



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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### Today's Mass Readings

*Readings*

*Proverbs 31:10-13.19-20.30-31;*

*Psalm 127;*

*1 Thessalonians 5:1-6;*

*Matthew 25:14-30*

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

This Week: 19th No-24th Nov (Psalter Week 1)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
<b>Sunday 19th November</b> Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A	8:30 am Kevin McCorry RIP (MM) 10:30 am Chris Holden 6:00 pm People of the Parish	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall 10.30am Children Liturgy
<b>Monday 20th November</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Fr. Giles Goward RIP (MB)	
<b>Tuesday 21st November</b> Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Eileen and Marie Gogan RIP (LM)	
<b>Wednesday 22nd November</b> Memorial of St Cecilia, Virgin, Martyr	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Fr. Brian Boyle (LM)	10.00am until 6.00pm Adoration 11.00am Funeral Service of Mary Josephine Rawlins
<b>Thursday 23rd November</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Arthur & Mary Leason RIP (MB)	After mass: Church cleaning
<b>Friday 24th November</b> Memorial of St Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Alan Remedios RIP (KA)	After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart
<b>Saturday 25th November</b> Feast of St. Catherine of Alexandria	11:00 am Michael Donovan (BD)	10:15 - 10:45 am: Confession 11:00 am Anointing Mass
<b>Sunday 26th November</b> Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Year A Second collection for Youth Service	8:30am Forgotten Souls in Purgatory (MB) 10:30 am People of the Parish 6:00 pm Dennis O'Hara RIP (BO'H)	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall 10.30am Children Liturgy

*"Let us pray together for peace, especially for martyred Ukraine and the Holy Land, in Palestine and Israel. May we not forget Sudan, which suffers greatly. We should take a moment each day to pray for peace. We desire peace!"*

**Pope Francis via Twitter 15th 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 O blessed are those who fear the Lord.**

**6.00 pm O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in His ways.**

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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, 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 Sally McCool who died recently. The Requiem Mass of Sally McCool will be on Thursday the 30th November at 12-noon. May her soul and the souls of all faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Please keep her family and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

**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 Christmas 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.

**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.

**FOODBANK**

The countdown to Christmas calendar is on the noticeboard. If you would like to support Foodbank then items can be left in the box at the back of church and would be gratefully received.

**JOURNEY IN FAITH– 6TH DECEMBER AT 7PM**

On this day we will be discussing the topic: Getting to know God through the Creed.

## PARISH DIARIES-NOW AVAILABLE

The 2024 Parish Diaries have arrived and are available to collect from the Narthex. The diaries are free, but any donation would be much appreciated and will be given to the Sacred Heart Mission.

## MESSAGE FROM KEVIN & EIZABETH

Kevin and Elizabeth would like to thank everyone who offered good wishes, congratulations and prayers on the occasion of their 25th Wedding Anniversary.

## JOB VACANTY AT BLESSED EDWARD OldCORNE CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Finance Assistant – required for January 2024. **Closing date: 10.00am Friday 1 December 2023.** Please see the Blessed Edward Oldcorne website for details and an application form; <https://www.blessededward.co.uk/about-us/vacancies/>

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

For many years we have collected Christmas gifts for Father Hudson's Homes and our local families that are supported by SVP. We will be collecting gifts from 26th November until 17th December as Father Hudson's Homes staff will collect the gifts on 18th December to allow them time to distribute gifts to their families. Any late presents will go to local families supported by SVP. Your support for this project will be very much appreciated. We also arrange for parishioners to send Christmas cards to Long Lartin high security prison. These will be available at the back of church on 26th November for you to take and write a suitable message and please return ASAP. We have to post these to the prison no later than 10th December. Please to not sign your name, give your address or enclose anything in the envelopes. The cards must be returned to us in the envelope but do not seal as the prison officers need to vet each card before it can be given out to the prisoners. These cards make a real difference to the prisoners. Thank you for your support. Any queries can be directed to SVP at [DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk](mailto:DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk) or 0777 292 7535.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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

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

## 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](mailto:sg.sacredheartdroitwich@rcaob.org.uk) or  
alternatively the  
Diocesan  
Safeguarding team  
can be contacted on  
0121 230  
6240/safeguarding@  
[rcaob.org.uk](http://rcaob.org.uk) if you  
have any concerns.

**Main Collection:**  
**£216.17**

**Gift Aid: £164.00**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**



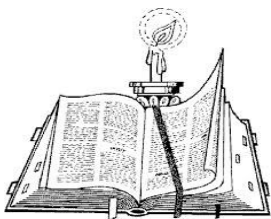
**Mass attendance  
last Sunday: 214**



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



**Next Sunday's Mass  
Readings**

*Ezekiel 34:11-12.15-17;*

*Psalms 22;*

*1 Corinthians*

*15:20-26.28;*

*Matthew 25:31-46*

*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.*

A story is told of an old man who, because he thought he had dedicated his whole life to God, wanted God to help him in his old age. He read the passage in Matthew and Luke where Jesus says that we must ask to receive and began to pray to God that he wins the lottery. When the results were declared he found that he had not won and was upset with God. "God", he said, "I have dedicated my whole life to you and I asked you for a simple favour which, for you, would be so easy to do and yet you have refused me. Why dear Lord, why?" "My son", God replied, "If you want to win the lottery, at least buy a ticket". The point is that if one wants to win, then one has to play.

The Gospel reading speaks about the talents. The word "talent", though often understood to mean the gifts and abilities that a person possesses, is here clearly a large sum of money. According to some biblical scholar's calculations one talent was equal to 15 years' wages for a day labourer in the time of Jesus. The master gives no instructions to the servants about what they are to do with the money. Each servant is left to decide what he must do with what is given to him. All three think that the money belongs to the master and is given to them only in trust. The first two take active responsibility to trade with what is given to them and earn more than they had before. Both are rewarded appropriately and it is in the giving of the reward that we realize that the money given to them initially was actually given to them as their own. The parable sets the responsibility of the servants in terms of money but the symbolism points to something obviously more comprehensive. At first glance it might seem that the guilty servant has acted carefully. He has not lost or squandered the money given to him. He seems to have even acted responsibly by burying the money in the ground so that he could return it safely to his master. So the reaction of the master is surprising. Not only is the money taken back from him, but also he is thrown into the outer darkness. However, the reaction of the master will not be so surprising when we realize first that what was given was not given merely in trust but as the personal property of the concerned servant and second, that to be "good and faithful" is not passive waiting, or even merely obeying rules and regulations or even being obedient to the letter of the law but active responsibility that takes initiative and risk. He didn't gain but just preserved what was given. Fear had motivated this servant, the fear of failure and losing the talent he had been given. He continued to regard the money as his master's and not his own, whereas the first and second servants responded actively to the grace given to them freely by the master. They were active, alive and awake.

If the modern use of talents has any relation to the text, it is at the level of allowing God to work in us and with us and putting our talents, qualities and natural abilities at God's disposal. God has given each one of us gifts and talents. Some have talents of one kind, others of another kind. Some are blessed with more than one, others have just one. However, the fact is that everyone has at least one. That means as a Christian, we all need to make a positive impact in the church and in the society where we live.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ