



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Readings

Jonah 3:1-5.10;

Psalm 24;

1 Corinthians 7:29-31;

Mark 1:14-20

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

This Week: 21st Jan-28th Jan 2024 (Psalter Week 3)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 21st January Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B Second Collection for Pax Christi	8.30am Dn. Povithro SCJ 10.30am Patricia Fahy RIP 6.00pm People of the Parish	After 8.30am Mass : Tea& Coffee in the Hall During 10.30am Mass: Children's Liturgy
Monday 22nd January Feria	8.55am Morning Prayer 9.15am Communion Service	
Tuesday 23rd January Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Communion Service	
Wednesday 24th January Memorial of St Francis de Sales, Bish- op, Doctor of the Church	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Communion Service	10.00am until 6.00pm Adoration
Thursday 25th January Feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Communion Service	
Friday 26th January Memorial of Ss Timothy and Titus, Bishops	11.45 am Midday Prayer 12 noon Harold Ingram RIP (C&PI)	After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart. 6.30pm Youth Group
Saturday 27th January Feria	11:00 am Harry Remedios RIP(KA)	Confession– After Mass
Sunday 28th January Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B Second Collection for Racial Justice	8.30am Rose Brooks RIP(PW) 10.30am Special Intention (C&PI) 6.00pm People of the Parish	After 8.30am Mass : Tea& Coffee in the Hall During 10.30am Mass: Children's Liturgy

“ The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins today, which this year highlights love for God and neighbour. Let us pray together that Christians may reach full communion and bear witness of love towards all, especially the most fragile.”

Pope Francis via Twitter 18th 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 Lord, make me know your ways.

6.00pm In your love remember me,

In your love remember me,
in your great goodness O Lord remember me.

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.

FR. GEORGE ON HOLIDAYS

Fr. George will be away for his holidays and visiting his parents from 22nd January till 12th February. While Fr. George is away priests from the deanery and from Olton Friary will supply for the weekend masses. Monday to Thursday there will not be Mass but communion service will be available at 9.15 am. Wednesday adorations will continue as usual after communion service and on Fridays Mass will be at 12noon followed by Novena to the Sacred Heart. Saturday priest will be available to hear the confession soon after Mass. Any emergency sick visit or funerals please contact Fr. Tomas at St. Peter's Bromsgrove.

PAX CHRISTI

For his theme for the World Day of Peace in 2024, Pope Francis has chosen 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace'. Whilst this might seem a strangely technical theme, we know that we do need to think about the consequences of the advances in AI for peace and justice. In this country we have an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi, which aims at working together to promote peace through parishes, schools and social media. There will be a retiring collection for Pax Christi today or alternatively, donation can be made via their website at

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/about-us/support-us/donation/>

LIVE STREAMING WEB ADDRESS HAS BEEN UPDATED

To access MCN Media, please go to www.mcn.live on your web browser. To watch Mass on our Parish website there will be no change everything remains the same.

JOURNEY IN FAITH– 31TH JANUARY AT 7PM

On this day we will be discussing the topic: Mary Mother of God. Talk will be led by Fr. Austin SCJ.

GIF AID

If you are a taxpayer please consider signing a Gift Aid Form (blanks are at the back of the Church). The Church can receive the tax back on your donation. This is a very important part of the funding of the Parish.

ONLINE LENTEN RETRAT

This coming Lent the Ignatian Spirituality Centre (ISC) will again be offering a free online Lent Retreat. It will be called "Through Lent with Pope Francis". Details will be on the ISC Glasgow website fairly soon. If you think you might be interested, please contact Cecilia and Max Jourdier on mandcjourdier@gmail.com or 01886 812259

DEACON TRAINEE

Andrew Forster from St. George's Worcester will be with us this weekend and few Sundays in February and March to have some experience in the parish as part of his training as deacon. He will be ordained deacon in July. We hope and pray that he will have a great experience in the parish.

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

COLLETES HEDERAE

Late summer and early Autumn, walking past the SCJ Community graves, you may have noticed several hundred small, striped bees busily hovering among the grasses. *Colletes hederiae*, the Ivy Mining bee is a useful late pollinator of such plants as ivy, which flower late in the year, providing food for late-flying insects and berries through the winter for birds and small mammals.

For all that in early Autumn, the bees gather in large numbers, they are actually solitary in habit and overwinter in separate holes in the ground within that area where we observe them preparing for winter.

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust were pleased to have been notified of the presence of *Colletes hederiae* on our site. Just for interest.

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.

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.

COMMUNITY MEAL

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

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be
Children's Liturgy
during 10.30 am
mass on 21st, 28th
January and 4th
February.

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:

£250.72

Gift Aid: £183.5

**Second collection for
Kerala Church**

£613.94

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

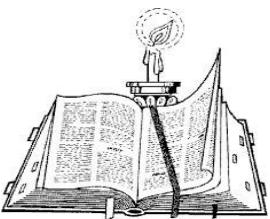
**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 228**



**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 11th February 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**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20;

Psalms 94;

1 Corinthians

7:32-35;

Mark 1:21-28

On this 3rd Sunday in ordinary time the 1st reading taken from the book of Jonah, we are introducing with the mission of Jonah to the people of Nineveh. Jonah's story is very interesting and full of paradoxes. First, when God asked him to go to Nineveh, he refuses at once and flees from the presence of God on a ship. Unlike most of the calling in the Bible God dramatically forces him in the belly of a whale and through him to the shore of Nineveh. Taking the warning of Jonah, the people repented. Instead of being thrilled he was angry about it. However, before we write him off as an eccentric character, we need to understand the historical context of Jonah. Nineveh was the capital of Assyria, the nation that destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel and held the southern kingdom of Judah as a vassal for many years. Jonah is called out by God to go and prophesy not to his own people but to the enemy.

The core of the story of Jonah however is revealed by his reaction to the conversion of the people of Nineveh. Jonah was displeased and angry. He tells God why he ran, "for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and ready to relent from punishing" (4:2). Isn't it strange that Jonah completely overlooks the fact that just like the Ninevites he too disobeyed God's word? God, however, doesn't punish him but gives him a second chance. Jonah on the other hand is not too keen on the Ninevites getting a second chance to reform their lives. God's response to Jonah in the last chapter gives him and us an invaluable lesson - God loves Everyone. God's mercy is wider than we can ever imagine perhaps even more than we would want. He desires to give a second chance to all. Who are we to put a restriction on the mercy of God? The 2nd reading St. Paul speaks about preparing ourselves for the coming of Christ. Therefore, Christians shouldn't allow themselves to be distracted by lesser concerns. As it often happens, events like the death of a loved one or sickness put a brake on our plans and suddenly the things that seemed so important a few minutes earlier fade into the background. In the event of a crisis, we realize the things that are truly important.

The gospel invites people to repent and believe in the good news." If we look closely, at the sentence, the coming of the kingdom precedes repentance. I remember back home I used to listen music with my headphones on and my mother after she had finished cooking the meal would keep calling out to me. However, due to the headphones I never used to hear her. It was only when I took off my headphones that I heard her shout out my name. The love of God is something like this, God loves us first, but our preoccupations are like the headphones which keep us from experiencing the love of God. Change of our heart is required to experience the depth of God's love. The call of the first disciples is quite different from that of Jonah. Unlike Jonah, first disciples immediately answer the call of Jesus. There was something remarkable about the call of Jesus that prompted them to follow him into an uncertain future. They followed Jesus with little idea of what future holds. Each one of us is also being called by God, but quite often in our lives, we ask God for guarantees and assurances. Faith on the other hand invites us to accept the unknown. God's call is always into an uncertain future. Our life is unpredictable and quite short. We can't afford to postpone answering the call of God any longer. I pray that each one of us dares to embrace the uncertainty of the future and take the leap of faith trusting completely in the unending love of God.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ