



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Isaiah 8: 23 - 9: 3;
Psalm 26;
1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17;
Matthew 4: 12-23

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

This Week 22nd January – 29th January (Psalter Week 3)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 22nd January Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	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
Monday 23rd January Memorial of St. Nicholas Owen, Religious	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Holy Communion Service	
Tuesday 24th January Memorial of St. Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Holy Communion Service	
Wednesday 25th January Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Holy Communion Service	10.00 am until 6.00 pm: Adoration
Thursday 26th January Memorial of Ss. Timothy & Titus, Bishops	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Holy Communion Service	
Friday 27th January Memorial of Blessed Edward Oldcorne, Priest, Martyr	11.30 am Derek Seeney RIP (M & LR) (Novena to the Sacred Heart)	6.30 pm: Youth Group
Saturday 28th January Memorial of St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor of the Church	11.00 am Mr. Labartette RIP (I & MM)	
Sunday 29th January Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	8.30 am Philomena McDonald RIP (NB) 10.30 am Gillian Mardell RIP (PW) 6.00 pm Geraldine Adamthwaite RIP (B O'H)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy

“The parable (of the Good Samaritan) shows us how a community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbours, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good.”

(Pope Francis, 16th January 2023)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am & 10.30 am: The Lord is my light and my help.

6.00 pm: There is one thing I ask of the Lord (x2). For this I long, to live in the house of God each day of my life, each day of my life.

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 Dalgleish. Please note that the newsletter is also placed on the parish website. Thank you for your understanding.

FR. GEORGE MATHEW SCJ

Fr. George will be away from the parish until Friday 10th February. 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 Dalgleish.

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 at 11.00 am with the Commitment Mass on Sunday 21st May at 10.30 am.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

SVP are organising a fundraising fashion show, professionally run by Colours, who will bring their own compere, models and High Street brand clothes. There will be the opportunity for members of the audience to purchase the clothes at 50% or more discount. The event is on Saturday 22nd April, starting at 4.00 pm. Tickets will be on sale after each Sunday mass from 29th January priced £6.00 to include a glass of alcohol-free bubbly. We need to have final numbers of those intending to attend by the end of March. There will also be a raffle with some exciting prizes. Please come and join us for a fun afternoon in our church hall. For more information please see the poster at the back of church or contact SVP on 0777 292 7535 or DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk

DROITWICH COMMUNITY VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Please see the posters on the noticeboard for details of events being held within Droitwich. Please pass this information on to anyone you feel would benefit. If you are struggling with rising costs then Droitwich CVS may be able to help via Wychavon District Council's Household Support fund. Referral forms are available from the Parish Office. Again, please pass this information on to anyone who may benefit from this support.

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 Dalgleish

Tel.: 01905 773258

Email:

sacredheart.droitwich@
rcaob.org.uk

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

Gerry Ceclich

Kate Dalgleish

Clare Tomlinson

Email:

sg.sacredheart.droitwich
@rcaob.org.uk

Archdiocese of Birmingham

Safeguarding Team

Tel.: 0121 230 6240

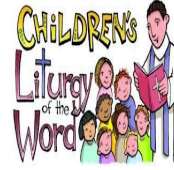
Email: safeguarding
@rcaob.org.uk

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 today and on Sundays 29th January, 5th February and 12th February.



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 for more information or get in touch with birmingham@cafod.org.uk

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

UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

Universe Catholic Weekly is true to its mission of being "a light to guide the world, and a mirror to reflect it" Keeping Catholics informed about their faith and bringing them ever closer to God. In order to keep our high standard going and maintain a strong weekly Catholic voice at a time when it is much needed in the world, please consider taking out a subscription. We have an excellent website full of trustworthy articles and an online shop with all subscribers receiving a 10% discount. Order your Digital 4 weeks FREE introductory offer by calling Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email: michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk

COMMUNITY MEAL

The next Community Meal is on Monday 13th February at 12.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

RETROUVAILLE

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.

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:
£267.27

Gift Aid: £148.00

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 234**

**The retiring
collection for Pax
Christi raised:
£19.86**

Gift Aid: £93.00

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



Next Sunday's Mass

Readings

Zephaniah 2: 3,

3: 12-13;

Psalms 145;

1 Corinthians 1:

26-31;

Matthew 5: 1-12

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.

PASTORAL LETTER OF THE MOST REVEREND BERNARD LONGLEY

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, The Catholic Church has designated today as Sunday of the Word of God, encouraging us to reflect on the extraordinary gift of the Scriptures. The whole of the Bible, and especially the four Gospels, witnesses to the coming of the eternal Son of God as the Word made flesh in our world. It is our privilege to receive the Scriptures, it is our joy to read and reflect on the Scriptures and it is our task to share the Scriptures with others as missionary disciples of the Lord. The Word of God forms us as we listen to the Scriptures together during the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. We are grateful when our priests and deacons share their understanding of the Scriptures and the insights of their experience in the homily, to deepen our love of the Word of God and to allow it to influence the pattern of our lives. We believe that the Holy Spirit is at work both in those who preach and in each one of us as we hear and receive the message that is offered.

The Word of God gathers us together, uniting us as we listen to its message in the Liturgy. This work of gathering is completed in the Mass as we receive the Body of Christ in the Eucharist. As Catholics we believe that the Eucharist is both a sign and an instrument of our communion, our unity - both making it visible and constantly deepening it and making it fruitful. The quest for Christian Unity is not peripheral to our lives as Catholics - it is an intrinsic part of our mission and it lies within the DNA of an authentic Catholic identity. When we profess our belief, in the Nicene Creed, in one, holy, catholic and apostolic church we are acknowledging the gift of unity entrusted to us in its fulness as Catholics. Through our baptism, shared reverence for the Word of God, our mission to evangelise and to serve the needs of others we are already united with other Christians - but while this unity is real it remains incomplete. While it remains incomplete it undermines the effectiveness of our preaching of the Gospel - it weakens the impact of our work for unity and peace in the world. The need to resolve our differences and conflicts reflects our human condition, for we are not yet perfect, but always in need of salvation. The greatest obstacle to Christian Unity is believing that we don't really need the other churches and Christian communities - that we are fine by ourselves. We believe that the Catholic Church has received the fulness of the means of salvation, entrusted to us by Our Lord - and that we have a corresponding responsibility to make use of them as fully as possible. But we also believe that the Holy Spirit is at work within and through the worship, work and witness of our fellow Christians. We continue to walk along the synodal pathway and as we engage with the Diocesan vision, looking for ways of sharing our experience and resources more effectively - we offer thanks for the examples of service and outreach that already witness to our common faith in Christ. The food banks, street pastors, walks of witness and clergy fraternals can lead us from cooperation to commitment and deeper communion. Please pray with me today for the other churches and Christian communities, and particularly those within our local area - that we may have a heart that is more and more open to the will and prayer of Christ that all may be one. With my prayers for you as another year unfolds.

Yours devotedly in Christ: +Bernard Longley.

(The full version of the pastoral letter is available on the parish website)