



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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### Today's Mass Readings

Numbers 6: 22-27;  
Psalm 66;  
Galations 4: 4-7;  
Luke 2: 16-21

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



This Week 1st January – 8th January (Psalter Week 2)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
<b>Sunday 1st January</b> <b>Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God</b> <b>Year A</b>	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
<b>Monday 2nd January</b> Memorial of St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church	10.00 am Luke Hanson (AM)	
<b>Tuesday 3rd January</b> Christmas Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Molly Burke RIP (JG)	
<b>Wednesday 4th January</b> Christmas Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Eliamma RIP (SE)	10.00 am until 6.00 pm: Adoration
<b>Thursday 5th January</b> Christmas Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Daniel Kavanagh RIP (MK)	
<b>Friday 6th January</b> <b>Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord</b>	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mary Pope RIP (EK)	9.45am: Novena to the Sacred Heart (soon after Mass)
<b>Saturday 7th January</b> Christmas Feria	11.00 am Thomas and Maureen Fahy (GF)	<b>10.15 am -10.45 am: Confessions</b>
<b>Sunday 8th January</b> <b>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</b> <b>Year A</b>	8.30 am Fr. A Hunt CSSR RIP (MR) 10.30 am Molly Burke RIP (BB) 6.00 pm Frances Bourne RIP (J & GP)	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 can improve our witness through charity towards our brothers and sisters, fidelity to the Word of God, and forgiveness. Charity, Word, forgiveness. It is forgiveness that tells whether we truly practice charity towards others, and if we live the Word of God...Let us ask the newborn Jesus for the newness of a heart capable of forgiveness...Let us ask for the strength to pray for those who have hurt us, to pray for those who have harmed us, and to take steps of openness and reconciliation. May the Lord give us today this grace." (Pope Francis, 26th 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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**HEAD TEACHER**

Mrs. Cath Bryan

**PARISH SECRETARY**

Kate Dalglish

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**PARISH SAFEGUARDING  
REPRESENTATIVES**

Gerry Ceclich

Kate Dalglish

Clare Tomlinson

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**Archdiocese of  
Birmingham**

**Safeguarding Team**

Tel.: 0121 230 6240

Email: safeguarding  
@rcaob.org.uk

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.00 pm: O God, be gracious and bless us.

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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

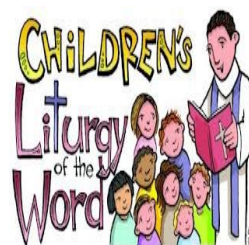
**Due to the new data regulations (GDPR), the Archdiocese have requested that we do not list names unless we have the consent of the individual. If you would like your name to be included in this list please contact Fr. George SCJ or Kate Dalglish. Please note that the newsletter is also placed on the parish website. Thank you for your understanding.**

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**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.



**CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

Children's Liturgy will resume during the 10.30 am Mass on Sunday 8th January.

**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

*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.*

### 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 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.

### 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.

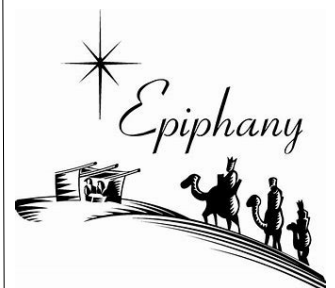


### COMMUNITY MEAL

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.*



**Main Collection (18th  
December):**

**£274.73**

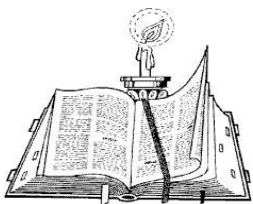
**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

**Mass attendance  
last Sunday: 180**



**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**

*Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7;*

*Psalms 28;*

*Acts 10: 34-38;*

*Matthew 3: 13-17*

Dear Brothers and Sisters, today we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God. One might ask a question, Mary is only a creature, so how can she be the Mother of God? It is a legitimate question. In order to answer this question, we need to understand what motherhood implies. Motherhood is an act of a woman giving her offspring the same type of nature that she herself has. This gift of nature is given through the process of conception, growth and childbirth. The fruit of this process, which we may call as maternal generation of the whole person, not only the physical body but the complete person. For example, our own mother, who is the mother of the complete person as we are. Even though our own mother does not create our soul which is infused in us by God himself. Motherhood therefore refers to the gift of like nature including the entire nature of a person. Mary is the mother of Jesus; Jesus is God therefore Mary is the Mother of God. In Jesus there is only one person, the divine person but two natures divine and human. Mary did not give Jesus his divine nature, which was His from all eternity. She also did not give Jesus His human soul. Mary gave Jesus a human nature. However, in Jesus, both human nature and the divine nature united in one person, the second person in the trinity without any confusion or division. Since in Jesus there is only one person that is divine, therefore Mary is rightly called as Mother of God. To say the same thing in another way. A woman is a man's mother either if she carried him in her womb or if she was the woman contributing half of his genetic matter or both. Mary is the mother of Jesus in both senses because she not only carried Jesus in her womb but also supplied all the genetic matter for His human body since it was through her not through Joseph that Jesus took His full human nature.

St. Paul points out that the Son of God was "born of a woman" (Gal 4:4). In these few words, he tells us something amazing: that the Lord was born like us. He did not appear on the scene as an adult, but as a child. He came into the world not on his own, but from a woman, after nine months in the womb of his Mother, from whom he allowed his humanity to be shaped. The heart of the Lord began to beat within Mary; the God of life drew oxygen from her. Ever since then, Mary has united us to God because in her God bound himself to our flesh, and he has never left it. She is not only the bridge joining us to God; she is the road that God travelled in order to reach us, and the road that we must travel in order to reach him. Through Mary, we encounter God the way he wants us to: in tender love, in intimacy, in the flesh. Jesus is not an abstract idea; he is real and incarnate; he was "born of a woman", and quietly grew. Women are concrete and know how to weave life's threads with quiet patience. How many women, how many mothers, thus give birth and rebirth to life, offering the world a future! We are in this world not to die, but to give life. The holy Mother of God teaches us that the first step in giving life to those around us is to cherish it within ourselves. Today's Gospel tells us that Mary "kept all these things in her heart" (cf. Lk 2:19). And goodness comes from the heart. How important it is to keep our hearts pure, to cultivate our interior life and to persevere in our prayer! How important it is to educate our hearts to care, to cherish the persons and things around us. Everything starts from this: from cherishing others, the world and creation. This year, while we hope for new beginnings and new cares, let us not neglect care. This will be a good year if we take care of others, as Our Lady does with us. It would be good to find time for someone. Let us ask for the grace to find time for God and for our neighbour – for those who are alone or suffering, for those who need someone to listen and show concern for them. Have a Blessed New Year 2023.