



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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### Today's Mass Readings

Isaiah 58: 7-10;

Psalms 111;

1 Corinthians 2: 1-5;

Matthew 5: 13-16

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

This Week 5th February – 12th February (Psalter Week 1)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
<b>Sunday 5th February</b> <b>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <b>Year A</b> Retiring Collection for Racial Justice	8.30 am Iris Chick RIP (SVP) 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Holy Mass	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy
<b>Monday 6th February</b> Memorial of St. Paul Miki, and Companions, Martyrs	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Peggy & Denis Regan RIP (BB)	
<b>Tuesday 7th February</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Simon Wood RIP (MB)	
<b>Wednesday 8th February</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Holy Mass	10.00 am until 6.00 pm: Adoration
<b>Thursday 9th February</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Holy Mass	11.00 am Church Tour (Private Group)
<b>Friday 10th February</b> Memorial of St. Scholastica, Virgin	9.15 am Mildred Paling RIP (MB) (Novena to the Sacred Heart)	6.30 pm: Youth Group
<b>Saturday 11th February</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	11.00 am Harry Remedios RIP (KA)	<b>10.15 am -10.45 am: Confessions</b> World Day for the Sick
<b>Sunday 12th February</b> <b>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <b>Year A</b>	8.30 am Fr. Giles Goward RIP (MB) 10.30 am Private Intention (C & PI) 6.00 pm John Ryan (DR)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy 2.30 pm: SVP Afternoon

*“The throw-away culture says, “I use you in as much as I need you. When I am not interested in you anymore, or you are in my way, I throw you out”. It is especially the weakest who are treated this way – unborn children, the elderly, the needy and the disadvantaged. But people are never to be thrown out, the disadvantaged cannot be thrown away! Every person is a sacred gift, each person is a unique gift, no matter what their age or condition. Let us always respect and promote life! Let’s not throw life away!” (Pope Francis, 29th 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**

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Primary School,  
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Email: office@st-josephs-  
droitwich.worcs.sch.uk

**HEAD TEACHER**

Mrs. Cath Bryan

**PARISH SECRETARY**

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**PARISH SAFEGUARDING  
REPRESENTATIVES**

Gerry Ceclich

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**Archdiocese of  
Birmingham  
Safeguarding Team**

Tel.: 0121 230 6240

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@rcaob.org.uk

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.00 pm:

**The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.**

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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 & Msgr. 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.**

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**RECENTLY DECEASED**

Your prayers are asked for **Patricia Mary Fahy, Cecilia Catherine (Kate) Hamilton, Margaret Jarman & Mrs. Smith** who died recently. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. The funeral service for Mrs. Hamilton will be on Tuesday 14th February at 2.00 pm. The Requiem Mass for Patricia Fahy will be on Friday 24th February at 11.30 am, with the Reception of the Body on Thursday 23rd February. Please keep their families and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

**FR. GEORGE MATHEW SCJ**

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

**HALL KEYHOLDERS**

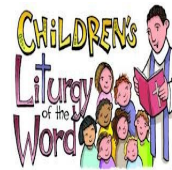
We need two or three new volunteers to be Hall Keyholders. This will not be too time consuming as this role is to help out when the existing keyholders can't do their normal slot. Ideally you should live in Droitwich so you don't have far to travel. You would just be standing in opening and closing the Hall on the odd occasion. Training will be given and it will be a great help to the parish as the Hall plays a key role in the parish family. If you would like more details please speak to Fr George or Carolinæ Healy (carolinehealy2003@yahoo.com).

## 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 Sunday 12th February.



## SUSAN 'SUE' STEVENS RIP

Your prayers are asked for Sue Stevens who died recently, may her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Please keep family & friends in your thoughts and prayers. A Mass will be said in Sue's memory on Sunday 19th February at 10.30 am.

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: FASHION SHOW & SUPPORTING PRISONERS AT LONG LARTIN PRISON

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 22<sup>nd</sup> April, starting at 4.00 pm. Tickets are now on sale after each Sunday mass 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 [DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk](mailto:DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk) or 0777 292 7535.

The chaplaincy at Long Lartin Prison has asked if we can collect puzzle books, word searches, colouring books and colouring pencils/crayons for the prisoners to use in their own rooms. Although there is a TV and radio in the prisoners' rooms it is good for them to do some sort of activity. If you are able to donate any of these items they would be very much appreciated. Please leave in the SVP donations box at the back of church along with any hats scarves and gloves that you may wish to donate for our local beneficiaries. Thank you for your support.

## 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 new wish list of items that is 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.



## 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, 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 a pilgrimage to Canterbury from Friday 6th - Sunday 8th October 2023. Full details are on the poster at the back of church and on the parish website.

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

Main Collection:  
£324.24

Gift Aid: £231.60

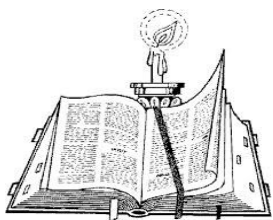
Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.

Mass attendance  
last Sunday: 254



### 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

*Ecclesiasticus 15:*  
15 –20;

*Psalms 118;*

*1 Corinthians 2:*  
6-10;

*Matthew 5: 17-37*

*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<sup>4</sup> unfolds.

Yours devotedly in Christ: +Bernard Longley.

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