



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Ezekiel 33:7-9;

Psalm 94;

Romans 13:8-10;

Matthew 18:15-20

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

This Week: 10th Sep– 16th Sep (Psalter Week 3)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 10 September Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A Second Collection for the Catholic Education Service	8:30 am Mary & James McDonnell RIP (NB) 10:30 am George Conway 12.00 noon Baptism 6:00 pm Mary Mason RIP (FG)	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall
Monday 11th September Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Frank Webb RIP (PW)	
Tuesday 12th September Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Pete Smith (LM)	
Wednesday 13th September Memorial of St John Chrysostom, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Elsamma Matthew	10:00 am until 6:00 pm: Adoration
Thursday 14th September Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am The Peacock Family-Living and Dead (LM)	
Friday 15th September Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Fr. Alex Rebello (AR)	After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart 6.30-8pm Youth Group 3.00pm Rosary of the Seven Sorrows
Saturday 16th September Memorial of Ss Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs	11:00 am Gladys Remedios (MW)	10:15 - 10:45 am: Confession 11.00am Anointing Mass
Sunday 17th September Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A Second collection for the Catholic Evangelisation	8:30 am Holy Mass 10:30 am For the people of the Parish 6:00 pm Maggie Sunderland RIP (JL)	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall 2.30-4.30pm SVP Afternoon

"The Lord does not look for the centre-stage, but for the simple heart of those who desire him and love him without ostentation, without wanting to tower above others.

Pope Francis via Twitter 6th September 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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HEAD TEACHER

Mrs. Cath Bryan

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**PARISH SAFEGUARDING
REPRESENTATIVES**

Gerry Ceclich

Clare Tomlinson

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**Archdiocese of
Birmingham**

Safeguarding Team

Tel.: 0121 230 6240

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RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**8.30 am, 10.30 am ,6.00pm O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

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, 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, Fr. Brian Boyle, Mrs. Roma.

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

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS

This feast occurs on September 15th (a Friday, this year). On a couple of
occasions over the last few years, we have marked the feast by saying the
rosary of the Seven Sorrows and plan to do so again, this year. We are
giving more notice than previously, in the hope that more of you might be
able to join us, here in church, at 3pm on Friday, September 15th.

SPONSORED WALK

The Sacred Heart sponsored walk will be on Saturday 23rd September. The
money we raise through the walk will be used for the for the formation of
young Seminarians for the Priesthood. Your generous support would be
greatly appreciated. If you would like to sponsor the walk please write your
name on the clipboard at the back of church. If you would like to join
the walk you are most welcome to join the Sacred Heart Fathers and
Brothers. This year the walk will be in Droitwich.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY—BEREAVEMENT JOURNEY

As a follow on to our Bereavement Café we are starting a Bereavement
Journey course of two hours a week for seven weeks on Wednesday 11th
October at the Old Library 5.30-7.30. This course will be delivered by vol-
unteers who are there to support guests but not offer counselling and is
designed for those who need a little more than the "light touch"
friendship of the Café. It comprises two films per session and discussion
within the group. There will be a limit of 8 participants per course. If you
know of anyone who might like to sign up for the course or want any
further information, please contact Gina on 0771 362 3997.

GUILD OF SAINT STEPHEN

The annual Altar Servers Mass of Thanksgiving will be offered at Saint Chad's Cathedral on Saturday, October 7th. All Servers are encouraged to attend; families are welcome to accompany them and refreshments are provided after Mass. We are asked to supply numbers likely to attend so would you advise Kevin or Father George, if you plan to be at this Mass.

JOB VACANCY AT THE DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

The Diocesan Education Service is recruiting for a Director of Education. Details for this role can be found on both the Diocesan Education Service www.bdes.org.uk/vacancies and the Archdiocese www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk websites. The closing date is **Monday 18th September**. Please make anybody you feel may be qualified and interested aware of this important position within the Archdiocese.

CHURCH CLEANING

We have a beautiful church which is enjoyed by us all and by the increasing number of visitors. In order to keep it in good condition it does need regular cleaning. We are looking to re-establish the church cleaning group and invite any parishoners of any age, skill or level of mobility, with a little time to spare, to volunteer to join the group. Hopefully we will be able to establish a rota with the days and times of each group arranged to suit availability. Please let Fr George, or the parish office, know if you are interested/ available. Thank you.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY.

This year World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday 22nd October. It is the one Sunday of the year when Mass is celebrated exclusively for Missionary activity. Donations collected at these worldwide Masses go in their entirety to support Churches, Hospitals, Schools and Vocations in countries where the church is new, young or poor. 'Missio' is the Pope's charity in England and Wales, and part of the International network of Pontifical societies, which oversees the distribution of resources equitably and justly on the basis of need. The money goes directly from the Bishops of England and Wales to the Bishops in the Mission Territories – Local churches directly helping Local churches!

If you are interested in the work of Missio there are a few copies of the Missio magazine: Mission Today – Impact report Summer 2023; and Mission Today - Autumn 2023 at the back of the Church.

THE REDDITCH CARMELITE SPIRITUALITY GROUP

The Redditch Carmelite Spirituality Group has moved to a new venue with more space and facilities, so we're able to welcome new members. We meet on the third Saturday of the month from 11am to 2pm at the Bridge Centre, Evesham Road, Headless Cross, Redditch B97 4JX. Meetings involve input about topics related to Carmelite spirituality, Lectio Divina (praying with Scripture) and a shared lunch. Our meetings and programme for the rest of 2023 are: 16th September (St Simon Stock), 21st October (St Teresa of Avila), 18th November (St John of the Cross) and 16th December (Christmas theme, including Visio Divina, praying with pictures of the Nativity). If you are interested in attending any of our meetings or would like more information, please contact Dr Susan Porter (group convener), email ingeva@btinternet.com or phone 07789741900.

COMMUNITY MEAL

The next Community Meal is on Monday 18th September at 12.30 pm in the Parish Hall.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will restart from 17th September during the 10:30 am mass

YOUTH GROUP

PARISH YOUTH GROUP

The youth group runs during term time on Friday evenings from 6.30 pm for children aged 9-14 years. All young people are welcome to attend.

PARISH HALL BOOKINGS

Please contact Sally at volunteers.

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@rcaob.org.uk or 07891144870

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

Main Collection:
£345.64 (cash) and
£250.92 (envelopes).

Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.

Mass attendance
last Sunday: 255



ST. VINCENT DE
PAUL SOCIETY: TEA
& COFFEE
AFTERNOON

If you would like some company, a drink, chat and cake then please come and join us on Sunday 17th September 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

Ecclesiasticus

27:30-28:7;

Psalms 102;

Romans 14:7-9;

Matthew 18:21-35

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.

It is said that the only person who can hurt us is someone we love and the deeper the love the worse the hurt. When we were small, perhaps other children left us out of their games and that hurt us. As adults, we may have been treated with contempt by a fellow worker or neighbour and that can hurt but the people who can hurt us the most are those we love. Trust that had been built up over years can be destroyed in an hour. When we are used and abused by someone we love, it is a painful experience.

Jesus speaks about this in today's Gospel, he began by saying "If your brother or sister should commit some wrong against you..." and that is what we are talking about. I came across people who have not spoken to their parents or children of family member for years, because of an experience of hurt in the past. When someone close to us hurts us, what should we do? Jesus does not give us a set of hard rules to be followed in detail, but he does give us some insights. First, do not nurse our hurts, they will pass and be forgotten if we would allow it, but our tendency is to let them accumulate. We often add the hurts of today to the hurts of yesterday and in no time, we end up carrying more than the human spirit can handle. Life cannot be lived that way; we must let some things go. It is usual for people to dispose old and useless files; sometimes they keep a digital copy of those files, in case they could be useful in the future. Do we have files of old memories of hurt? They serve no useful purpose. All they do is to keep us reminded of past wrongs and they occupy so much emotional space. Then there is the opposite temptation. Instead of stuffing our hurts down on the inside, we may talk about them to anyone who will listen. Jesus had this human tendency in mind when He said – "keep it between the two of you." A visit with the person who has done us wrong might help to heal the hurt and lead to reconciliation and forgiveness. When we are hurt it is usually not a good idea to suffer in silence. We may need to talk but not to the whole world. The best place to start is with the one who did the hurting. Then, one may share with our best friend who would listen to us without any prejudices. Right at the end of the Gospel, Jesus says – "If everything fails, treat the person who has hurt you as a gentile or tax collector." In modern language this means to let them go. Has someone done you wrong? DO you feel hurt by the words or deeds of someone? Do not nurse it or rehearse it. Make your best effort to set things right and if that fails, let the person go and let the hurt go.

Never allow the attitudes or actions of another person poison your life and always remember the words of Jesus – Father forgive or in the words of Archbishop Tutu of South Africa, "sometimes the victim just has to forgive in order just to live." While I am with this Homily, I was struck very forcefully by the injunction of Jesus. "If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go first to be reconciled with your brother or sister and then come and offer your gift". Have you ever done that – do you need to?

Fr. George Mathew SCJ