who was in her sixth month of pregnancy with John the Baptist. It must have been a hard journey for Mary to travel from Nazareth to the hill country of Judah, traveling about 90 miles in 4 days on foot or on donkey to meet Elizabeth. Even today with modern roads and transportation it is a hard journey to the house of Zachariah and Elizabeth. It is incredible to think of what this encounter must have been like. Here are two women who have been called by God to bring forth children into the world who would transform history. John would lead the way for the Messiah, Jesus, who would save us from our sins. Upon Mary's arrival, John the Baptist leaped in Elizabeth's womb as an expression of acknowledgement of the presence of the Lord, Jesus, in Mary's womb. Elizabeth articulates this with the familiar words we say in the "Hail, Mary": "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb." She also referred to Mary as "the mother of my Lord." Thus, Elizabeth expressed faith that Jesus was the Messiah. This meeting was an encounter of two women chosen by God to be His instruments to bring forth Messiah the Saviour. This leads us to an important reflection on Mary's role in God's bringing of salvation to the world. God chose to become man in order to save us from our sins. But He did not force Himself into humanity. He did not disrespect our human freedom in order to do so. Rather, He invited Mary to be the mother of the Messiah. And because she said 'yes,' God became incarnate. Therefore, we can echo the words of Elizabeth in saying, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." Mary trusted God, even though what she was entrusted with was beyond comprehension and thus she became the new Ark of the Covenant, the Tabernacle, the 'God Bearer' as St. John Paul II once said, "Mary became in some way a 'tabernacle' the first 'tabernacle' in history in which the Son of God, still invisible to the human gaze, allowed himself to be adored by Elizabeth, radiating His peace and joy at His very presence".

Every Christian is called to be Christophers (Christ Bearer) who bear His image, invisible and visibly radiating Christ's peace and Joy to everybody we meet. That means the very presence of a Christian should make others leap with joy and peace. Over this Advent, would you pray that God's unexplainable peace would be evident in your heart and home. This year we all have faced so many challenges and uncertainties. God's peace is something we need to grab tightly onto more than ever. May God's spirit transform the days leading up to Christmas into a time to joyfully await our King!

Fr. George Mathew SCJ