



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Leviticus 13:1-2.44-46;

Psalm 31;

1 Corinthians

10:31-11:1;

Mark 1:40-45

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

This Week: 11th Feb-18th Feb 2024 (Psalter Week 2)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 11th February Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B Second collection for the LIFE Charity	8:30 am Jack Callaghan RIP (MT) 10:30 am People of the Parish 6:00 pm John Ryan (DR)	After 8:30am Mass : Tea & Coffee in the Hall 2:30-4:30pm SVP Afternoon
Monday 12th February Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Communion Service	
Tuesday 13th February Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Donald Brooks RIP (PW)	
Wednesday 14th February Ash Wednesday	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Margaret Allen RIP 7:00 pm For the sick and the housebound	10:00am until 6:00pm Adoration
Thursday 15th February Thursday after Ash Wednesday	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am KD Varky RIP	After Mass- Church Cleaning 1:45 pm The Requiem Mass for Margaret Mary Allen
Friday 16th February Friday after Ash Wednesday	9:15 am KD Teresa RIP	9:00 am Station of the Cross
Saturday 17th February Saturday after Ash Wednesday	11:00 am Gladys Remedios RIP(AK)	10:15-10:45 am: Confession 11.00 am Anointing Mass
Sunday 18th February Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B	8:30 am Frank & Joan Patterson RIP(MJ) 10:30 am Bridget Bullock (EK) 6:00 pm George Conway RIP (BC)	After 8:30am Mass : Tea & Coffee in the Hall

“Prayer gives us the strength to strive ahead, overcome our fears, and glimpse the salvation that God prepares for us, even amid the darkness. Prayer also draws God’s salvation near.”

Pope Francis via Twitter 6th February 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

You are my refuge, O Lord ;
you fill me with the joy of salvation.

6.00pm Faith in God can move the mountains, trust in Him can calm the sea. He's my fortress, he's my stronghold, he's the rock who rescues 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, Pamela Wojciechowski

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for Margaret Mary Allen who died recently. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. The Requiem Mass for Margaret Mary Allen will be on Thursday, the 15th of February at 1.45pm here at Sacred Heart and followed by cremation at Worcester Crematorium. Please keep the family and friends of Margaret in your prayers.

FR. GEORGE ON HOLIDAY

Fr. George will be away for his holiday 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. Any emergency sick visit or funerals please contact Fr. Tomas at St. Peter's Bromsgrove.

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. There will be a meeting with the parents on **Sunday 10th March after 10.30 Mass** in the parish hall. We expect all parents whose children are to be prepared for FHC to attend this meeting. The first session will start on Saturday 16th of March at 9.30 in the parish hall. This year the First Holy Communion Mass will be on Saturday 15th June at 11.00 am.

ABORTION AND MENTAL HEALTH

Dr Callum Miller will be speaking on Abortion and Mental Health on Sunday 11th Feb, 3pm to help lunch the Lenten 40 Days for Life campaign- All welcome! This will be held in St Joseph & St Helen's RC Church hall, 84 Northfield Rd, Kings Norton, B'ham B30 1JG. For more info or to get involved in the campaign please contact Isabel:07773501721 izzyvs@gmail.com

GIFT 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.

HOUSE MASS DURING LENT

As part of Lenten Journey, on every Thursday at 7pm during Lent Fr. George would like to visit your home and celebrate house Masses. If you would like to host a house Mass at your home during Lent, please give your names to Fr. George.

ASH WEDNSDAY

This Wednesday the 14th is the Ash Wednesday, and we begin the season of lent. There will be two Masses on Ash Wednesday: morning at 9.15 am and evening at 7 pm. Please make the season of Lent a time of spiritual preparation by observing the season with prayer fasting and abstinence which are three pillars of Lent. Also please remember to observe Ash Wednesday as a day of fasting. Children, elderly and persons with special medical conditions are exempted from fasting.

JOURNEY IN FAITH– 21ST FEBRUARY AT 7PM

On this day we will be discussing the topic: Prayer, Getting to Know God.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On every Friday during Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross at 9.00am followed by Holy Mass. There will not be Novena to the Sacred Heart on Fridays during Lent.

WALK WITH ME BOOKLET

"A very warm welcome to this Lenten edition of "Walk With Me". With the Jubilee 2025 on the horizon our focus is very much on prayer and specifically the Our Father. The Our Father is a key theme for the Holy Year preparation this year. The disciples dared to say, 'Lord, teach us to pray', and so we dare to pray, 'Abba, Father.'" Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham. The "Walk With Me" booklet for the Lenten journey are available to collect from the back of the church. Please consider taking a copy home. The booklets are free, but any donation would be much appreciated and will be given to the Sacred Heart Mission.

ONLINE LENTEN RETREAT

This coming Lent the Ignatian Spirituality Centre (ISC) will again be offering a free online Lenten 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 Jourdiier on mandcjourdiier@gmail.com or 01886 812259

WORCESTER CIRCLE OF THE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION

The next meeting is on Wednesday February 21st and the topic is: Fairness, Morality and Justice: Fair taxation as a way of showing love, caring for creation, and bringing about a fairer, more just society. Sarah K Edwards, Executive Director 'Just Money Movement' Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility Everyone is welcome. All meetings are at St. George's RC Church Hall, Worcester, and start at 7.30 pm. The meeting will be preceded by the AGM of the Circle at 7.15 pm at which a secretary/ treasurer and committee members will be sought. So please think about this.

COMMUNITY MEAL

Monday 26th
February at 12.30 pm
in the Parish Hall.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

After the half term the
Children's Liturgy will
resume on Sunday
3rd March.

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.sacredheartdroitwi
ch@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:

£282.32

Gift Aid: £204.50

**Late collection for
Racial Justice raised
additional:**

Gift Aid: £15

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 243**

**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**

Isaiah

43:18-19.21-22.24-25;

Psalms 40;

2 Corinthians 1:18-22;

Mark 2:1-12

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.

In the ancient times, lepers were marginalized from the society for leprosy was considered not only contagious and incurable but also was considered as a curse from God and must be isolated from the rest of the community. Considering what was said above, it amazes us how in today's Gospel, Jesus treated with compassion the sick and the outcast, represented by the humble leper. The leper knelt and besought Our Lord—a very striking image which manifests the leper's indigent condition, humbly asking for God's mercy. This shows what should be our attitude when we reach out to God. In our requisitions, we should give primacy to what God wants and not just to what we want. "If you WISH", the leper told our Lord, indicating his respect for God's will for He knows better than us.

Unlike the usual reaction of the Jews of his time, Jesus' reaction was different. He was "moved with pity, ...stretched out his hand, touched him" clearly showing us an example of compassion towards the sick, the outcast, the marginalized: touching the untouchable. "Touching a leper meant being infected even inside, in the spirit, that is, becoming unclean. But in this case the influence flows not from the leper to Jesus so as to transfer the contagion, but actually from Jesus to the leper so as to grant him purification". (Pope Francis, Angelus, 11 February 2018.) This gesture of tenderness and compassion teaches us how we should treat others, especially those who are sick and marginalized. Jesus didn't come to condemn the leper, nor to reject Him. Rather, he showed him the tender compassion all of us need, for we too have our own infirmities which need to be healed by God. He is willing to heal us of our infirmities as long as we humbly approach him and ask for his help. Nevertheless, we must be reminded that it is not leprosy or whatever physical illness which makes us unclean but rather our sins. Leprosy is actually a symbol of sin and of its consequences. Through mortal sin, man is lost and disoriented. His life loses its meaning and direction. He ruins himself, the people around him, and his friendship with God. That is why if one were to name the great tragedy which could happen to a Christian, that would be to commit a mortal sin, the sin against ten commandments. Full of faith, we must go to Jesus so that He may clean and purify us, especially in the Sacrament of Confession, for this is where Jesus tells us: "I will: be made clean."

"Jesus, takes from us our diseased humanity and we take from Him his sound and healing humanity. This happens each time we receive a Sacrament with faith: the Lord Jesus "touches" us and grants us his grace. In this case we think especially of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which heals us from the leprosy of sin". (Pope Francis, Angelus, 11 February 2018.) On the other hand, our Eucharistic offering also purifies and renews us for it the source of all grace and true life as we listen in the prayer over the offering "May this oblation, O Lord, we pray, cleanse and renew us and may it become for those who do your will the source of eternal reward". May God heal us body, soul spirit.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ