



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Email: sacredheartdroitwich@hotmail.co.uk  
Web: www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk



### Today's Mass Readings

*Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6;*

*Psalm 39;*

*1 Corinthians 1: 1-3;*

*John 1: 29-34*

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

<b>This Week 15th January – 22nd January (Psalter Week 2)</b>	<b>Holy Mass &amp; Services</b>	<b>Other Events</b>
<b>Sunday 15th January</b> <b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <b>Year A</b> 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
<b>Monday 16th January</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Viv, John and Family (JC)	12.30 pm: Community Meal
<b>Tuesday 17th January</b> Memorial of St. Anthony, Abbot	8.55 am Morning Prayer <b>9.15 am Holy Communion Service</b>	
<b>Wednesday 18th January</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer <b>9.15 am Holy Communion Service</b>	10.00 am until 6.00 pm: Adoration
<b>Thursday 19th January</b> Feast of St. Wulston, Bishop	8.55 am Morning Prayer <b>9.15 am Holy Communion Service</b>	
<b>Friday 20th January</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	<b>11.30 am Holy Mass</b> (Novena to the Sacred Heart)	6.30 pm: Youth Group
<b>Saturday 21st January</b> Memorial of St. Agnes, Virgin, Martyr	11.00 am Thanksgiving Mass (Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing)	
<b>Sunday 22nd January</b> <b>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <b>Year A</b>	8.30 am Mary & James McDonnell RIP (NB) 10.30 am A Quinn RIP (GF) 6.00 pm Natasha Smith RIP (SVP)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy

*"Religious freedom, which cannot be reduced simply to freedom of worship, is one of the minimum requisites for a dignified way of life. Governments have the duty to protect this right and to ensure that each person, in a way compatible with the common good, enjoys the opportunity to act in accordance with his or her own conscience, also in the public sphere and in the exercise of their profession."*

(Pope Francis, 9th January 2023)

**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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.00 pm: Here I am, Lord! I come to do  
your will.**

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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 MATHEW SCJ**

Fr. George will be away from the parish from Tuesday 17th January until  
Friday 10th February inclusive. Please check the newsletter for details of  
Masses and Services during this time. **These will change each week, please  
note changes to Mass times.** To arrange a Mass Intention, please contact  
Kate Dalglish.

**PEACE SUNDAY**

Today 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 today or alternatively, donations can be made via their website at  
<https://paxchristi.org.uk/about-us/support-us/donation/>

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023**

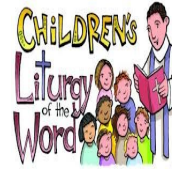
If your child is in Year 3 or above and you wish for your child to be prepared  
to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion this summer, please  
would you contact Fr. George SCJ or the Parish Office by Tuesday 28th  
February. The first meeting for parents will take place on Saturday 4th  
March at 9.30 am in the Parish Hall. This year the First Holy Communion  
Mass will be on Saturday 17th June with the Commitment Mass on Sunday  
21st May at 10.30 am.

## 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 has resumed and will take place on Sundays 15th, 22nd and 29th January.



## FREE FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT

This Saturday, 21st January 2023, the SVP are organising a FREE family Quiz night at 7.00 pm in the Parish Hall, to which everyone is invited. Teams will be made up of 6 people, but if you do not have enough come along and join up with other parishioners to make a team. There will be a raffle, spot prizes for children and a prize for the winning team. Please bring your own refreshments glasses, plates etc. If you have any unwanted items that we could put into the raffle these would be much appreciated. 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](mailto:DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk) or on 0777 292 7535.

## 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.

## FOODBANK



There is a thank you letter and a new wish list of items on the noticeboard and the parish website. 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.

## CAFOD

CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking for people to give some time and join them in their mission. Could you help in our parish, bringing people together to help build a better world or by visiting local schools? Or raise a voice and campaign for justice or perhaps speak for CAFOD throughout the diocese? Could you support local volunteers or share your office skills to help CAFOD keep costs low? Training and support is provided. See [cafod.org.uk/Volunteer](http://cafod.org.uk/Volunteer) for more information or get in touch with [birmingham@cafod.org.uk](mailto:birmingham@cafod.org.uk)

## NEWMAN ASSOCIATION

Father Douglas Lamb will give a talk on *Newman: A Personal Odyssey* on Thursday 19th January at 7.30 pm at St George's Parish Hall Worcester. Car park postcode WR1 1UT.

## 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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:**

**£287.83**

**Gift Aid : £225.50**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

**Mass attendance  
last Sunday: 246**

### **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

If you would like some company, a drink, chat and cake then please come and join us on Sunday 12th February 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.

### **RETROUVAILE**

Please see the poster on the noticeboard, emailed with this newsletter and on the parish website for details of this programme for couples struggling in their marriages.



### **Next Sunday's Mass**

#### **Readings**

*Isaiah 8: 23 - 9: 3;*

*Psalms 26;*

*1 Corinthians 1:*

*10-13, 17;*

*Matthew 4: 12-23*

*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 second Sunday of Ordinary time, in the 1st reading the prophet Isaiah 49:3,5-6 foretells us that Christ is the light of the nations that has come to rescue us from the darkness of our sins: "I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth". Last Sunday we heard Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism, on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Today, we hear John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus as found in John's Gospel. In today's reading, John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching and cries out, giving witness about who Jesus is. In John's testimony he says that he saw the Spirit descend upon Jesus. By this sign, John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the one who is to come after him. John the Baptist uses two titles for Jesus that are familiar to us. John calls Jesus the "Lamb of God" and the "Son of God." By using these titles, John the Baptist identifies Jesus' ultimate purpose: to redeem sinful humanity. His testimony about Jesus clearly distinguishes John's baptism from the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John baptizes with water; Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John also puts his practice of baptism in the context of Jesus' ministry. The purpose of John's baptism was to make Jesus known to Israel.

John the Baptist's sense of purpose is clearly identified in this reading: he baptized in order to prepare for and make known the ministry of the One who was to follow. John's witness is an excellent example of what it means to be a disciple. By our Baptism, we are called to make Jesus known to all the world by our words and by the witness of our lives. As Christians, fulfilling God's Will must always be our principal concern if we are to follow faithfully Our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray it daily in the Lord's Prayer: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. At times, fulfilling His Will is not that easy neither to understand nor to carry out, but what is important is our firm faith and conviction that God always knows and wants what is best for us. Also, we should avoid the temptation of trying to comprehend everything for we shouldn't have to nor would we be capable of doing so with our limited capacity. That is why faith is necessary. Otherwise, there is no need for it. Jesus fulfilled the Will of God the Father until the end. St. John call him the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn 1:29-34), Prophet Isaiah had compared the sufferings of the Servant of Yahweh, the Messiah, with the sacrifice of a lamb (cf. Is 53:7); and the blood of the paschal lamb smeared on the doors of houses had served to protect the firstborn of the Israelites in Egypt (cf. Ex 12:6-7): all this was a promise and prefiguring of the true Lamb, Christ, the victim in the Sacrifice of Calvary on behalf of all mankind. This is why St Paul will say that "Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed" (1 Cor 5:7). The expression "Lamb of God" also suggests the spotless innocence of the Redeemer (1 Pet 1:18-20; 1 Jn 3:5).

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us thank Our Lord Jesus Christ for fulfilling God's Will out of love for us and for our salvation, with a total obedience, the holocaust of an innocent, spotless and sinless victim to save the sinfulness and ingratitude of mankind, without any complaint. If God grants us the grace to suffer with Him, let us remember that Christ preceded us to give us an example to follow. And in the midst of our grief, suffering, pain brought about by great and small trials in our life, as St. Michael did let us tell Our Lord: "Here I am lord; I come to do your will" Fr. George Mathew SCJ