



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Isaiah 52: 7-10;
Psalm 97;
Hebrews 1: 1-6;
John 1: 1-18

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

This Week 25th December – 1st January (Psalter Week 1)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 25th December 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
Monday 26th December Feast of St. Stephen, the First Martyr	10.00 am Rita Hennessy (M & CG)	Altar Server's Mass
Tuesday 27th December Feast of St. John, Apostle, Evangelist	10.00 am Cynthia Sharkey (P & CI)	
Wednesday 28th December Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Michael Duffy RIP (JD)	
Thursday 29th December Feast of St. Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am George Hancock RIP (AM)	
Friday 30th December Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Jos & Ron Hancock (AM)	
Saturday 31st December Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	11.00 am Deceased Parents, Family & Friends of Rawlings (S & S)	
Sunday 1st January Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God Year A	8.30 am Frances Bourne RIP (MT) 10.30 am Special Intention (AM) 6.00 pm Frances Bourne RIP (Flower Group)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall

“When someone experiences a crisis without giving in to isolation, anger, and fear, but keeps the door open for God, He can intervene. He is an expert in transforming crises into dreams – yes, God opens crises into new horizons we never would have imagined before, perhaps not as we would expect, but in the way He knows how. And these, brothers and sisters, are God’s horizons – surprising – but infinitely more grand and beautiful than ours!”

(Pope Francis, 18th December 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

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Primary School,
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HEAD TEACHER

Mrs. Cath Bryan

PARISH SECRETARY

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**PARISH SAFEGUARDING
REPRESENTATIVES**

Gerry Ceclich

Kate Dalglish

Clare Tomlinson

Email:

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**Archdiocese of
Birmingham
Safeguarding Team**

Tel.: 0121 230 6240

Email: safeguarding
@rcaob.org.uk

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

9.30 am: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of
our God.

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 2022.**

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 £2,615.46, 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.

ST. STEPHEN'S DAY

There will be a special mass for the Altar Servers on St. Stephen's Day,
Monday 26th December, at 10.00 am. Please could all Alter Servers attend
this special Mass.

WEDNESDAY ADORATION

There will be no Adoration on Wednesday 28th December. Adoration will
resume on Wednesday 4th January.

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

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.

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 or on 0777 292 7535.

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.

REFUGEE COLLECTIONS

Thank you so much for the vast quantity of exquisite crocheted and knitted hats and scarves which were recently donated. A special thank you to the people who packed soft toys and crocheted bags with the hats, what joy they will bring! Last but not least thank you for the handmade blankets, new underwear and pre-loved hats, scarves and gloves. All these items will bring such joy to people in such dire situations. Wool, Patterns, buttons and needles to help defray costs are available in the cupboards at the back of the church. Donations of the same can also be deposited there.

MESSAGE FROM HMP LONG LARTIN

Thank you very much for sending cards for our prisoners earlier this month. It was a really lovely gesture of kindness and community and was hugely appreciated. Wishing you a merry Christmas and a Happy New year. Ismail Isakji, Managing Chaplain.

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.



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.

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.



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



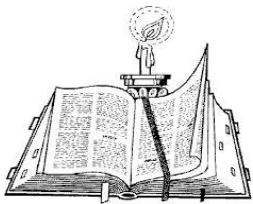
**Gift Aid last Sunday:
£161.50**

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**



**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 or on 07772 927535 or on Facebook, SVP Sacred Heart Droitwich



**Next Sunday's Mass
Readings**

Numbers 6: 22-27;
Psalms 66;
Galatians 4: 4-7;
Luke 2: 16-21

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.

A young man was absorbed by this question: what language does God speak? He asked people around, what is the language of God? And no one was able to offer him a satisfactory answer. So, the young man undertook a pilgrimage in search of the answer to his all-important questions. First, he met a holy man and he said, "Look around you, see the beauty of creation: this is the language of God." After staying with him few days he left searching for a better answer. Then he met a group of wisemen. He told them of his journey and his search. They said, "God speaks the language of your heart. Sit and meditate. You will hear Him." That is what the young man did. He sat and meditated. Day after day. He came to discover many truths about himself, God and about his relationships. This brought him much serenity, wisdom and meaning. Yet he was not convinced that he had experienced the voice of God tangibly. So, he continued his journey. Next, he reached a temple where he was given the Holy Scripture to study, he felt it was really enlightening. But slowly he began to discover that there were some errors in the writing and so he felt his question was not answered yet. He continued his pilgrimage and reached a city that was crowded with people. He went around looking for a place to spend the night. There was no place in the inn. So, he was directed to a cave in the outskirts of the city. When he entered the cave, there he saw a young couple with a new-born babe. As the young man stood hesitantly at the entrance, the mother welcomed him in. She showed him the little babe and said, "This is the language of God."

In the second reading of today we heard, "At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son..." (Heb 1:1). We have reasons to celebrate because God has spoken in a language beyond all spoken language. He is one of us. He has shared our human condition. This is the mystery that we celebrate today: "The word was made flesh, he lived among us" (Jn 1:14). Today, God is seen in the form of a little babe. Yes, God in Jesus, born today in the form of little babe attracts us. He invites us to see his glory. The little crib in our side chapel simply tells us how concrete and tangible God has made himself to be.

Dear brothers and sisters, after the Mass you should go to the crib and spend some time contemplating what is central, beyond all the lights and decorations, which are beautiful. We contemplate the child. In his littleness, God is completely present. As we take one last look at the crib, in the distance, we glimpse the Magi, journeying to worship the Lord. As we look more closely, we see that all around Jesus everything comes together: not only do we see the poor, the shepherds, but also the learned and the rich, the Magi. In Bethlehem, rich and poor come together, those who worship, like the Magi, and those who work, like the shepherds. Everything is unified when Jesus is at the centre: not our ideas about Jesus. Let us go to Bethlehem, where God is in man and man in God. There the Lord takes first place and is worshipped; there the poor have the place nearest him; there the shepherds and Magi are joined in a fraternity beyond all differences. Therefore, let us set out, for life itself is a pilgrimage. Let us rouse ourselves, for tonight a light has been lit, a kindly light, reminding us that, in our littleness, we are beloved sons and daughters, children of the light (1 Thess 5:5). Brothers and sisters, let us rejoice together, for no one will ever extinguish this light, the light of Jesus, that shines brightly in the world. Fr. George Mathew SCJ