



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6;

Psalm 71;

Ephesians 3:2-3.5-6;

Matthew 2:1-12

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

This Week: 7th Jan-14th Jan 2024 (Psalter Week 1)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 7th January Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, Year B	8.30am Jean Grieves RIP (LD) 10.30am Thomas and Maureen Fahy RIP 6.00pm John and Mary Eray (DR)	After 8.30am Mass : Tea& Coffee in the Hall
Monday 8th January Feast of the Baptism of the Lord	8.55am Morning Prayer 9.15am Roy Peacock RIP (LM)	
Tuesday 9th January Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Ruth 60th Birthday (BB)	
Wednesday 10th January Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Elamma Joseph RIP	10.00am until 6.00pm Adoration
Thursday 11th January Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am For peace in the world	
Friday 12th January Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Margaret Hancock RIP (I&MM)	After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart. 6.30pm Youth Group
Saturday 13th January Feria	11:00 am Gladys Remedios RIP(KA)	10:15 - 10:45 am: Confession
Sunday 14th January Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B Second Collection for Construction of a Church in India	8.30am Chris Dennis RIP (MD) 10.30am People of the Parish 6.00pm Holy Mass	After 8.30am Mass : Tea& Coffee in the Hall During 10.30am Mass: Children's Liturgy 2.30-4.30pm SVP Afternoon

"Let us pray together that the spirit may help us recognize the gift of the different charisms within the Christian communities, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions within the Catholic Church."

Pope Francis via Twitter 2nd January 2024

**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

8.30am & 10.30am and 6.00pm

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

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.**

TALK ON ROLE OF LAITY IN THE CHURCH

Newman Association (Worcester Circle) organising a talk which will be
devoted to the role of laity in the Church. Our guest speakers will be
Archbishop Bernard Longley of RC Archdiocese of Birmingham and Bishop
John Inge of Worcester Diocese. To book your place please follow this link
[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/discipleship-and-mission-of-laity-in-church-
today-tickets-784551413397?aff=odtdtdcreator](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/discipleship-and-mission-of-laity-in-church-today-tickets-784551413397?aff=odtdtdcreator)

The event will take place on Friday the 19th of January 2024 19:30 -
21:00 at St. George's Catholic Church in Worcester 1 Sansome Place,
Worcester WR1 1UG.

YOU SUPPORT NEEDED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A CHURCH IN INDIA

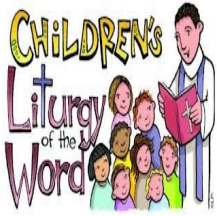
As Christ's message is being spread far and wide in India, the Christianity is
growing more than ever before amidst of many challenges. As Christians
increases so the needs of the church too. We are asked to extend our
helping hands to complete the construction of a new church in the southern
state of Kerala-India. Therefore, Sunday the 14th January there will be a
second collection in support of the appeal.

THANK YOU

St Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank everyone for the wonderful
support of the giving tree. A staff member from Father Hudson's Homes
collected most of the presents and distributed them to families in need
before Christmas. SVP members distributed the other gifts to families that
we support in the town. It was a really good response thank you all.

JOURNEY IN FAITH– 17TH JANUARY AT 7PM

On this day we will be discussing the topic: Word of God: The Bible



CHILDREN LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will resume during the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 14th January.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2024

If your child is in Year 3 or above and doesn't go to a Catholic school and you wish for your child to be prepared to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion this summer, please would you contact Fr. George SCJ or the Parish Office by Sunday 25th February. Holy Communion sessions will begin in middle of March on Saturdays at 9.30 am in the Parish Hall. More details will be given in due time. This year the First Holy Communion Mass will be on Saturday 15th June at 11.00 am

ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM DIRECTORY 2024

If you would like to purchase a copy of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Directory 2024, these are available at a cost £4.35. Please speak to Fr. George or contact the Parish Office if you would like one.

200 CLUB

We are being asked why 200Club prize winners' names no longer appear in the newsletter. Are ticket holders happy for their names to be made known, in the event of their winning in the monthly draw? Such publicity keeps the 200 Club in parishioners' minds at a time when we are in need of new subscribers.

Unless the promoters hear to the contrary, it will be taken that you have no objection to your name and good fortune being announced to the world and, from February, names of winners will once again feature in the parish bulletin.

SAVE THE DATE

St Vincent de Paul Society are hosting a quiz night on 20th January 2024 in the parish hall starting at 7 pm. The event is free of charge and we will be running a raffle in aid of SVP funds. Bring your own refreshments and drinks, teams of no more than 6 people but we can team you up with others on the night if necessary. Questions for all ages and prize for the winning team. Come and enjoy the fun and bring your family and friends.

CATHOLIC HERALD MAGAZINE

Catholic Herald Magazine has resumed its monthly subscription. If you would like to purchase a copy, these are available at the back of the Church at a cost £5.

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/)

COMMUNITY MEAL

Monday 22nd January at 12.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will restart from 14th January during the 10:30 am mass

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:

£311.92

Gift Aid: £153.5

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 267**



**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**

1 Samuel 3:3-10.19;

Psalms 39;

1 Corinthians

6:13-15.17-20;

John 1:35-42

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus. Today we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. This feast always reminds me of my childhood. As children we had a mixture of emotions. I used to feel happy as we used to place the statues of the 3 kings in our family crib on this day symbolising the arrival of the Magi and at the same time, I used to feel sad because I knew that very soon our parents would ask us to dismantle the crib and remove all the decorations. That means, the Christmas season had come to an end. These days, however, the 3 kings appear on the crib as soon as Jesus is born making me wonder if perhaps, they have stopped travelling on camel's back now.

What is the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord all about? Epiphany means manifestation. It is a celebration of God manifesting himself as human person in Jesus and revealing Himself to the world. The Matthean narrative describes the Magi, who were wisemen, perhaps astrologers from the east, guided by a star that would lead them to the promised Messiah. Interestingly, according to tradition, their names were Caspar, Melchior and Balthassar; though neither their names nor the number is ever actually mentioned in the Bible. They brought Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Why these three gifts? These three gifts have a special significance in the person of Christ and his mission. Gold was considered a symbol of kings, frankincense a perfume representing divinity which was often burned in the temple to worship God, and myrrh an anointing and embalming oil that used for burial ceremony. It was not a coincidence that the Magi brought these precious gifts to Jesus, but rather it was an act of unfolding the mysteries of God's plan of Salvation for humanity. By bringing these as gifts to Jesus, the wise men reveal who Jesus was and what would be His mission.

In the first reading prophet Isaiah speak about the dawn of a new hope to the people of God by saying, " Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord rising on you, though night is still covers the earth and darkness the people". The theme of darkness that the prophet is speaking about is the moral and spiritual darkness caused by the sins of the people which included turning away from God. Out of the darkness, two things emerge. First, the sons and daughters the chosen people will come back home. Secondly, the gentiles also will come streaming to the Light. There is hope for a darkened world because the Light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon the world. He is the one who will bring the wandering captives (people who live in the darkness of sin) home and the ignorant Gentiles to the true God. So, the manifestation of the Lord through the visit of the Magi was a well planned and executed work of God. However, do we have any role to play in this or is it something that God will do by himself? Definitely, we have a very important role to play. No one will know about and believe in the Light of the World that is Jesus Christ himself, unless we reflect that Light into the world. Hence, the invitation begins with a call: Arise and shine.

Arise from our tepid and passive life of to shine like a lamp on a lampstand. When we ourselves are an Epiphany of God's coming into the world, people from all walks of life will see that light and be illuminated by the light we reflect. Our world today is not very different from that of the time of Isaiah. Darkness is all around us and we have the challenge as Christians to Arise and Shine. To be the light that will give hope to people. Epiphany challenges us to reconsider all the people whom we see as outside the boundaries of God's love. It challenges us to abandon our narrow outlooks and welcome even those whom we would prefer not to love. This is the message of Epiphany.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ