



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

208 Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa,
WR9 8AZ, Tel: 01905 773258
Email: sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk
Web: www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk



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

Today's Mass Readings

Readings

Genesis 15;1-6; 21:1-3;

Psalms 104;

Hebrews 11:8.11-12.17-19;

Luke 2:22-40

This Week: 31st Dec-7th Jan (Psalter Week 1)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 31st December Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Year B	8.30am Thresiamma RIP 10.30am Christian Lowe (SM) 6.00pm People of the Parish	After 8.30am Mass : Tea& Coffee in the Hall 6.00pm at the end o the Mass Year-end and welcoming New Year prayer
Monday 1st January Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God	10.00am Peace in the World	<i>Happy New Year</i>
Tuesday 2nd January Memorial of St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Elsamma Mathew	
Wednesday 3rd January Christmas Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Christian Lowe (SM)	10.00am until 6.00pm Adoration 7.00pm Journey in Faith
Thursday 4th January Christmas Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Chris Holden for speedy recovery (GW)	After Mass-Church cleaning
Friday 5th January Christmas Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Benedict Lowe (SM)	After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart.
Saturday 6th January Christmas Feria	11:00 am Mathew RIP (S&A)	10:15 - 10:45 am: Confession
Sunday 7th January Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, Year B	8.30am Holy Mass 10.30am Thomas and Maureen Fahy RIP 6.00pm John and Mary Eray (DR)	After 8.30am Mass : Tea& Coffee in the Hall

"Today, as at the time of Herod, the evil that opposes God's light hatches its plots in the shadows of hypocrisy and concealment. How much violence and killing takes place amid deafening silence, unbeknownst to many!"

Pope Francis via Twitter 28th 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

8.30am & 10.30am He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant
for ever.

6.00pm O blessed are those who fear the Lord .

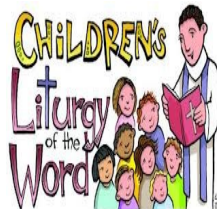
PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS

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.**

**Fr. George SCJ, Fr. Brian SCJ, Fr. Tom SCJ and Bro.
Patrick SCJ wish everyone in our parish community a
blessed and peaceful Christmas. May the blessings of
Christmas embrace you and your family. Sincere thanks
for your prayers, cards, gifts, support and help during
2023. Wish you and your family peaceful New Year 2024.**



CHILDREN LITURGY

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

WEDNESDAY ADORATION

Adoration will resume on Wednesday 3rd January.

JOURNEY IN FAITH- 3RD JANUARY AT 7PM

On this day we will be discussing the topic: Faith and Science. The
evening will be a shared exploration of the challenges posed by the
relationship between faith and science. There need be no divide between
scientific, technological and culture on the one hand and the life of faith on
the other. The session will be guide by Dr John Duddington.

THANKS GIVING PRAYER

Sunday the 31st of December is the last day of the year. To express our
gratitude to God for all blessing He showered upon us in 2023, we have
short prayer service at the end at 6.00pm Holy Mass.

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.

CRIB OFFERINGS

Our parish will be donating crib offerings to Friends of the Holy Land. Every penny will help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel.

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>

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.

RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF CREATION

12 DAYS OF A CLIMATE CONSCIOUS CHRISTMAS

December's Responding to the Call of Creation newsletter looks at the 12 Days of Christmas with a sustainable twist. Please have a look at the back of the Church.

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.

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/>

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.



Gift Aid: £86

Thank you for supporting your Parish.

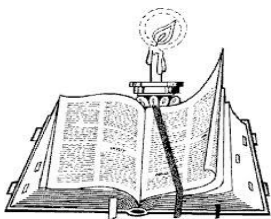


Mass attendance last Sunday: 202

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

Isaiah 60:1-6;

Psalms 71;

Ephesians 3:2-3.5-6;

Matthew 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.

PASTORAL LETTER

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, This is my first opportunity to wish you all the blessings and joy that we always associate with the great feast of Christmas. I hope that you have found an opportunity to welcome members of your family to your homes over Christmas or perhaps to pay them a visit. For many of us, with family in distant places, a phone call will have brought us close to those we love – and for others the memories of those who are no longer with us will have brought us some comfort over the Christmas season. I mention all these experiences of family because today we are celebrating the Feast of the Holy Family. We remember that Christmas is not only the birth of the Word made flesh – it also marks the beginning of family life for Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the Holy Family of Nazareth. Through them we learn that God chose to enter our world as part of a family – and to share the experience of life and love that only the family can offer. Today is also New Year's Eve, when we bid farewell to the old year and prepare for what may lie ahead. I am sure we shall remember 2023 with immense sadness for the continuing dreadful war in Ukraine, for the horrific Hamas attacks on innocent Israeli citizens, for the seizing and captivity of the Israeli hostages and for the prolonged and extensive suffering of the people of Gaza. Amid all this it is families who are suffering the most, whether in Ukraine, Israel, or Gaza. It is parents or children, siblings or cousins who are being prayed for, treated for their injuries, or mourned – and it is these offences against families that provoke destructive resentment and make forgiveness and reconciliation so difficult.

On this feast day we remember and pray for the two Christian women who were murdered just before Christmas in the grounds of the Holy Family Catholic Church in Gaza. They are a tragic symbol of all the family suffering that the Prince of Peace came to heal and redeem by growing in maturity and wisdom as a member of his own family in Bethlehem and Nazareth. As we pray for an end to these terrible conflicts we look ahead to the coming year as a Year of Prayer in preparation for the Holy Year of 2025. Pope Francis has urged us to put the Lord's Prayer at the very heart of all our prayer this year. The Our Father is essentially the prayer of God's family, looking to our provident and forgiving Father, to care for us and to enable us to care for others after the example of his beloved Son. At the outset of a new year we remember that the family is part of the natural world that God has created and entrusted to us. All living creatures form a kind of global family, guaranteeing their continuity and sustaining the quality of their lives. Pope Francis has said that we need education in the care of the common home to help us understand that environmental problems are linked to human needs. For all of us the human needs on which we depend for life and happiness should find their fulfilment in the family. I invite you to pray especially for your own family and for all the families of your parish today – and please pray for the families in Ukraine, Israel and Gaza that politicians and leaders may find just and lasting ways to end the warfare and violence and to give people the peace for which they long. May the Holy Family of Nazareth help us all, this New Year, to grow closer to Christ the Prince of Peace and to serve one another with kindness and generosity. With my prayers for you and your family this Christmastide.

Yours devotedly in Christ Bernard Longley Archbishop of Birmingham