



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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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

*Daniel 12:1-3;*  
*Psalms 15;*  
*Hebrews 10:11-14.18;*  
*Mark 13:24-32*

This Week: 17th-24th Nov 2024 Psalter Week 1	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
<b>Sunday 17th November</b> <b>Thirty Third Sunday</b> <b>in Ordinary Time, Year B</b>	8:30 am Deceased Members of Brush Family (MB) 10:30 am Alan Remedios RIP (AK) 6:00 pm Keith Mercer RIP(JD)	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall During 10:30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy
<b>Monday 18th November</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am In Thanksgiving for Colum & Maree MacCourt RIP (LM)	12.30 pm Community Meal
<b>Tuesday 19th November</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Thanksgiving: Geraldine Hayes	
<b>Wednesday 20th November</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Graham Farlek 1st Anniversary RIP (MF)	10:00 am - 6:00 pm Adoration
<b>Thursday 21st November</b> Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Keith Mercer & Betty Clark RIP (J&AQ)	After Mass: Church cleaning
<b>Friday 22nd November</b> Memorial of St Cecilia, Virgin, Martyr	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Deceased Members of Baldry Family (MB)	After mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart 6.30 pm Youth Group
<b>Saturday 23rd November</b> Feria	11.00 am Ursula Matthews RIP (MB)	10:15 - 10:45 am Confession
<b>Sunday 24th November</b> <b>Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe</b>  Second collection for Catholic Youth Services	8:30 am Kevin Mc Corry RIP (MM) 10:30 am Anthony Ringer RIP (PR) 6:00 pm Gladys Remedios RIP(AK)	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall During 10:30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy

***"I hope COP29 may demonstrate that the international community is ready to look beyond their own preferences to focus on the good of humanity and our common home, which God has entrusted to our care and responsibility."***

*Pope Francis via Twitter 14th November 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:  
jod\_office@emmausmac.  
com

**PRINCIPAL**

Mr A Carry

**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**

**8.00am, 10.30am** Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

**6.00 pm** Keep me safe O God, I take refuge in you.

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**PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS**

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

Barbara Conway, Beryl Hill, Alan Hurst, John Jennings, Andrew McDermott, Michael Sheridan, Jacky Smith, Paul Smith, Margaret Steward, Breda Wightman, Richard Wightman, Fr. Brian Boyle and Mrs. Roma.

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**RECENTLY DECEASED**

Your prayers are asked for Jackie McLean and Msgr. Graham Wilkinson, who died recently. May their soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. The Requiem Mass for Jackie will take place on 5th December at 11.00 am. Jackie will be brought to the Church on the evening before at 5.00 pm. Please keep the family and friends of Jackie and Msgr. Graham in your prayers.

**CHRISTMAS FAIR 30TH NOVEMBER**

The Parish Fair is a time when we can all come together as a Parish Family, apart from liturgical services, to meet and greet our fellow parishioners, twice a year. Also, though small, it is one way of raising some additional funds for the parish to cope with the recent massive increases in energy costs, though this winter is likely to be better than the last couple of winters. The Christmas Fair this year will be on Saturday 30th November from 11.00am until 2pm. To add colour to the social aspect, we will have the Christmas Raffle. If you would like to sponsor a raffle prize, please give your name to Terry Poulton as soon as possible, or write your name on the clipboard in the narthex. Raffle tickets are available to buy from the parish hall after each Mass. Please buy some tickets for yourself and for your friends and family. In addition, there will be stalls such as cakes, bric-a-brac, tombola, toiletries, toys and books. Please start bringing items for these stalls, especially items for tombola and toiletries. There will be tea, coffee & cake available too. We are looking for volunteers to help with the Christmas Fair, if you can help, please contact Fr. George. Please keep this date in your diary.

**ADVENT JOURNEY/PARISH DIARIES**

The 'Walk With Me' booklet and calendar for the Advent Journey are available at the back of the Church. The booklet is to help focus on our relationship with God and with people during Advent. Please consider taking a copy home to help prepare for Christmas. Also, 2025 Parish Diaries have arrived and are available to collect from the Narthex.

The diaries, 'Walk With Me' booklet and children Advent calendar are free but any donation would be appreciated and will be given to the Sacred Heart Mission.

**JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)**

The next Journey in Faith (RCIA) session will be on Wednesday 27th November at 7pm in the Elgar Room. The topic for discussion will be 'Mary the Mother of God'.

## **THANK YOU EVENING FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER**

To thank all of you and the parish volunteers who are involved in different areas of parish life both spiritual and temporal, this year the Thank You Evening will be on Friday 6th December. The Evening will start with Holy Mass at 6pm followed by a meal and entertainment in the parish hall. Please keep this date in your diary. Please help the catering team by letting us know if you would like to join the meal and social in the parish hall after Mass.

## **FOODBANK ADVENT CALENDAR**

The countdown to Christmas Calendar is on the noticeboard.

## **GIVING TO OTHERS THIS CHRISTMAS**

SVP will be putting up a Christmas Giving Tree for parishioners to donate gifts for children. Fr Hudson's will distribute these gifts. The Tree will be ready on 24th November for you to take an Angel tag. Please put the age range on the tag. Wrapped and tagged gifts can be left under the tree. There will be instructions alongside the tree. Fr Hudson's will be collecting the gifts on December 9th.

Christmas Cards for Prisoners in Long Lartin will be available at all Masses on 1st December. If you wish to write a card, DO NOT put any money in the card and DO NOT add your name, "From Sacred Heart Parish" is acceptable. Leave the envelope open as all mail has to be checked at the Prison. Leave your card in the appropriate box at the back of the Church. A 50p donation towards the cost of the card would be appreciated.

## **NEWS FROM BISHOPS' CONFERENCE**

We are calling on Catholics in England and Wales to unite in prayer and compassionate action to oppose assisted suicide. In early September 2024, when parliament returned and a Bill on assisted suicide – so-called assisted dying – started its passage through the House of Lords, our Lead Bishop for Life Issues, Bishop John Sherrington, called for Catholics to unite in prayer and compassionate action. That call is renewed now as on Wednesday, 16th October, the House of Commons heard the first reading of a new bill on assisted suicide tabled by Labour MP Kim Leadbeater. It will be debated on Friday 29th November. This is another attempt to legalise assisted suicide and we need you to contact your MP to voice your opposition.

Act now! Contact your MP. The charity 'Right to Life' has a simple online mechanism to do this. It takes little more than a few minutes to input your postcode, make sure the suggested text suits your viewpoint and submit your message to ask your MP to stop assisted suicide being rushed into law. Click here to contact your MP <https://righttolife.org.uk/> via the 'Right to Life' website or send the card Assist us to Live Not to Die to your MP by post. Card is available at the back of the church.

## **CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER 3:00 P.M.**

We are delighted to welcome Quinborne Choir, directed by Nicola Starkie, to our church for a Carol Concert on Saturday 14th December at 3:00 p.m. The choir will sing a variety of carols and music for winter, including Elgar's The Snow, and there will be communal carols for us all to enjoy singing. After the concert at approximately 4:15 p.m. tea, coffee and seasonal treats will be served in the Parish Hall. What better way to start your Christmas Season? Tickets £10, under 18s free, will be available after all Masses on Sunday 17th November or by contacting Jenny and Peter Leonard 07970 824102 [peterleonard4@aol.com](mailto:peterleonard4@aol.com)

Demand is expected to be high, so book your tickets soon!

## **COMMUNITY MEAL**

Monday **18th November** at 12.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

## **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

There will be Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am mass on **17th, 24th November & on 1st, 8th & 15th December**

## **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.sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/[safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.

**Main collection**

**£257.96**

**Gift Aid: £207.00**

**Additional donation for**

**Jonson Association**

**Gift Aid: £30.00**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

**Mass attendance  
last Sunday: 212**

**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 **8th December** 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](mailto:DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk) or on 07772 927535 or on Facebook, SVP Sacred Heart Droitwich.



**Next Sunday's Mass  
Readings**

*Daniel 7:13-14;*

*Psalms 92;*

*Apocalypse 1:5-8;*

*John 1:5-8*

My brothers and sisters, This Wednesday, 16 October 2024, a bill will be introduced to Parliament proposing a change in the law to permit assisted suicide. The debate will continue for a number of months, in society and in Parliament, before a definitive vote is held there. This puts in the spotlight crucial questions about the dignity of human life and the care and protection afforded by our society to every human being. As this debate unfolds there are three points I would like to put before you. I hope that you will take part in the debate, whenever and wherever you can, and that you will write to your Member of Parliament. The first point is this: Be careful what you wish for. No doubt the bill put before Parliament will be carefully framed, providing clear and very limited circumstances in which it would become lawful to assist, directly and deliberately, in the ending of a person's life. But please remember, the evidence from every single country in which such a law has been passed is clear: that the circumstances in which the taking of a life is permitted are widened and widened, making assisted suicide and medical killing, or euthanasia, more and more available and accepted. In this country, assurances will be given that the proposed safeguards are firm and reliable. Rarely has this been the case. This proposed change in the law may be a source of relief to some. But it will bring great fear and trepidation to many, especially those who have vulnerabilities and those living with disabilities. What is now proposed will not be the end of the story. It is a story better not begun. The second point is this: a right to die can become a duty to die. A law which prohibits an action is a clear deterrent. A law which permits an action changes attitudes: that which is permitted is often and easily encouraged. Once assisted suicide is approved by the law, a key protection of human life falls away. Pressure mounts on those who are nearing death, from others or even from themselves, to end their life to take away a perceived burden of care from their family, for the avoidance of pain, or for the sake of an inheritance. I know that, for many people, there is profound fear at the prospect of prolonged suffering and loss of dignity. Yet such suffering itself can be eased. Part of this debate, then, must be the need and duty to enhance palliative care and hospice provision, so that there can genuinely be, for all of us, the prospect of living our last days in the company of loved ones and caring medical professionals. This is truly dying with dignity. Indeed, the radical change in the law now being proposed risks bringing about for all medical professionals a slow change from a duty to care to a duty to kill.

The third point is this: being forgetful of God belittles our humanity. The questions raised by this bill go to the very heart of how we understand ourselves, our lives, our humanity. Our life flows from God and will find its fulfilment in God. 'The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.' (Job 1:21) To ignore or deny this truth is to separate our humanity from its origins and purpose. We are left, floating free, detached, in a sphere that lacks firm anchors or destiny, thinking that we can create these for ourselves according to the mood of the age, or even of the day. The clearest expression of this faith is that every human being is made in the image and likeness of God. That is the source of our dignity and it is unique to the human person. The suffering of a human being is not meaningless. It does not destroy that dignity. It is an intrinsic part of our human journey, a journey embraced by the Eternal Word of God, Christ Jesus himself. He brings our humanity to its full glory precisely through the gateway of suffering and death. As this debate unfolds, then, I ask you to play your part in it. Write to your MP. Have discussions with family, friends and colleagues. And pray. Please remember: be careful what you wish for; the right to die can become a duty to die; being forgetful of God belittles our humanity. May God bless us.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols Archbishop of Westminster