



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM



SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Jeremiah 33: 14-16;

Psalm 24;

1 Thessalonians 3: 12 - 4: 2;

Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

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

This Week 28th November - 5th December (Psalter Week 1)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
Sunday 28th November First Sunday of Advent Year C	8.30 am Canon Giles Goward RIP (MB) 10.30 am Departed Brethren of SCJ Family 6.00 pm Dennis O'Hara RIP (BO)	
Monday 29th November Advent Feria	9.15 am Christine Hayward (I & MM)	
Tuesday 30th November Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle	9.15 am Holy Communion Service	
Wednesday 1st December Feast of St. Edmund Campion, Priest, Martyr	9.15 am Sean Fitzpatrick RIP (AK)	6.00 pm: Adoration & Benediction (Live Streamed only)
Thursday 2nd December Advent Feria	9.15 am Betty Parry (EK)	
Friday 3rd December Memorial of St. Francis Xavier, Priest	9.15 am Celia Buckley RIP (CP)	9.45am: Novena to the Sacred Heart (soon after Mass) 6.30 pm: Youth Group
Saturday 4th December Advent Feria	11.00 am First Holy Communion Mass	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 5th December Second Sunday of Advent Year C	8.30 am Francis George (LD) 10.30 am Tony Pinnell (CP) 6.00 pm Jackie Kelly (GC)	Retiring Collection for the Poor Parishes

“Every war leaves our world worse than it was before. War is a failure of politics and of humanity, a shameful capitulation, a stinging defeat before the forces of evil...Let us hear the true stories of these victims of violence, look at reality through their eyes, and listen with an open heart to the stories they tell. In this way, we will be able to grasp the abyss of evil at the heart of war. Nor will it trouble us to be deemed naïve for choosing peace.”

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 261)

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

PARISH SCHOOL

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Tel: 01905 773572

Email: office@st-josephs-
droitwich.worcs.sch.uk

HEAD TEACHER

Mrs. Cath Bryan

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PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

Gerry Ceclich

Kate Dalgleish

Clare Tomlinson

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**Archdiocese of
Birmingham
Safeguarding Team**

Tel.: 0121 230 6240

Email: safeguarding
@rcaob.org.uk

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am & 10.30 am: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

6.00 pm: To be announced during Mass.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for all our parishioners, and/or their friends and relatives, who are unwell:

Mary Arulandhu, Barbara Conway, Barbara Coomber, Finbarr Cronin, Eileen Dalton, Delores Delaney, Frank Fawcett, Sheila Ferriter, Tony Gilroy, Joan Graham, Beryl Hill, Alan Hurst, John Jennings, Sheila Manion, Sally McCool, Andrew McDermott, Jackie McLean, Michael Sheridan, Jacky Smith, Paul Smith, Margaret Steward, Angela Wardle, Breda Wightman, Mark Wightman, Richard Wightman, Monsignor Graham Wilkinson & Phil Yates.

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 Kate Dalgleish. Please note that the newsletter is also placed on the parish website. Thank you for your understanding.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for **Edwina Tyler** who died recently. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Please keep her family and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

DEFIBRILLATOR

We have recently installed an emergency cardiac defibrillator. This is mounted on the wall of our Parish Hall in a yellow box. If someone is suffering a cardiac arrest you may find it useful.

CHRISTMAS CARD FOR PRISONERS

The Justice and Peace Group are once again organising Christmas Cards to send to prisoners at Long Lartin Prison. Cards are available at the back of church. **Do not sign your name**; put "from Sacred Heart, Droitwich" after your own message and **do not stick down the envelope**. Please return your card with a 30p donation by Tuesday 14th December. Thank you.

SVP DROITWICH - GIVING TREE APPEAL 2021

Father Hudson's Homes have said that again they will not be able to accept gifts from the Giving Tree this year. They do however still have a need to support families that need gifts for their families. There will be a second collection in lieu of gifts after each Sunday Mass on Sunday 12th December. Donations can be made via the second collection box or the cashless giving device. We have always had wonderful support from our parish for this worthwhile cause so please be as generous as possible in these difficult times. If you are unable to attend church for whatever reason then donations can be left at the presbytery with Father George clearly marked Giving Tree Gifts. Cheques should be made payable to Father Hudson's Homes. Thank you all for your support.

NEW YEAR RAFFLE

The Parish will be organising a New Year Raffle in January. Your support would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to donate a raffle prize, please give your name to Terry as early as possible so that we will be able to print the tickets well in advance.

RED BOXES

Do you hold a Red Box? Whether your box is unused or full of money, please identify yourself to us as this year's contributions need to be in the bank by the end of December. Please return boxes to church as soon as you are able. If necessary, we can arrange to collect boxes. Please contact Kevin Larkin on 01905 776122 or email kevin.elizabeth@btinternet.com.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE

Christmas Cards are now on sale after each Mass from the entrance of the parish hall. A pack of 8 cards cost only £3.00. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

CAFOD DAILY ADVENT REFLECTIONS

These reflections have been very popular and offer an opportunity to pause and reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas. Visit <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-calendar> for further details and to sign up. There are also free Advent children's liturgy resources that parish catechists may find useful at <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>.

MARY'S MEALS DOUBLE THE LOVE

From November to January, every gift given to Mary's Meals will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.6m. This means a gift of just £15.90 will feed, not one, but two children, a life-changing daily school meal for a whole school year! For more information, please visit www.marysmeals.org.uk.

COVID-19 STEP 4 GUIDANCE

The church is now open as usual; capacity has been increased to 150. Please sanitise your hands on entrance and exit. We strongly recommend that you continue to wear a face mask in church. Please leave the family pews for families with children. Holy Communion will continue to be under one kind. Indoor congregational singing is permitted. It is recommended face coverings should be worn by members of the congregation whilst singing together. Please use both the main door and the side door to exit the church. A big thank you to all of you for your cooperation and understanding during the time of the pandemic.

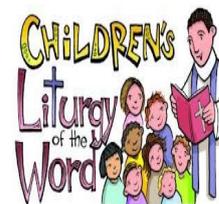
WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING CONTACTLESS DONATIONS



You will find our new DIGITAL COLLECTION PLATE, contactless terminal in the church. Just use your contactless debit/credit card or smart phone/ device to make a donation. Simply choose the amount you wish to donate and hold your card onto the reader. You can also opt-in for Gift Aid to increase your donation by 25% for some donation options. If you are a UK taxpayer then donating with Gift Aid means that we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 received. Contactless donations are simple to administer, secure and convenient.

Act of Spiritual Communion Prayer

*My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself completely to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

We are hoping to be able to resume Children's Liturgy at the 10.30 am Mass but cannot do so without more volunteers to run the groups. If you would be interested in helping or would like further information please speak to Fr. George or contact the Parish Office.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Please save the date: Saturday 12th March from 9.30 am until 11.30 am. Open to all. Further information to follow in the New Year.



Registered as a Charity, Birmingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Registered Charity Number 234216.

Main Collection:
£122.61

Gift Aid: £135.00
Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.

Mass Attendance
Last Sunday: 190

The retiring
collection for
Catholic Youth
Services raised:
£39.40

Gift Aid: £73.00
Thank you for your
generosity.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

If you know of
anyone in need
please do not
hesitate in contacting
us on
0777 292 7535 or at
droitwichsvp
@gmail.com.

FOODBANK

There is a new wish
list for Sunday 14th
November that is on
the website. Thank
you for your
generosity.



Next Sunday's Mass

Readings

Baruch 5: 1-9;

Psalms 125;

*Philippians 1: 3-6,
8-11;*

Luke 3: 1-6

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.

Awake, be ready!

Since the beginning of civilization there has been a curiosity to know about the end of the world. In addition to Christianity, all the religions speak about this. Recently these notions have even crept in to Hollywood movies, such as the film called 2012 which draws an ancient Mesoamerican prophecy. It depicts the world ending on 21st December 2012 with frightening scenes of mountains flooding with water, continents falling into the sea, catastrophic destruction and cataclysmic events taking place. The core theme of the film shows the powerlessness to save ourselves from impending cataclysmic events. Leaving us with one question: who will survive in 2012?

Today's reading speaks about the end of time. But unlike Mesoamerican prophecy, it does not tell us when it will come. The Church includes this reading at the beginning of advent to remind us about the second coming of Jesus with frightening description. We would not be human if we did not tremble before these words. We would not be Christian if they did not lead us to hope. These powerful words bring us to the heart of the advent season. The truth is that God's love for us is the most powerful force in the world and not even the end of the world can change that truth. These words make us aware of our own powerlessness before some pending future events. But they also point out the power of our Saviour who one day will atomise all this order and sin and restore all creation to its original design. Christian faith and hope is not just optimism, which simply trying to find out the best out of a difficult situation. Rather Christian faith and hope tells us that love rules the universe and God's love in the end will conquer everything. These readings are not meant simply to frighten us or to worry us who will survive. But to arouse us from our sleeping. It strengthens our vision so that Christ one day will make right all that is wrong in the world, with His power of undying love for us. Our task is to welcome Christ and be ready when He comes.

In this liturgy we proclaim, that Christ has come and Christ will come again. We also proclaim that our duty is to welcome Him into our hearts right now and let His love reign over our lives. To trust Him with all that burdens and afflicts us and believe that He acts now in our midst. Our task in other words is to bring ourselves into harmony with Christ. Who is like Isaiah says, "the gentile rain that brings us salvation". In many ways this is like a story about a village that was experiencing a terrible drought that they thought that their world is going to come to an end. They tried everything; they even consulted the local rain makers to see if they could help but none. But they heard someone who lived in a far away land who is a rain maker and they called him and begged him to help them. In return they offered him anything he wanted. But he said, I don't want anything, but a quiet place where I can be alone and they offered him a cave way up in the hills where he hid away for four days. Nothing happened since and the people began to worry and on the fifth day the heavens opened and rainwater gradually quenched the thirst of the parched earth. The people established it as a miracle. But he replies I did nothing; but I come from a place where everything is in harmony, there is order there and life is in line with heaven. But when I arrived here, I saw the way you treat each other when I felt discord and division, I saw confusion and the lack of understanding a total disharmony with heaven. So I spent four days myself in harmony with the divine and then the rain came. When we live in harmony with the divine, peace, joy and blessings rain down from heaven and quench the thirst of ourselves. May God bless us. Fr. George Mathew SCJ