



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7;
Psalm 28;
Acts 10: 34-38;
Matthew 3: 13-17

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

This Week 8th January – 15th January (Psalter Week 1)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 8th January Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Year A	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
Monday 9th January Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Private Intentions (FG)	
Tuesday 10th January Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Pope Benedict XVI RIP	
Wednesday 11th January Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Pele RIP (BB)	10.00 am until 6.00 pm: Adoration
Thursday 12th January Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Holy Mass	
Friday 13th January Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Holy Mass	9.45am: Novena to the Sacred Heart (soon after Mass) 6.30 pm: Youth Group
Saturday 14th January Feria in Ordinary Time	11.00 am Alan Rossiter RIP (MG)	10.15 am -10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 15th January Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A Retiring Collection for Pax Christi	8.30 am Winifred Moulton RIP (MR) 10.30 am Holy Mass 6.00 pm John & Mary Ryan (DR)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy

"I would like us to join with those here beside us who are paying their respects to Benedict XVI, and to turn my thoughts to him, a great master of catechesis. His acute and gentle thought was not self-referential, but ecclesial, because he always wanted to accompany us in the encounter with Jesus. Jesus, Crucified and Risen, the Living One and the Lord, was the destination to which Pope Benedict led us, taking us by the hand. May he help us rediscover in Christ the joy of believing and the hope of living."

(Pope Francis, 4th January 2023)

**SACRED HEART
COMMUNITY**

Fr. George Mathew SCJ
(Parish Priest)

fr.george.mathew@
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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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Primary School,
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Mrs. Cath Bryan

PARISH SECRETARY

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**PARISH SAFEGUARDING
REPRESENTATIVES**

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**Archdiocese of
Birmingham**

Safeguarding Team

Tel.: 0121 230 6240

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RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am & 10.30 am: The Lord will bless his people with
peace.

6.00 pm: Show to us your love and mercy. AK 25

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.**

POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI RIP

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who served as Supreme Pontiff from April
2005 to February 2013, has died aged 95, the Vatican has confirmed. The
funeral took place on Thursday 5th January. May he rest in peace. For a full
statement from Archbishop Bernard Longley, please visit
<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/News/pope-emeritus-benedict-xvi>

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for **Mary (Molly) Burke** 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 10th January at
1.00 pm at the Sacred Heart Church followed by cremation at Worcester
Crematorium at 2.30 pm. Please keep her family and friends in your kind
thoughts and prayers.

PEACE SUNDAY: 15TH JANUARY 2023

Sunday 15th January is Peace Sunday and this year the message from Pope
Francis tells us: 'No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together,
embarking together on paths of peace'. He asks us: 'What did we learn
from the pandemic? What new paths should we follow to cast off the
shackles of our old habits, to be better prepared, to dare new things? What
signs of life and hope can we see, to help us move forward and try to make
our world a better place?' In this country we have an active Catholic peace
movement in Pax Christi, which aims at working together to promote peace
through parishes, schools and social media. There will be a retiring
collection for Pax Christi next Sunday or alternatively, donations can be
made via their website at [https://paxchristi.org.uk/about-us/support-us/
donation/](https://paxchristi.org.uk/about-us/support-us/donation/)

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

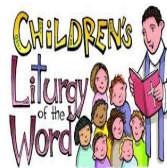
YOUTH GROUP

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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will resume during the 10.30 am Mass on Sunday 8th January and will also take place on Sundays 15th, 22nd and 29th January.



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 Facebook 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.

RETHINK ABORTION TRAINING DAY

A Rethink Abortion Training Day will take place on Saturday 4th February from 10.00 am until 5.00 pm (optional Mass at 9am). An interactive event equipping you to talk about abortion in a meaningful and productive way in your everyday life. Venue: Oscott College, Birmingham B73 5AA. Lunch and refreshments provided. Booking required. Find out more & book your place at marchforlife.co.uk

FOODBANK

There is a thank you letter and a new wish list of items on the noticeboard, the parish website and emailed with this newsletter. If you would like to support the Foodbank then items can be left in the box at the back of church and would be gratefully received.



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.

ECUMENICAL PILGRIMAGES

Archbishop Bernard and Bishop John have agreed to lead pilgrimages to Worcester Cathedral on Tuesday 31st January 2023 and to Canterbury from Friday 6th - Sunday 8th October 2023. Full details are on the flyer distributed via email and the poster at the back of church.

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

Main Collection:

£336.80

Gift Aid : £249.50

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 231**

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 49: 3, 5-6;

Psalms 39;

1 Corinthians 1: 1-3;

John 1: 29-34

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.

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord ends the Christmas season. The Church's long tradition, this feast is always celebrated after the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, which we celebrated last Friday, and close to the miracle at Cana where Jesus turned water into wine. In each of these events, the life and the mission of Jesus is clearly made known. St. Matthew tells us that during the Baptism of Jesus the Heavens were opened and a voice came, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased". It is interesting that for a baby who was born in a simple manger on a quiet night, all these years later having a dramatic baptism. Christmas begins with a silent night, but it ends with God's voice booming in the sky saying that how He is pleased with His Beloved Son. What is happening at the Baptism of Jesus is the proclamation that Jesus, seemingly a man like all of us, is in reality so closely at one with God that God calls Him His Beloved Son and reveals the presence of the Holy Spirit who is always with Him. The baptism of Jesus is a confirmation of what Luke's Gospel has already told us, that Jesus is not another, but He is the presence among us.

On this day we focus on the extraordinary events that took place during the time of baptism of the Lord. During His baptism the Heavens were opened. It was opened for Jesus. The Gospel of St. John tells that Jesus would speak about Himself as The Bread that has come down from Heaven, the word made flesh. The heavens were closed and God sent men out of the Garden of Eden after their fall. The Garden of Eden symbolises heaven itself. St. Paul in his letter to the Romans uses the Adam-Christ typology, Christ as the new Adam. Through this new Adam the door that was closed but by the sin of first Adam was opened. So, in the same way, during our baptism the door of the heavenly kingdom is opened for us and at our baptism we have begun our journey towards heaven. Just as Jesus was entrusted with a mission after His baptism, so we, after our own baptism are called to imitate Christ in our Heavenward Journey here on earth. On the one hand through baptism, we are privileged to be called God's chosen sons and daughters, a people set apart and sealed with his Holy Spirit, but on the other hand, we are also called to show forth this fact in our lives through our imitation of Christ. Seen in this manner, our baptism is not merely an event that occurred years ago and once for all but is a daily dying and rising to new life. It is a call to respond daily with life to the numerous deaths that take place around us. It is a call to respond with courage and hope to the fear and despair that is around us. Everyday we are called to be a sign of what we have already received.

Sadly, for some, the Sacrament of Baptism which is the gateway to heaven becomes just another theoretical expression of our faith and an easy gateway to Catholic schools. We do not live this out in our lives. This is possibly why after the baptism of his baby brother in church, little Johnny sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, Johnny replied, "That priest said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, but I want to stay with you." John F Kennedy's famous saying can be amended to read, "Ask not what your Church can do for you; rather, ask what you must do for your Church." "Have I ever missed the right gate?"

Fr. George Mathew SCJ