



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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### Today's Mass Readings

*Isaiah 5:1-7;*

*Psalm 79;*

*Philippians 4:6-9;*

*Matthew 21:33-43*

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

This Week: 8th Oct– 14th Oct (Psalter Week 3)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
<b>Sunday 8th October</b> <b>Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A</b> <b>Second collection for CAFOD</b> <b>Harvest Fast</b>	8:30 am Rose Brooks RIP (PW) 10:30 am For the people of the Parish 6:00 pm Mary Ryan (DR)	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall 10.30 Children Liturgy 2.30-4.30 pm SVP Afternoon
<b>Monday 9th October</b> Feast of Saint John Henry Newman, Priest	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Arthur Blizard RIP (RB)	
<b>Tuesday 10th October</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am James Megan RIP (BB)	
<b>Wednesday 11th October</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am James Sexton RIP (BB)	10.00am until 6.00pm Adoration
<b>Thursday 12th October</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Holy Mass	
<b>Friday 13th October</b> Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Fr. Alex Rebello (AR) 11.00am Funeral Service of Elizabeth Browns	After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart 6.30-8pm Youth Group
<b>Saturday 14th October</b> Feria	11:00 am Harry Remedios RIP (KA)	10:15 - 10:45 am: Confession
<b>Sunday 15th October</b> <b>Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A</b> <b>Second collection for SVP</b>	8:30 am Jean Grieviers (LD) 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

*“I invite everyone to accompany this pilgrimage of reconciliation with the world that is our home and to help make it more beautiful through our own contribution because our own commitment has to do with our personal dignity and highest values. Laudate Deum”*

**Pope Francis via Twitter 4th October 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)

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

**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

**PARISH SECRETARY**

Bogusia Koniszewska-  
Fijolek

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**PARISH HALL  
BOOKINGS**

Please contact Sally at  
volunteers.

sacredheart.droitwich  
@rcaob.org.uk or  
07891144870

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

8.30 am, 10.30 am and 6.00 pm

The Vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel .

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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, 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.**

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**RECENTLY DECEASED**

Your prayers are asked for Elizabeth Browns who died recently. May her soul and the souls of all faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. The Funeral Service will be on Friday, 13th October at 11am. Please keep her family and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

**HARVEST MASS**

Today at 10.30 Mass we celebrate as Harvest Mass to remember and thank God for the harvest and prosperity and also we pray during the Mass for the farmers who are instrumental for the good produce. So, the children from St. Joseph's School will be leading the 10.30 Mass today.

**CHRISTMAS FAIR**

The Christmas Fair will be on Saturday 16th December. If you would like to sponsor a raffle prize, please give you name to Terry Poulten as soon as possible (or write you name on the clipboard in the narthex ).

**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.

## CAFOD

'The world sings of an infinite love, how can we fail to care for it?' (Laudate Deum #65) Pope Francis has today, on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, published Laudate Deum: to all people of good will on the climate crisis, his new Exhortation on the environment, a follow up to his encyclical, Laudato Si'.

The Pope says that "climate change is one of the principal challenges facing society and the global community" (Laudate Deum #3) and warns that the "world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point" (#5). I would like to thank you for holding collections for our Family Fast Day appeal in your parish this week. Our appeal highlights the terrible impact of the climate crisis, telling the story of Meera, whose home in Pakistan was swept away by extreme flooding last year. Flooding that was an example of the extreme weather phenomena that Pope Francis calls "palpable expressions of a silent disease that affects everyone" (#5).

Pope Francis says: "authentic faith not only gives strength to the human heart, but also transforms life, transfigures our goals and sheds light on our relationship to others and with creation as a whole" (#61). Responding to our Family Fast Day Appeal is an important way we can all take up Pope Francis' invitation to "accompany this pilgrimage of reconciliation with the world that is our home and to help make it more beautiful" (#69).

We work at the frontline of climate and conflict emergencies in over 40 countries. Thanks to the support of parishes like yours, we are working with our sisters and brothers to build resilience in the face of the huge challenges posed by the climate crisis, to respond quickly to help communities devastated by climate-induced disasters, and to continue to call on those in power to take urgent action. We pray that, inspired by the example of St Francis of Assisi and encouraged by Laudate Deum, we will always strive to care for and protect our common home.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the latest Parish Council Meeting on 19th September are available at the back of church on the notice board. If you would like a copy of these minutes, please contact Jenny Leonard on [jennyleonard4@aol.com](mailto:jennyleonard4@aol.com)

## CHURCH CLEANING

As you are all aware that we have beautiful church which is a gem in the town and in the country people of all faith and no faith admire its atmosphere of prayer and beauty. To preserve this richness of our church we invite any parishioners of any age, skill, or level of mobility, with a little time to spare, to volunteer to join the Church cleaning group. Thanks for all those who have already volunteered to help. We need a few more hands. Could all those who would like to volunteer to clean the church gather on Thursday 12th October soon after the morning Mass at about 9.50am.

## 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 23rd October at 12.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be Children's Liturgy during the 10.30 am Mass today.

## 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 SAFEGUARDING

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Gerry Ceclich and Clare Tomlinson. They can be contacted on 01299 851188 or email: [sg.sacredheartdroitwich@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.sacredheartdroitwich@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/[safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.

**Main Collection:**

**£240.21**

**Gift Aid: £221**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

**Mass attendance  
last Sunday: 236**



**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 8th October 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](mailto:DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk) or on 07772 927535 or on Facebook, SVP Sacred Heart Droitwich.



**Next Sunday's Mass**

**Readings**

*Isaiah 25:6-10;*

*Psalm 22;*

*Philippians*

*4:12-14.19-20;*

*Matthew 21:1-14*

*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.*

The theme of the readings today is about bearing fruits. The readings focus on discipleship and our choice to follow Jesus or not. In the first reading Israel is being reminded of that they must be faithful to God. The psalm speaks about how people of Israel felt when they got detached from the master of the vineyard-God himself. They said, "Lord, you brought us out of Egypt; to plant us you drove out the nations. It stretched out its branches to the sea, to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. Then why have you broken down its walls? It is plucked by all who pass by. It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, devoured by the beasts of the field." Then they beg God to return to the vineyard and care for it once again Himself. The Second reading encourages Christians to continue along the path that Jesus has shown us.

Coming to the Gospel of today, we have a parable where Jesus speaks of a vineyard that once again symbolizes God's chosen people, Israel. The master of the vineyard entrusted the vineyard to tenants who were supposed to give a share of the produce in due season. However, not wanting to share any of the produce, they mistreated the servants and even killed the owner's son, having false hope to become the owners of the vineyard. The theme of rejecting God's messengers is evident as the tenants mistreat and kill the servants sent by the owner. This reflects the historical pattern of disregarding God's messages and messengers. The master's response was to put those wretches to a miserable end and entrust the vineyard to others who would give a share of the produce in due season. The owner's decision to send his son underscores the theme of God's ultimate outreach. Sending His Son, Jesus, reflects God's desire to restore the relationship with humanity through a new covenant. By our own baptism we are all heirs of God's kingdom. He makes every circumstance suitable for our growth and does everything for us. He gives us ample number of opportunities to bear fruits, and he patiently waits for us to make right choices and make necessary changes in life to bear better produce in life. Do we make necessary efforts towards it?

In Philippians, Paul suggests us to approach God with prayer and thanksgiving, which leads to His peace guarding our hearts and minds which will eventually enable us to be fruitful tenants in God's vineyard. In the parable of the gospel, we see the consequences of unfruitfulness – rejection and judgement. As Christians, we are called to bear the fruits of faith, love and righteousness in our lives. When we cultivate a heart of prayer, casting our anxieties upon God and seeking His peace, we become good stewards of His vineyard. We produce the fruit that the LORD desires and bring glory to His name. Moreover, in the parable, Jesus quotes Psalm 118:22-23, referring to Himself as the rejected stone that becomes the cornerstone. This points to us the ultimate fulfilment of God's plan: in and through the sacrifice and resurrection of Christ, the cornerstone upon which our faith is built, we find the true peace of God. As tenants of God's vineyard, may we bear the fruits of faithfulness, love, and righteousness, recognizing Jesus as our cornerstone. In doing so, we align ourselves with God's divine plan and experience the enduring peace that comes from Him alone. May the God of Jesus Christ grant you peace and fruitfulness. Amen.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ