



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Web: www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk



Today's Mass Readings

Readings
Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11;
Psalm 84;
2 Peter 3:8-14;
Mark 1:1-8

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

| This Week: 10th Dec-16th Dec (Psalter Week 2) | Holy Mass & Services | Other Events |
|---|---|--|
| Sunday 10th December Second Sunday of Advent, Year B Second collection for the Poor Parishes | 8:30am Mary Mason & Deceased members of Mason Family (M) 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 |
| Monday 11th December Advent Feria | 8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Families that are struggling (M) | 12.30pm Community Meal |
| Tuesday 12th December Advent Feria | 8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Colin McKay RIP (GB) | |
| Wednesday 13th December Memorial St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr | 8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Anthony Pinnell RIP (CP) | 10.00am until 6.00pm Adoration 7.00pm Journey in Faith |
| Thursday 14th December Memorial of St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church | 8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Mary Mason RIP (S) | |
| Friday 15th December Advent Feria | 8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Deceased members of Mason Family (S) | After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart |
| Saturday 16th December Advent Feria | 11:00 am Alan Remedios RIP(KA) | 10:15 - 10:45 am: Confession 11.00 am Anointing Mass 12.00noon-3.00pm Christmas Fair |
| Sunday 17th December Third Sunday of Advent, Year B Second collection for Christmas Flowers | 8:30am Rosemary O'Grady RIP (CE) 10:30 am Mary Mason RIP (A) 6:00 pm Regina Lach RIP (KK) | After 8:30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall 10.30am Children Liturgy |

"God chose poverty when He took on our human condition. We too are called to return to what is essential in our lives, to discard all that is superfluous and can become an obstacle on the path to holiness."

Pope Francis via Twitter 5th December 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 Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us
your saving help.

6.00 pm Show to us your love and mercy, give us your saving help.

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.
**Paper plates will be available after Mass today. Please take one and fill it
with a contribution, home made or bought, to the cake stall. All offerings
will be much appreciated.**

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!

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. Any queries can be directed to SVP at DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk or 0777 292 7535.

JOURNEY IN FAITH– 13TH DECEMBER AT 7PM

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

MARY'S MEALS

From now until 22nd January 2024 every donation made to the Mary's Meals Double The Love appeal will be matched, up to £1 million. For more information or to donate please visit [https:// www.marysmeals.org.uk/](https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/)

RED BOX COLLECTION

If you have a Red Box at home, please would you bring it back to the Church for it to be counted and registered again for next year. Don't be concerned if you feel there is very little in the box, the important action at this stage is to have it counted so that the list of Red Box holders can be updated. In the words of a well-known television advert: Every Little helps! Please leave your box in the Sacristy or with the Parish secretary. Thank you.

CASH4COINS FOR SVP

Thank you to all Parishioners who gave the SVP their unwanted notes and coins. The first collection has been sent and we are expecting to receive £100, or more, soon! Please continue to give us your unwanted coins and notes, the collection box is at the back of the Church.

SAVE THE DATE

Family Quiz, Saturday January 20th 2024 , 7pm, in the Parish Hall, hosted by SVP. This is a FREE event with questions for all ages, spot prizes and a raffle.

JOBS VACANCY AT THE BLESSED EDWARD OldCORNE COLLEGE:

Finance Assistant – required asap **Closing date: 10.00am Monday 8 January 2024**
Please see the Blessed Edward Oldcorne website for details and an application form; <https://www.blessededward.co.uk/about-us/vacancies/>

JOBS VACANCY

Droitwich CVS are currently recruiting for a new position. They are looking for an Office Administrator with Marketing and Website Experience. If you have any questions, contact Tonia at tonia@droitwichcv.org.uk.

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:
£337.55

Gift Aid: £241.50

**Late donation for
Catholic Youth Service
raised an additional
Gift Aid: £5**

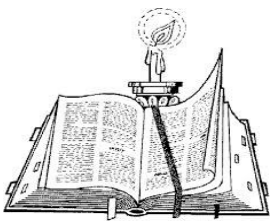
**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 269**

**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 14th January 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 61:1-2.10-11;

Psalms Luke 1;

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24;

John 1:6-8.19-28

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 voice cries in the wilderness; prepare a way for the Lord. Make a straight way for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low..." (Isa 40, 3; Mk 1, 3; Jh 1, 23). On this second Sunday in Advent, the first reading and the gospel both take us out into the wilderness, where nothing much happens. Both Isaiah and John the Baptist invite us to prepare a way for the Lord by straightening up our paths. This is certainly not an easy venture even though a changing landscape was a common feature at the time. Conquering empires built wide straight highways to facilitate quick movement of their troops from one part of the empire to another. The image Isaiah and John are suggesting to us this Sunday is to make it easy for the coming Messiah to find his way into our hearts. While we await his coming, we are expected to change the landscape of our heart as we prepare our hearts and lifestyle suitable for Jesus and turn back to God. The opening prayer for this Sunday's liturgy encourages us to pray that nothing hinders us from preparing to meet the Son of God.

In the Gospel of this Sunday, John the Baptist like Isaiah brings us the good news about the Lord's coming. He makes an explicit call to us to repent for the forgiveness of our sins. What must we repent for? We must repent for those moments we have denied God through our words and actions, for the times we have failed ourselves and our neighbours, for when we have neglected the good we ought to do, and for those times we have not been true to ourselves and God. So, let's make up our minds during this Advent first by reminding ourselves that Christmas is not just shopping and opening presents and decorating and celebrating, even though all these are part of Christmas, they are not the primary focus of Christmas. It is the time to reflect on what's important in our lives. We should ask ourselves, "If I changed some of my habits or activities would this give me a bit more time to grow closer to God? Am I too comfortable in my current routine? Am I stretching myself to move out of my comfort zone to better serve Him? Could I possibly make some room in my life to become a bit more involved in a ministry where I can make better use of the gifts he has given me? In this time of Advent, this time of new beginnings, can we challenge ourselves to take the leap and become active in a new ministry where we can use our gifts to serve others?"

I see so many happy people serving the parish. They tell me how fulfilled their life is, in serving God. I want you too to have such happy experiences, serving God! Maybe God is calling you to get involved in one of your many parish groups or ministries. That the successful running of every parish depends on committed and selfless service of every member of the community. Or to get more involved in the Community around you reaching out to those in need. Ask Him when you receive communion today, to speak to you... You can be sure that when you hear and respond to his call you will experience the joy and happiness that only he can provide. By making an effort to do a little more for him, he will bless all the other areas of your life. I pray that we may be inspired to use this Advent season, to really be prepared to welcome Jesus, when he comes as a little baby in the manger, and when he comes at a time we least expect. Remember, give God what's right, not what's left. God bless you.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ