



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Ecclesiasticus

27:30-28:7;

Psalms 102;

Romans 14:7-9;

Matthew 18:21-35

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

This Week: 17th Sep– 23rd Sep (Psalter Week 4)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 17th September Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A Second collection for the Catholic Evangelisation	8:30 am Rev. Fr. Alex Taylor (E&KL) 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 10.30 Children Liturgy 2.30-4.30pm SVP Afternoon
Monday 18th September Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Christopher Larkin (KL)	12.30 Community Meal 1.30-2.30 Funeral Service of Paul Patrick Matthews
Tuesday 19th September Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Bridget King (BM)	
Wednesday 20th September Memorial of St Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest, Paul Chong Ha-sang, and companions, Martyrs	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Holy Mass	10:00 am until 6:00 pm: Adoration
Thursday 21st September Feast of St Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Communion Service	
Friday 22nd September Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Fr. Alex Rebello (AR)	After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart 6.30-8pm Youth Group
Saturday 23rd September Memorial of St Pius of Pietrelcina	11:00 am Holy Mass	10:15 - 10:45 am: Confession
Sunday 24th September Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A Second collection for Fr Hudson's Society	8:30 am Holy Mass 10:30 am For the people of the Parish 6:00 pm Holy Mass	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall 10.30 Children Liturgy

"Lay us pray together for those who lost lives in an inundation in Libya, for their families and for displaced. May we not fail to show our solidarity with these brothers and sisters, as well as with the people of Morocco who suffering from an earthquake.

Pope Francis via Twitter 13th 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

Tel: 01905 773572

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

HEAD TEACHER

Mrs. Cath Bryan

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Bogusia Koniszewska-
Fijolek

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**PARISH SAFEGUARDING
REPRESENTATIVES**

Gerry Ceclich

Clare Tomlinson

Email:

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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

The Lord is close to all who call him.

6.00 pm

**My soul give thanks to the Lord all my being bless
his holy name.**

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.**

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for Paul Patrick Matthews who died recently. May his
soul and the souls of all faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in
peace. The Funeral Service will be on Monday, 18th September at 1.30pm.
Please keep his family and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

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 Mis-
sion 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.

17TH SEPTEMBER: EVANGELII GAUDIUM SUNDAY

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday calls us to be joyous in proclaiming our faith. "Evangelii Gaudium" is Latin for "Joy of the Gospel". The day supports the work carried out by the Mission Directorate on behalf of the Bishops' Conference. A key focus of work for the next few years is responding to Pope Francis' calling of a Jubilee Year in 2025 with the theme Pilgrims of Hope. The Holy Father has invited the whole Church to prepare for the Jubilee in the two years prior through: * Reflecting on the four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council in 2023. * Deepening our prayer life, with a special focus on the Lord's Prayer, in 2024. To support the Church in England and Wales in this important initiative the Mission Directorate has produced a series of videos on the four Constitutions which reflect on the Liturgy, the Word of God, the Church and on its role in the modern world.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/evangelii-gaudium-sunday>

A range of resources are being prepared for the Year of Prayer in 2024 which include a course on the Lord's Prayer from small groups for Lent, encouragement to try different ways of praying from the tradition of the Church. The Mission Directorate will be supporting the Jubilee co-ordinator appointed by each diocese. Please support the Mission Directorate through prayer and giving to the second collection. However much you give, big or small, it will go directly to support this important work to bring the joy of the Gospel to all.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Change for Change is an SVP initiative that will help to boost our funds locally and nationally. If you can donate your old and foreign currency to help boost our funds we would appreciate your help. We can accept all foreign coins and bank notes, any old British and Irish money even obsolete currency. Donated money will be changed for English currency. There will be a money box on the table at the back of church after each Sunday mass for donations. During the week donations can be put into the SVP box in the porch or make contact with SVP on droitwichreferrals@svp.org.uk or 0777 292 7535. Thank you for your support.

SVP REQUEST

We have someone in need of a 3-wheeled walking aid. If anyone has such a thing, and is no longer using it, we would be pleased to hear from them. Speak to any SVP member known to you or see contact details on back page. Thank you.

REFUGEE KNITTING

If you have any items for this collection please bring them to Church by Sunday October 8th. Thank you to everyone who has so faithfully supported this project, which given the recent disasters is more needed than ever. Please continue Knitting as there will be another shipment before Christmas.

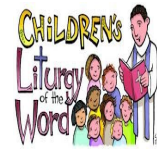
Donations of wool will be gratefully accepted to help defray costs

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 volunteers 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.

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.

sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk

or 07891144870

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

Main Collection:
£265.29 (cash) and
£146.5 (envelopes).
Second collection for
Catholic Education
Service £87.44

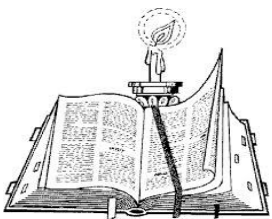
Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.

Mass attendance
last Sunday: 245



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

Isaiah 55:6-9;

Psalms 144;

Philippians 1:20-24,27;

Matthew 20:1-16

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.

Today's Gospel reading directly follows Gospel of last Sunday in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. This Sunday, we are invited to reflect on the virtue of forgiveness which Jesus preached in his ministry and lived in his life. Jesus portrays his heavenly Father as his model for compassion, graciousness, and mercy. It is to this life and mission we are invited by St Paul in the second reading of today, because 'whether we live or whether we die, we belong to the Lord'. Therefore, we live our Christian lives authentically as Jesus lived to become a transforming power in the society. How do I become a transforming power?

Firstly, see through a divine perspective as humans very often we look and perceive reality from a close distance. The close vision of ours will lead us to reach a situation where we often meet with the negatives: anger, resentment, unforgiveness, broken relationships, greed, poverty, murder, etc. To see the power and beauty of humans we need to have a divine perspective. Jesus himself says "I come from above and I want you to be reborn from above so that you will be able to see with new eyes". If we have a divine vision, we will better appreciate and be surprised even by a little flower that shows its beauty in the midst of barren desert. Secondly, forgive with a divine compassion. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness. The servant who could not pay back his debts of ten thousand was allowed to go home happily. Jesus forgave the soldiers and leaders while he hung on the cross. Heavenly Father allowed his son to shed even the last drop of his blood to save the sinful humanity. This is the mercy and compassion of the Lord. The question we must ask ourselves is: Do I possess a compassionate heart capable of such divine forgiveness? Last, share the Blessings we've Received: The servant who failed to extend the mercy he received from his master ended up in jail with his family. The rich man who ignored Lazarus found himself in Hades. These cautionary tales challenge us to emulate the mercy and compassion of the Lord in our interactions with fellow humans, share what you have received.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. So dear Friends, let us view everything through the lens of love, making forgiveness our preferred response to wrongdoing. As Bryant McGill wisely noted, 'there is no love without forgiveness, and there is no forgiveness without love'.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ