



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Readings

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8;

Psalm 79;

1 Corinthians 1:3-9;

Mark 13:33-37

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

| This Week: 3rd Dec-9th Dec (Psalter Week 1) | Holy Mass & Services | Other Events |
|---|---|--|
| Sunday 3rd December First Sunday of Advent, Year B | 8:30am James & Ita Wright RIP (TJ) 10:30 am Jerzy Dus RIP (BK-F) 6:00 pm People of the Parish | After 8:30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall 10.30am Children Liturgy 2.30-4.30pm SVP Afternoon |
| Monday 4th December Advent Feria | 8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Oran O'Kane RIP | |
| Tuesday 5th December Feast of St Birinus, Bishop | 8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Communion Service | |
| Wednesday 6th December Advent Feria | 8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Gladys Remedios RIP(KA) | 10.00am until 6.00pm Adoration |
| Thursday 7th December Memorial of St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church | 8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Private Intentions (C&PI) | After Mass: Church cleaning |
| Friday 8th December Solemnity of the Immaculate concep- tion of the blessed Virgin Mary | 8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Alan Howard RIP (DS) | After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart 6.30 pm Youth Group |
| Saturday 9th December Advent Feria | 11:00 am Private Intentions (C&PI) | 10:15 - 10:45 am: Confession |
| Sunday 10th December Second Sunday of Advent, Year B Second collection for the Poor Parishes | 8:30am People of the Parish 10:30 am Private Intentions (C&PI) 6:00 pm Jean Barlow RIP (I&MM) | After 8:30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall 10.30am Children Liturgy |

“ Let us ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten us so that we may be able to give an account of our faith and hope to today's world with words and, above all, with the testimony of our lives.”

Pope Francis via Twitter 29th 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 & 6.00 pm

**God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us
and we shall be saved.**

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.**

CHRISTMAS FAIR-16TH DECEMBER

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.

ADVENT IS HERE

Advent is here with the preparation for Christmas getting more intense day
by day. We shall have a Christmas Tree on the sanctuary again this year. Its
beauty and light remind us of the joy and wonder of Jesus' birth. We would
like to invite you to donate a bauble for our tree. This would represent you
and your family for this Christmas and will be kept for future years. You
could think of it as a prayer of thanksgiving and a fun but simple way to
involve your children in preparations. If you would like to do this, please
bring your donation over the next few Sundays. There will be a collection
box at the back of church. Please don't bring anything too big or too
delicate! In order to keep things simple, could the main color be white,
silver, gold or clear. Pine cones could also be used as long as there's a
ribbon to hang them!

JOURNEY IN FAITH- 6TH DECEMBER AT 7PM

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



To all our young people who are receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, may the Holy Spirit dwell in your hearts forever.

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.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE-THE PATRON SAINT OF THE UNBORN CHILD

The first ever dedicated Mass to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe – the Patron Saint of the Unborn Child - will be held at St Chad's Cathedral on Tuesday, 12th December 2023 at 12.15pm. I would like to promote attendance amongst the members of our parish community to attend this Mass if you can. Archbishop Bernard Longley will officiate at this service.

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.

REFUGEE KNITTING

Thank you so much for the beautiful baby cardigans, jumper, hats, scarves and knitted characters...all will be so gratefully received. A special thank you also to the person who sent in the packs of underpants. Please continue Knitting, the next collection will be early in 2024. There are some wool and buttons in the cupboard at the back of the church to help defray your costs. Donations of the same will also be gratefully received.

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:
£239.48**

Gift Aid: £108

**Second collection for
Catholic Youth Service
raised £38.50**

Gift Aid: £87.50

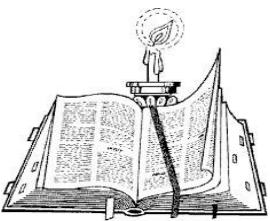
**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 177**

**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 40:1-5.9-11;

Psalms 84;

2 Peter 3:8-14;

Mark 1:1-8

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 begin the new liturgical year with the season of Advent. It has been celebrated since around the fourth century AD when Christmas was fixed on 25 December replacing the pagan festival of the sun god. It has usually been marked by prayer and fasting, though less than in the lead-up to Easter, hence the popular name "Little Lent", as we can even see it in some of the eastern catholic churches' sill. Churches and priests were traditionally dressed up in penitential violet for these weeks and then decorated the churches, with wreathes and candles. The word advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning 'coming' or 'arrival', and indicating a season of waiting. We sing hymns of longing like O Come, O come, Emmanuel. Yet Latin scholars such as any one of us! will immediately notice that the word *adventus* is in the past tense. It's as if the One we await has already arrived. Therefore, Advent points not to one but three comings of Christ. One coming is in the past, when Christ came two thousand years ago as a helpless Babe; hence the Prophet Isaiah named Him in our first reading today 'the ancient Redeemer' (Isa 63:16-17). Another coming is in the present when Christ is here amongst us in word and sacrament, in minister and community, in creation and redemption. The last coming is in the future, when Christ will return in glory; hence that same Prophet's prayer, "Return, O Lord, for the sake of your servants... tear open the heavens and come down."

That Christ has already come is something we know by faith: the more we ponder that coming in Advent and throughout the liturgical year, deepens its mystery and proclaims it to others in our words and deeds, the more faithful and faith-filled we become. That Christ will come again is something for which we hope, and the more we anticipate that coming with longing and excitement, the more we pray for it and help bring it about by making "God's kingdom come and will be done" in our lives, the more hopeful and hope-giving we will be. That Christ is here amongst us, evokes our love: and the more we know and serve Him in the here and now, the closer He comes to us, the more loving and lovely we become.

So, my dear brothers and sisters, Advent is about getting ready for our Lord to come. But it is also a reminder that he has already come. He has already entered into the reality of our human existence and he is still with us. Advent reminds us that Jesus is always arriving. In the people he sends into our lives. In the challenges we face every day. In the burdens we carry. Even in our sufferings. Advent reminds us that God is faithful! His love for us is true. He is all around us! He is with us. If we watch for him, if we stay alert, we will see his love everywhere around us. As we look backwards and forwards, do something spiritual, try some extra prayer, like Mass and Confession, or read and reflect our 'Walk with Me' booklets. Remember to pray The Angelus each noontime. Try some fasting, perhaps in proportion to the feasting ahead or already begun. Teach carols and share the Christmas stories to your children. Remember that the One who has long come and is yet long to come, is also here right now come to your school to your office and at home near you! As we begin this journey toward the birth of our Saviour, let us stay close to his Mother Mary. May she help us this Advent to come to a new awareness of the presence of her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in our lives!

Fr. George Mathew SCJ