



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Readings

Malachi 1:14-2:2.8-10;

Psalms 130;

1 Thessalonians 2:7-9.13;

Matthew 23:1-12

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

This Week: 5th No-11th Nov (Psalter Week 3)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 5th November Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A Second collection for the Johnson Association	8:30 am Anthony Bailey RIP(MM) 10:30 am Anthony Ringer & all the deceased family members & friend (PR) 6:00 pm People of the Parish	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall
Monday 6th November Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Alan & Pam Griffiths RIP (BB)	
Tuesday 7th November Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Deceased Members of the Clapham Family (MB)	
Wednesday 8th November Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Mariyakutty Devasia RIP	10.00am until 6.00pm Adoration 7:00pm Journey in Faith
Thursday 9th November Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Mathayi Madathikunnel RIP	
Friday 10th November Memorial of St Leo the Great, Pope, Doctor of the Church	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Deceased Members of the Brush Family (MB)	After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart
Saturday 11th November Memorial of St Martin of Tours, Bishop	11:00 am Harry Remedios RIP (KA)	10:15 - 10:45 am: Confession
Sunday 12th November Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A	8:30am Deceased Members of the Baldry Family (MB) 10:30 am People of the Parish 6:00 pm Holy Mass	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall

“ Today, thinking of the dead, let us ask the Lord for peace so that people are no longer killed in war. War is a defeat, always. Let us pray to the Lord for our deceased, for everyone-that the Lord might welcome them all.”

Pope Francis via Twitter 2nd November 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

*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

Tel.: 01905 773258

Email:
sacredheart.droitwich@
rcaob.org.uk

**PARISH HALL
BOOKINGS**

Please contact Sally at
volunteers.

sacredheart.droitwich
@rcaob.org.uk or
07891144870

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am, 10.30 am **Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.**
6.00 pm **Guard my soul in peace before you O Lord**

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for Bob O'Sullivan who died recently. The Requiem Mass will be on Monday the 13th of November at 11am followed by burial at Hampton Lovett Churchyard. May his soul and the souls of all faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Please keep his family and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 12TH NOVEMBER

White poppies were first worn in the aftermath of the First World War, to hold on to the key message of Remembrance Day, "Never Again". They stand for three things: 1.Remembrance of all victims of war, including people killed in wars happening now, as well as those who are often excluded such as civilians and refugees. 2.Challenging militarism, as well as any attempt to glorify or celebrate war. 3.A commitment to peace and to seeking nonviolent solutions to conflict today. We invite you all to come wearing a white poppy on Remembrance Sunday. The White Poppies are available to buy from the back of the church for £1.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Parish Fair is the time we all can come together as a Parish Family apart from liturgical services to meet and greet our fellow parishioners twice a year. Also, though small, yet it is one way of raising some additional fund for the parish to cope with the massive increase of gas and electricity bill in this winter. The Christmas Fair this year will be on Saturday 16th December from 12noon till 3pm in the Parish Hall, with afternoon Tea/Coffee and cakes available to buy and take away. In addition, there will be stalls such as Bricker-brac, toiletries, toys and books. Please start bringing items for these stalls. For your entertainment, there will be a tombola stall during the afternoon with the draw of the Summer Raffle taking place towards the end of the event. Donations for any of the above will be gratefully received though cakes, obviously, not until the day itself! Please make sure to keep the date free and come along. Thanks for all the prizes donated. Raffle tickets are available to collect after each Mass from the Parish Hall.

THE JOHNSON ASSOCIATION

Today the Annual Second Collection for the Johnson Association will take place in all parishes of the Diocese. Donation can be made using the gift aid envelopes available in all churches, via the website at www.johnsonassociation.org or by using the QR code on your smartphone. The sick and retired clergy of the diocese thank you for your generosity in supporting them through your donation.

NOVEMBER: MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

In November we remember and pray especially for those who have died. At the back of the church there are "In Remembrance" sheets. If you would like to remember in this special way loved ones who have died, write down their names, place the sheet in one of the envelopes provided and put it in the Holy Souls Box (**do not put any money in the envelope**). The Holy Souls Box will be placed near the altar at each Mass in November. It is a good time to offer the sacrifice of Mass for a loved one in November and also someone you know who is in need or close to you. There are Mass Intention Request envelopes available in the Narthex if you wish to have Mass offered for deceased relatives and friends.

THANK YOU EVENING

To thank all the band of Parish Volunteers who involve in different areas of parish life, this year the Thankyou Evening will be on Friday the 24th of November. The Evening will start with Holy Mass at 6pm following by meal and entertainments in the parish hall. Please keep this day in your diary.

REFUGEE KNITTING

The final collection for this year will be on November 26th, so if you have any items please bring them to Church by this date. Donations of wool can also be left in the cupboard at the back of the church. Thank you to everyone who continues to knit for this most needy cause.

THE WORCESTER CIRCLE OF THE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION

The Worcester Circle of the Newman Association is restarting for 2023 -2024 and the next meeting is: 'Yoga, Zen, & Christian Faith" Rev Ian Spencer Thursday 23rd November 2023. Everyone is welcome. All meetings are at St. George's RC Church Hall, Worcester, and start at 7.30 pm.

JOURNEY IN FAITH– 8TH NOVEMBER

Are you looking to explore the Catholic faith? Are you wondering about your relationship with God and not sure where to start? Join us on a journey and see if the Catholic Church can help your relationship grow. This may be the right path for you. It may even help you take the next steps towards coming into the Church. If you are already a Catholic and would like to learn more about your faith, or if you want to become a Catholic, now is the time to start exploring your faith. **The first Session of Journey in Faith will start on Wednesday the 8th of November at 7pm in the Parish Hall.**

SAVE THE DATE

Friday 24th November
Thankyou Evening
16th December
Christmas Fair

COMMUNITY MEAL

Monday 11th
December at 12.30
pm in the Parish Hall.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

After the Half term the
Children's liturgy will
resume on Sunday
12th November.

PARISH YOUTH GROUP

Runs during term time
on Friday evenings from
6.30 pm for children
aged 9-14 years.

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, Clare
Tomlinson and Carla
Tucker. They can be
contacted on 01299
851188 or email:
sg.sacredheartdroitwich@rcaob.org.uk or
alternatively the
Diocesan
Safeguarding team
can be contacted on
0121 230
6240/safeguarding@
rcaob.org.uk if you
have any concerns.

Main Collection:
£282.57
Gift Aid: £190.00

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

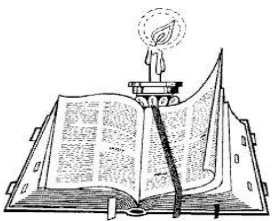
**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 217**



**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 3rd December 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

Wisdom 6:12-16;

Psalms 62;

*1 Thessalonians
4:13-18;*

Matthew 25:1-13

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 background of today's first reading from post-exilic prophet Malachi. Malachi preaches after the second Temple was built in 515 BC by those who returned from exile. When they first returned to Judea from their captivity in Babylon, the Jews rigorously guarded against pagan idol worship in their land. But over time, they gradually gave in to the sin idolatry. In the process, they also began to lose sight of God's purposes for them. It was during this period that Malachi was sent to instruct and guide God's people toward a purer life.

During our noviciate, a period of intense training before committing one's life to religious life, our spiritual father advised us to ask 4 questions to ourselves every night before we went to bed: - Was I loving in my relationships today? - did I involved in the joys and sorrows of others? - Was I forgiving and merciful? - Did I reflect enthusiasm in everything I did? The questions appear very simple, but very challenging in reflection. But they are based on the Gospels and therein lies the motivation. It would appear that Our Lord in today's Gospel is not happy with the leaders of his time— they were pompous and arrogant, they placed burdens on the people and they failed to practice what they preached. The key to Christian leadership lies in "bent knees, wet eyes, a lifted finger and a loving heart." Because leadership is not so much a privilege or an honour, it is in fact a responsibility. Now, the good part about Christian leadership is that we do not need any formal appointment to be known as leaders. When we browse through the Bible, we realize that God calls any person to leadership to address a situation or a need. So, if this call were to be translated into today's circumstances, then let's understand that in our family, for example, one can be an effective leader as a parent and even as a child. In school, college or even one's place of work, effective leadership can be exercised. Even in your community where you live you can be an effective leader. Christian leadership emerges from Christ, the leader who on bent knees, with wet eyes, a lifted finger and a loving heart brought the Good News to people. When we bend our knees in prayer and worship, we are acknowledging the power that comes from God who journeys with us. When our eyes are wet with tears seeing the pain and struggles of the people around us, we reflect the compassion of Jesus. When we lift our finger to help those struggling with life, we are reliving the words of Our Lord at the Last Supper – "Do this in memory of me." When we exercise our ministry with a loving heart, we are fulfilling the commandment of Jesus to love God, love others and ourselves.

Our entire second reading today is a simple description of what servant leadership is all about in the words of St Paul. He minces no words in making the Thessalonians aware of the nourishment given, the compassion shown, and the hard work involved in proclaiming the Good News. The world needs more Christian leaders in our families, in the society in the church, whether old or young, rich or poor, qualified or unqualified, who on bent knees, with wet eyes, a lifted finger and a loving heart can make a big difference in the name of Jesus. Are you ready to accept the challenge?

Fr. George Mathew SCJ