



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Genesis 2: 7-9, 3: 1-7;
Psalm 50;
Romans 5: 12-19;
Matthew 4: 1-11

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

| This Week 26th February – 5th March (Psalter Week 1) | Holy Mass & Services | Other Events |
|---|---|---|
| Sunday 26th February First Sunday of Lent Year A | 8.30 am Frank & Joan Patterson RIP (M.J) 10.30 am Alan Rossiter RIP (MG) 6.00 pm People of the Parish | After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall |
| Monday 27th February Lent Feria | 8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Paul Seddon RIP (RB) | |
| Tuesday 28th February Memorial of St. Oswald, Bishop | 8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mathew NS RIP (SA) | |
| Wednesday 1st March Feast of St. David, Bishop, Patron of Wales | 8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Patricia Ceclich RIP (GC) | 10.00 am until 6.00 pm: Adoration |
| Thursday 2nd March Feast of St. Chad, Bishop | 8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Holy Mass 12.30 pm Requiem Mass | |
| Friday 3rd March Lent Feria | 9.00 am Stations of the Cross followed by Holy Mass | 6.30 pm: Youth Group CAFOD Family Fast Day |
| Saturday 4th March Lent Feria | 11.00 am Holy Mass | 9.30 am FHC Meeting (Parish Children) 10.15 am -10.45 am: Confessions |
| Sunday 5th March Second Sunday of Lent Year A Retiring Collection for Cathedral Maintenance | 8.30 am John Minister RIP (P & AC) 10.30 am Catherine Concannon RIP (BC) 6.00 pm Holy Mass | After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall 5.15 pm Stations of the Cross During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy |

“Beauty is harmony, the work of the Holy Spirit. When we see the work of the Holy Spirit, which is harmonising differences, then we understand what beauty is. Beauty is the work of the Holy Spirit that harmonises everything – contraries, opposites, everything.”

(Pope Francis, 20th February 2023)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am & 10.30 am: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

6.00 pm: A pure heart create for me O my God: a spirit of love within me (x2). 20 AK

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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HEAD TEACHER

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Archdiocese of Birmingham

Safeguarding Team

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for **Delores Delaney, George Conway & Margaret Jarman** who died recently. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. The Requiem Mass for Margaret Jarman will be on Thursday 2nd March at 12.30 pm and the Requiem Mass for George Conway will be on Monday 20th March at 11.00 am. Please keep their families and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

THE DIOCESAN VISION: UNFOLDING GOD'S PLAN FOR THE PARISH

The Diocesan Vision, published at Pentecost 2021, laid out the Archbishop's vision and dream for the future of our Diocese. In continuation of this a series of six sessions has been designed to help parishioners, parish leaders and small groups engage with the Vision, and think about how we can take practical steps to renew the mission and ministries within the parish. We plan to begin these sessions during Lent and continue during the Easter season. We invite the parishioners and parish groups to come along in a friendly manner to reflect and discuss about our parish life in line with the Diocesan Vision. The first session will begin on **Wednesday 15th March** at 7.00 pm in the Parish Hall. The remaining 5 sessions will follow every Wednesday. Each session will start with an opening prayer, excerpt from the Diocesan Vision document, short reflection, questions/activities and conclusion. The sessions will be 90 minutes each.

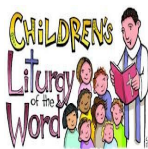
TURKEY & SYRIA EARTHQUAKES

On Monday 6th February, two earthquakes hit Syria and Turkey in the space of just 12 hours, killing more than 40,000 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. Links to the support the emergency response to those in need are:

Mary's Meals: <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/campaigns> 2

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

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



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will next take place on Sunday 5th March during the 10.30 am Mass and on Sundays 12th, 19th & 26th March.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023

The last date to give names for the First Holy Communion preparation is Tuesday 28th February. The first meeting for parents will take place on Saturday 4th March at 9.30 am in the Parish Hall. 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.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY - LENT APPEAL: FRIDAY 3RD MARCH

This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Please join us in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response work all over the world.

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

SVP are holding a fundraising fashion show on Saturday 22nd April 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. 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. 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. Thank you for your support.

Thank you to everyone who has donated hats, scarves and gloves. Your support is much appreciated.

LENT 2023 ONLINE RETREAT

There will be an online Lent Retreat (produced by the Jesuits) starting on Ash Wednesday (22nd February) and running until Easter Sunday (9th April). Each day, the website/daily emails provide a piece of Scripture, a thought for the day, a picture to ponder on and a piece of music. The idea is to pray by oneself for around 15 minutes using these prayer materials. There is also a little bit on 40 different saints, one for each day of Lent. If you want, you can join in weekly online meetings in small groups to see how our prayer has been going. These meetings are really encouraging and helpful, but are voluntary. These will be on Mondays at 7.30 pm starting on 27th February. If you are interested or for more details, please contact Max and Cecilia Jourdir on 01886 812259 or mandcjourdir@gmail.com or go direct to the Retreat website <https://www.iscglasgow.co.uk/lent23.html>

REFUGEE COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who has donated to this appeal, as ever the items were superb. Sunday 5th March will be the final collection date for this consignment. Please continue knitting, but store the items at home until requested because of limited storage space in Church. The next appeal will probably be in April. Again thank you so much for your continual support.

HOUSE MASSES DURING LENT

On Thursdays during Lent there will be house Masses celebrated in your own homes. If you would like to host a House Mass in your home, please let Fr. George know. The House Masses will start from Thursday the 2nd of March at 7.00 pm.

COMMUNITY MEAL

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

CRIB DONATIONS

Friends of the Holy Land would like to thank all parishioners who raised £95.06 through the church collections, for Christians in the Holy Land. Conditions continue to be extremely challenging. Please continue to remember FHL and those we support in your prayers.

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

Main Collection:

£324.17

Gift Aid: £150.00

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 277**

**The retiring
collection for Life
raised: £61.45**

Gift Aid: £72.90

**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 March 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

Genesis 12: 1-4;

Psalms 32;

2 Timothy 1: 18-20;

Matthew 17: 1-9

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.

We are in an important season of the liturgical year - Lent. In the Eastern Liturgy this season, Lent is called as Great Lent. It is a special time of year where the mother church invites all her children to make use of this time as a time of spiritual renewal and regeneration. On this Sunday we are all brought to the very beginning of how sin came into the world and led humankind into corruption and our downfall, so that hopefully we may realise just how dangerous and terrible sin can be, and why we have to remain vigilant and careful throughout our lives. Sin is that which takes us away from God and His kingdom.

In the Gospel we heard the passage from Matthew that after the baptism, Jesus was led by the Spirit to the wilderness where He spent forty days in prayer. After forty days of prayer and close union with His father, Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit. It was in that state of Holiness that Jesus was tempted by the devil. Ironically, the temptations of Jesus reminds us that the more we try to be closer to God the more the temptations come on our way. The Temptations of Jesus have a theological dimension. After the spiritual preparation, Jesus was just about to begin His mission. It was the time when devil came to divert the attention of Jesus just as he did to Adam and Eve before they were about to start the history of humankind in the book of Genesis. The devil, who tempted Adam and Eve with the desire to eat and to become like God, uses the same trick to tempt Jesus, reminding Him that He is God so why not use His power to turn those stones to loaves of bread and eat. In the book of Genesis (Gen: 1:27) we read that Adam and Eve were created in the image and likeness of God. But when they gave into temptation, they lost that image and likeness of God in them and as a result they could no longer be part of the paradise and so, they were expelled. A desire eat and be satisfied resulted Adam and Eve losing the privilege of being the image and likeness of God, Jesus knew this very well and so He resisted the temptations to eat. He who overcame the temptation to eat bread, at last became The Bread Himself and gave Himself to us to be eaten and to retain the image and likeness of God in us intact.

It is human to be tempted, but for us Christians, Jesus shows the example of how to resist temptation to sin. What is the life span of temptations? The life span of temptation is so long as we entertain it. The moment we stop entertaining it, it ceases to exist. That is why, each one of us are reminded today at the beginning of this season of Lent, that we must not allow ourselves to be swayed by the lies and false promises of Satan and all other tempters and those sent to convince us to abandon our path and journey towards the Lord. We have to be ever vigilant and not allow ourselves to be twisted and corrupted by our own pride, ego, arrogance, hubris, desires of greed, jealousy, lust and other things by which we often encounter serious obstacles in our journey of faith towards the Lord. We must follow the examples shown by Our Lord Himself, as well as the innumerable saints and martyrs, our holy predecessors, those holy men and women who have resisted the temptations to sin, the temptation of worldly glory, fame and ambition in our hearts and minds. During this season of Lent, all of us are called and reminded to deepen our relationship with God through the three pillars of Lent. These three pillars are that of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, and our whole season of Lent should be filled with them. We should make good use of whatever opportunities and time provided to us and do what we can to live our lives worthily of the Lord. Fr. George Mathew SCJ