



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Email: sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk  
Web: www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk



### Today's Mass Readings

*Readings*

*Isaiah 61:1-2.10-11;*

*Psalm Luke 1;*

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-24;*

*John 1:6-8.19-28*

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

This Week: 17th Dec-23rd Dec (Psalter Week 3)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
<b>Sunday 17th December</b> <b>Third Sunday of Advent,</b> <b>Year B</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
<b>Monday 18th December</b> Advent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Tony Gilroy & Ann Armstrong RIP (SG)	
<b>Tuesday 19h December</b> Advent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Brenda O'Keeffe (JC)	7.00 Advent Reconciliation Service.
<b>Wednesday 20th December</b> Advent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Colin McKay RIP (GB)	10.00am until 6.00pm Adoration 7.00pm Journey in Faith
<b>Thursday 21st December</b> Advent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Deceased members of Mason Family (A)	After Mass– Church cleaning 2.00pm Funeral service of Frank Fawcett
<b>Friday 22nd December</b> Advent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Brenda O'Keeffe (JC)	After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart. 10.00 am Flower Arranging. 6.30pm Youth Group
<b>Saturday 23rd December</b> Advent Feria	11:00 am Eliamma RIP (S&A)	10:15 - 10:45 am: Confession
<b>Sunday 24th December</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent,</b> <b>Year B</b>	9.30am Michael Sheridan (MM) 5.00pm First Mass of Christmas, Fergus O'Toole (CH) 8.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass	

*“ I renew my appeal for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza, to get aid to the population as a matter of urgency. May all the hostages be freed immediately. No to arms, yes to peace! May this enormous suffering of the Israelis and the Palestinians come to an end.”*

**Pope Francis via Twitter 13th 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 & 6.00 pm      My soul rejoices in my God.

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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, 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 **Frank Fawcett**, who died recently. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. The Funeral Service will be on Thursday 21st December at 2pm followed by a cremation at Worcester Crematorium. Please keep his family and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

**CHRISTMAS FAIR**

Thank you to all those who supported the Christmas Fair, either by making cakes, advertising the event, helping set up the stalls, being a stall holder, selling raffle tickets, providing refreshments, clearing up afterwards, donating items, attending on the day and supporting the event. The total raised for the parish was £2003.10 The Christmas Fair this year was a great success. A big Thank you to all of you for your participation and Support.

**CHURCH CLEANING**

We need to clean the Church for the Christmas Celebration. Could some of you who are free on Thursday the 21st after the Morning Mass give a hand to clean the church.

**ADVENT RECONCILIATION**

As part of the spiritual preparation for Christmas the Advent Reconciliation Service will be on Tuesday the 21st December at 7pm. During the service there will be opportunity for individual Confessions.

**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/)

**JOURNEY IN FAITH– 20TH DECEMBER AT 7PM**

On this day we will be discussing the topic: World Become Flesh : Meaning of Christmas.

## FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND– URGENT DONATION NEEDED

As violence rages in the Holy Land, the situation for our Christian family there has gone from very difficult to critical. Caught in the middle of terrible conflict after a year of pressure, many more families from places like Bethlehem, East Jerusalem and Ramallah are thinking seriously about emigrating. We face the possibility of the last members of the ancient Christian community leaving the homeland of our faith forever. Your support can make all the difference. Thanks to your donations so far, we have been able to send practical life-saving supplies to around 1,100 people sheltering in the Gaza church compounds – including children and people who are injured and ill. Now is the time to light a candle for our brothers and sisters. The Holy Land's Christians have been a light, both spiritually and practically, in the region for thousands of years. They follow Jesus where he walked and love their neighbours by providing the vast majority of hospitals, quality schools, universities and social care in the Palestinian territories. We can't let that light go out in our generation. With our office in Bethlehem, we are well-placed to use your donations to respond very quickly to families' urgent needs in the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem and Israel. With emigration looking more and more like Christians' only option, this is the time to help and invest in this vital community's future. Our brothers and sisters will weather this storm comforted by our practical help. Light your candle for them with a gift and a prayer today - thank you. For more information or to donate please visit <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/Appeal/christmas>

### 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.

### 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](mailto:DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk) or 0777 292 7535.

### 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.

### JOBS VACANCY AT THE BLESSED EDWARD OLD CORNE 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/>

### COMMUNITY MEAL

Monday 22nd January  
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:**

**£229.86**

**Gift Aid: £138.75**

**Second collection for  
Poor Parishes raised  
£32.16**

**Gift Aid: £95.93**

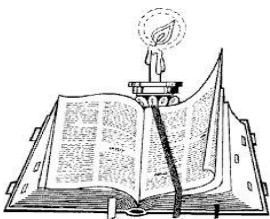
**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

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



**Next Sunday's Mass**

**Readings**

*2 Samuel*

*7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16;*

*Psalms 88;*

*Romans 16:25-27;*

*Luke 1:26-38*

*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.*

"Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Today, the third Sunday of Advent is called 'Gaudete Sunday' which means 'Joy' or Rejoice'. The opening antiphon for today's liturgy asks us to Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near. Today, on our Advent Wreath we light our pink candle to mark this day of joy. As we gather today in the spirit of Advent preparing for Christmas, we are presented with the readings that will guide us in reflecting on the profound messages embedded in the Scriptures. All the three readings offering us a unique perspective on our Advent journey. In the first reading Prophet Isaiah declares, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me..." These words resonate with the promise of a Saviour, a Redeemer who brings good news to the poor, binds up the broken-hearted, and proclaims liberty to the captives. As we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth, let us recognize that this same Spirit anoints us today. We are called to bring hope, healing, and freedom to those in need. Reach out to someone in need especially during this Advent season. Your words of encouragement, acts of kindness, or simply offering a listening ear to someone may be the manifestation of the Spirit at work in you. In the second reading of today St Paul tells us to "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances." This concise yet profound guidance serves as a roadmap for our spiritual journey. As we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, let us cultivate a spirit of constant communion with God through our prayers. Hence it is a reminder for us to put into practice daily and live with an attitude of gratitude and prayer. In the midst of our busy lives, let us carve out moments to rejoice in God's goodness, seek His guidance through prayer, and hold fast to the promise of His coming.

Finally in the Gospel of today, we encounter John the Baptist, a voice crying out in the wilderness, preparing the way for the Lord. The Advent season invites us to examine our hearts, to clear away the figurative "wilderness" that may be separating us from God. John's humility in recognizing his role as a witness to the Redeemer serves as an example for us. Let us point others to Christ as John the Baptist did and humbly prepare the way for His arrival in our hearts. You can follow John's example in your practical life by reflecting on areas in your life that may be a "wilderness" – places where distractions or sins may hinder your relationship with God. You can prepare a path for the Lord to enter fully into your life through prayer, confession, and repentance. In conclusion, as we journey through Advent, let us heed the call to rejoice, pray, and prepare. The Spirit of the Lord is upon us, empowering us to bring hope and healing. May we, like John the Baptist, be voices crying out in the wilderness, preparing the way for the Lord's coming. As we embrace these practical applications, may our hearts be filled with joy, our prayers be constant, and our lives be a testimony to the transformative power of Christ. May God bless us with his Joy.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ