



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Readings

Ezekiel 34:11-12.15-17;

Psalm 22;

1 Corinthians 15:20-26.28;

Matthew 25:31-46

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

This Week: 26th No-2nd Dec (Psalter Week 1)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 26th November Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Year A Second collection for Youth Service	8:30 am 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
Monday 27th November Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am June Norton RIP (P)	
Tuesday 28th November Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Members of Martin and Quigley Family (I&MM)	
Wednesday 29th November Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Chris Dennis (M.D)	10.00am until 6.00pm Adoration
Thursday 30th November Feast of St Andrew, Apostle	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Holy Mass	12-noon The Requiem Mass of Sally McCool 7.00pm Confirmation Mass
Friday 1st December Feast of St Edmund Campion, Priest, Martyr	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Paul & Catherine Ingram (I&MM)	After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart 6.30 pm Youth Group
Saturday 2nd December Feria	11:00 am James & Sally McCool RIP (BB)	10:15 - 10:45 am: Confession
Sunday 3rd December First Sunday of Advent, Year B	8:30am People of the Parish 10:30 am Jerzy Dus RIP (BK-F) 6:00 pm Holy Mass	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall 10.30am Children Liturgy

*"Let us not forget to persevere in prayer for all who suffer due to wars in many parts of the world,
especially for the dear people of Ukraine, Israel and Palestine."*

Pope Francis via Twitter 22nd 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 The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

6.00 pm

Because the Lord is my shepherd .

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.

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 bric-a-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.

RED BOXE COLLECTION

If you have a 'Red Box' at home please would you bring it in to be emptied, counted and returned to you in the next couple of weeks. This will allow the monies to be banked and the end of year figures submitted to Missio. (Please ensure that you don't leave any boxes at the back of the Church, it is safer to leave them in the Sacristy or with the Parish secretary.) Would you be interested in taking a 'Red Box' so that you can contribute to the Charity during the year? Last year the 'Red Box' Gift aided contributions raised an additional £80,000 towards supporting missionaries around the world! Would you like to be part of that support? If having a 'Red Box' at home doesn't appeal, perhaps setting up a Direct Debit to Missio may be more convenient? In either case, please leave your name with Fr. George or the Parish secretary.

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.

ADVENT JOURNEY/PARISH DIARIES

The "Walk With Me" booklet and calendar for the Advent Journey are available at the back of the church. The booklet is to help focus on our relationship with God and with people during Advent. Please consider taking a copy to home to help prepare for Christmas. Also 2024 Parish Diaries have arrived and are available to collect from the Narthex. The diaries, "Walk with me" booklet and calendar are free but a donation for Sacred Heart Mission.

STANDING ORDERS AND GIFT AID

We are most grateful to all those parishioners who give to the Church through a regular standing order and are able to gift aid their donation. This is a vital part of parish revenue. The cost of the running the parish has gone up significantly in the last 12 months, mainly driven by the increase in energy prices. These costs are likely to stay high for another 12 months due to the contracts we have in place via the Diocese. This has left a big hole in the funding of the parish expenses. For this reason, we are making a new appeal to all parishioner who currently don't have a standing order in place to think about setting one up. Further, if you are a taxpayer the parish can get an additional 25% on the donations you make with no cost to the donor by electing to gift aid the donation.

If you are new to the parish, please have a think about doing this. On Sunday 10th of December someone will be outside church after each Mass with the necessary forms and to answer any questions you may have.

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 or 0777 292 7535.

SINGING AROUND THE PIANO

A few of us have recently been singing around the (parish) piano. Not on trend, perhaps, and not always in tune. Some of us sing quite well, some of us not so well. We all declare it a fun and worthwhile enterprise. We have no aspirations to become a choir but have an open mind (or ear, maybe) as to how we might develop. If you're up to the challenge, auditions, such as they are, will have as much to do with how well you like us and our music as how well you sing, though a bit of a voice would be useful. To find out more, get in touch 01905776122 kevin.elizabeth@btinternet.com Or just have a word, Kevin Larkin.

SAVE THE DATE

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 or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

**Main Collection:
£281.92**

Gift Aid: £177

**Late donation for
Johnson Association
raised an additional
£10 (envelopes)**

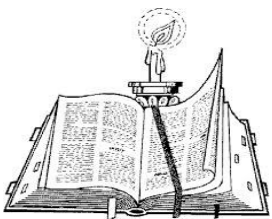
**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**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 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**

Isaiah 63:16-17;

64:1.3-8;

Psalms 79;

1 Corinthians 1:3-9;

Mark 13:33-37

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 we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. Traditionally, this day is a great celebration of Christians across the world. People sing and dance and participate in Eucharistic processions to mark this day. If Christ is truly our King, then we would not only sing and dance today, our very life and everyday actions would continue to exult Christ as our King wherever we are. It is not all about the singing, dancing and beating of drums today. The real Christ the King celebration happens when we find ourselves faced with tough times, and yet we still believe in our hearts that Jesus is the real King of the Universe. The real music Christ would be pleased to hear is when the rest of the world threaten us and we smile back knowing that we have the King of the World on our side. The real dance for Christ is when the chips are down and we are not sad, depressed and discouraged but continue to hold our heads high.

Of course, Christ did not jump down from the cross neither did he call down a mighty army from heaven to fight for him. Christ knew fully well he was a king but then, he also knew that his kingdom was so different and so superior to that of any earthly kingdom. The superiority of Christ's kingdom is seen in the fact that it is a kingdom that does not require any physical power for protection; a kingdom that does not need soldiers with Ak47 guns or weapons of mass destruction for protection and sustenance; a kingdom that is invisible to the earthly minded. Yet it is a kingdom that lasts for eternity. Earthly Kingdoms come and go but the kingdom of Christ remains forever. Check out the history of the world and tell me if there is any kingdom that considered itself a world-power which did not eventually fall? We see it in the Book of the Kings, that David, the greatest king ever to rule Israel, but we all know how his reign ended. Indeed, as great as David was, his kingdom was only a foretaste (or preparation) of God's kingdom that was to come in the person of Christ. Earthly kingdoms come and go, empires are raised and empires fall but the reign of Christ is forever.

The strength of an earthly kingdom is dependent on the size of its army, its arsenal, wealth, material things etc. These are not permanent, one day they all will perish, all earthly kingdoms have a life span. They are there today but would one day crash out of existence. But the Kingdom of Christ remains forever. Instead of a royal palace decorated with gold, Christ's kingdom was made known to the world on the Wood of the Cross. It is indeed an irony that the cross that was once a symbol of curse is exactly what God used to make his mark. It is even a greater irony that it was from the lips of one of the thieves that we come to know that Jesus is a King when he said: "Remember me when you come into your kingly power." Here we are not speaking about a utopian ideology of an ideal kingdom, but a kingdom based on righteousness, peace, justice, love and mutual care and respect for each other which is still a possibility if we all accept Jesus as our King and walk the way He showed us. So dear friends as we go home today, let the prayer of this thief be in our hearts. Let us pray that Jesus the King of the Universe would remember us, forgive us and say to us: Today, you will be with me in Paradise. Amen.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ