



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings
Ecclesiasticus 15: 15 –20;
Psalms 118;
1 Corinthians 2: 6-10;
Matthew 5: 17-37

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

This Week 12th February – 19th February (Psalter Week 2)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 12th February Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	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
Monday 13th February Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Don Brooks RIP (PW)	12.30 pm: Community Meal
Tuesday 14th February Feast of St. Cyril, Monk, and St. Methodius, Bishop, Patrons of Europe	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am For the Victims of the Earthquakes in Turkey/Syria 2.00 pm: Funeral Service	Day of Prayer for Europe
Wednesday 15th February Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Private Intention	10.00 am until 6.00 pm: Adoration
Thursday 16th February Feria in Ordinary Time	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Patricia Mary Fahy RIP	
Friday 17th February Feria in Ordinary Time	9.15 am Michael Corrigan (MG) (Novena to the Sacred Heart)	6.30 pm: Youth Group
Saturday 18th February Feria in Ordinary Time	11.00 am Holy Mass (Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing)	10.15 am -10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 19th February Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	8.30 am Caroline Healy (MM) 10.30 am Susan Stevens RIP (M O'R) 6.00 pm People of the Parish	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall Day for the Unemployed

*“Now is the time for compassion and for solidarity. We must put aside hatred,
wars, and divisions that lead to self-destruction. Let us unite in our sorrow to
help those who suffer in Turkey and Syria. May we build peace and fraternity
in our world.”*

(Pope Francis, 9th February 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

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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

Email: safeguarding
@rcaob.org.uk

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.00 pm:

They are happy who follow God's law.

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.

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.

TURKEY & SYRIA EARTHQUAKES

On Monday 6th February, two earthquakes – registering 7.8 and 7.5 magnitude – hit Syria and Turkey in the space of just 12 hours, killing more than 20,000 people and causing widespread devastation. Please keep those who have lost their lives, as well as the injured, family members, and rescuers in your kind thoughts and prayers. Mary's Meals, the Disasters Emergency Committee and CAFOD have all launched appeals to support the emergency response to those in need. The links to these appeals are given below:

Mary's Meals: <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/campaigns>

CAFOD: <https://cafod.org.uk/?form=syriaturkeyearthquake>

DEC: <https://donation.dec.org.uk/turkey-syria-earthquake-appeal>

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.

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.



READERS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS ROTA

The new rota for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers is available to collect from the back of church.

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 22nd 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 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.

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 Caroline Healy (carolinehealy2003@yahoo.com).

NEWMAN ASSOCIATION

Dr. John Duddington will give a talk on "Are Christians Denied Free Speech in Today's World?" on Thursday 23rd February at 7.30 pm at St George's Parish Hall Worcester.

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.



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.

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

Main Collection:**£319.07****Gift Aid: £224.00**

Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.

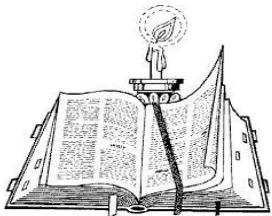
Mass attendance
last Sunday: 232

The retiring
collection for Racial
Justice raised:
£41.83

Gift Aid: **£89.25**
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 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**

*Leviticus 19: 1 - 2,
17-18;*

Psalms 102;

*1 Corinthians 3:
16-23;*

Matthew 5: 38-48

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.

In the Gospel this Sunday, Jesus taught that fulfilling God's law is not only by obeying the letter of the law, but more importantly, by living the true spirit of the law, which is love. After all, God's commands are given to us, not to burden us, but to help us learn the way of love, and become members of the family of God. Everything boils down to the heart, for God looks into the heart. Love, indeed, should be the sole motivation and driving force in our life. The Sermon on the Mount of Jesus aims to deepen our faith by purifying the motivations of our hearts. For instance, worshipping God is not only a matter of bringing offerings to the altar. Rather, it is more of being totally pleasing in the eyes of God. So, "if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift" (Mt 5:23-24). He knows that anger leads to murder, and "whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment" (Mt 5:22). We come to Mass every Sunday, but it could be that some of us still hold grudges and vengeful feelings against somebody.

My friends, Jesus desires us to go deeper with our faith and in the living out of our lives. He doesn't want us just to avoid major evil, such as killing, theft or adultery, rather He wants us to be virtuous so that we can be the best person we can be. Here are many of us who think that following Jesus simply consists in avoiding sin and evil. This is quite easy. This is called minimalism. This is expressed in the legalistic mentality. Such a person believes that he can be saved by simply following the letter of the law. But God is not pleased with the minimum and the lukewarm. Jesus made it clear to his listeners: "I did not come to abolish the law and the prophets." He did not come to give a new law. The entire Old Testament writings are definitely true expressions of God's will. However, the limitations of the human language and understanding gave rise to many mistaken ideas and beliefs. That is why Jesus said, "I came not to abolish them, but to fulfil them." He came to correct those mistaken notions and improve their understanding of God's true will. He came to show us the way of total and unconditional obedience to the will of God.

It is, therefore, very important that we always purify our hearts and minds, and give no chance for sin to come in and take root in our lives. In this regard, the practice of daily examination of conscience is very helpful. And, needless to say, a more frequent trip to sacramental confession is in order. Truly, we need the help of Jesus. He is our spiritual cleaner. He wants to cleanse us thoroughly, to purify the inside of our hearts and every bit of our being so that we will become worthy of our dignity as children of God, truly pleasing in the eyes of our heavenly Father. Jesus has come to take away all sins, and to establish God's kingdom in the hearts of His people who have learned to love as he did.

God bless you.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ