



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16;

Psalms 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: 1st-8th Dec 2024 Psalter Week 1	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 1st December First Sunday of Advent	8:30 am for SVP members past and present 10:30 am People of the Parish 6:00 pm Betty Clark RIP (JD)	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall During 10:30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy 12.00 -noon Baptism
Monday 2nd December Advent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Kathleen Farrell	
Tuesday 3rd December Memorial of St Francis Xavier, Priest	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Communion Service	
Wednesday 4th December Advent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am James Mason (M) 10:30 am Requiem Mass of Terence Downes	10.00 am - 6:00 pm Adoration 5.00 pm Reception of the Body : Jacky McClean
Thursday 5th December Feast of St Birinus, Bishop	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Uman Sangha (RS) 11.00 am Requiem Mass of Jacky McClean	
Friday 6th December Advent Feria	<u>6.00 pm For all parish & school volunteers & staff</u>	7.00 pm Thank you evening in the Hall
Saturday 7th December Memorial of St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	11.00 am Michael Donovan (BD)	10:15-10.45 am Confession
Sunday 8th December Second Sunday of Advent Second collection for Poor Parishes	8:30 am People of the Parish 10:30 am Souls of Turner & Ingram Family RIP (C&PI) 6:00 pm Jacki McLean RIP (FL)	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall During 10:30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy 2.30 pm SVP Afternoon

"Prayer is the soul of hope"

Pope Francis via Twitter 26th 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 To you , O Lord, I lift up my soul.

6.00 pm 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, 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.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for Jackie McLean, Clifford Bowditch, Grace Nunney
and Terence Downes, 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 Thursday 5th December at 11.00 am.
Jackie will be brought to the Church on the evening before at 5.00 pm. The
Funeral Service for Terence will take place on Wednesday 4th December at
10.30 am. Please keep the family and friends of Jackie, Clifford, Grace and
Terence in your prayers.

SACRED HEART CHRISTMAS FAIR

Thank you to all those who supported the Christmas Fair, either by making
cakes, advertising the event, helping set up the stalls, being a stall holder,
selling raffle tickets, helping with the games, providing refreshments,
clearing up afterwards, donating items, attending on the day and supporting
the event. The total money raised for the parish will be announced in due
course. The list of Raffle Prize winners is displayed at the notice board. If you
have won a prize, please collect them from the Romero Room after the Mass.

LIVE SIMPLE CHRISTMAS

Have you started your Christmas shopping yet? **THEN STOP AND THINK.** We
all need to save money and energy, as well as living simply. Reduce your
Christmas footprint: don't buy too much food, use wrapping paper and cards
made from recycled or FSC certified paper, make you own cards, no foil or
glitter on cards...

More inspiration in the notice board.

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.

ADVENT RETREAT

Online from the Ignatian Spirituality Centre, Glasgow. Each day resources to
pray with will be provided online by the ISC including a piece of Scripture,
reflection, picture and Music. [https://www.onlineprayer.net/advent-retreat-
24/](https://www.onlineprayer.net/advent-retreat-24/) For further details contact Max and Cecilia Jourdir (01886 812259).



To all our young people who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on last Tuesday, may the Holy Spirit dwell in your hearts forever.

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.

FOODBANK ADVENT CALENDAR

The countdown to Christmas Calendar is on the noticeboard.

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

The next Journey in Faith (RCIA) session will be on Wednesday 11th December at 7pm in the Elgar Room. The topic for discussion will be 'Word Became flesh: Meaning of Christmas'.

MISSIO RED BOX COLLECTION

These boxes are due to be emptied and counted. If you have one and would like it counted, please bring it to church but do not leave it at the back of church with money in it; make sure that you give it to either Fr. George, Brother Patrick or take it to the presbytery. Your box will be returned as soon as possible. If you would like a Red Box to support Missio, please contact Fr. George or Maddie (01905 429036)

WORCESTER CIRCLE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION

Worcester Circle Newman Association's next meeting is on Wednesday December 11th at the usual venue, St. George's RC Church Hall at 7pm, when Tom Piotrowski will be talking on The Church and Migration, exploring some of the facts and myths about it from the Christian perspective. This will be followed by seasonal Advent refreshments. Everyone very welcome.

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.

KNOCK PILGRIMAGES

Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 10th March 2025. £799.00 pps. Please see poster in the notice board. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY MEAL

Monday 9th December
at 12.30 pm in the
Parish Hall.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

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

PARISH YOUTH GROUP

Runs during term time
on Friday evenings
from 6.30 pm for chil-
dren 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.droit
wich@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.

17.11.2024

Main Collection

£351.98

Gif Aid: £170.00

24.11.2024

Main Collection

£291.85

Gift Aid: £176.00

Second collection for
Catholic Youth

£93.50

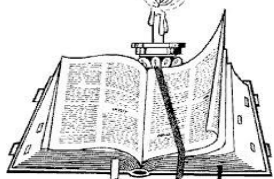
Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.

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 or on 07772 927535 or on Facebook, SVP Sacred Heart Droitwich.



Next Sunday's Mass

Readings

Baruch 5:1-9;

Psalm 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.

Today we begin a new liturgical year as we celebrating the First Sunday of Advent and also the beginning of the Jubilee Year as the Holy Father announced 2025 as the Jubilee Year. The word Advent comes from the Latin word ADVENTUS which means COMING OR ARRIVAL. In the book of Isaiah we read, "In days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest mountain". Isaiah was from Jerusalem, from Judea. He knew very well that city on the top of Mount Zion. The place literally, the dwelling place of God on earth. "In days to come" that means at the culmination of all things this will be the highest mountain. Now, Isaiah means it here spiritually. At the fulfilment of all time the praise of God will be the supreme value.

The gospel taken from Luke invites us to prepare the way for the Lord, for Jesus to be born in our hearts. In fact, all the three readings of today invite us to be waiting and vigilant. Luke tells us that Jesus is coming in a cloud with power and great glory and therefore we need to straighten up and raise our heads, watching and waiting. This is an apocalyptic language that speaks of the end of time. What does it signify? Everything that is in the world will end one day, there is nothing permanent in this world; what remains is God alone and our relationship with God. Jesus does not intend to scare us but rather to help us realize that this world is passing and there is going to be a new world; a new Heaven and a new Earth which is called the spiritual world and our spiritual relationship with God.

The message of Advent is an invitation and it is also a challenge to us. We are called to be looking forward, to be ready, to be prepared and we are asked to wait in joyful hope. Waiting is not something that we are usually good at these days. Our modern world tells us to move faster in so many ways. We have smart phones, emails and microwave ovens that all 'help' us to get through our busy days. However, Advent asks each of us to do the very opposite. During these 24 sacred days of preparation we are being asked to take some time to be still and silent, as we prepare ourselves deeply for Christmas. While we can't simply ignore the daily twists and turns over the next few weeks, neither can we ignore the words and message of Jesus in today's gospel; 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come... what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!' So my dear friends, as we begin our preparation in this Advent season, we ask God for His strength and grace to fight and overcome the challenges of life. Life, as we all know, throws new challenges and hardships every day. Therefore, we need to wait and count on the Lord. Our waiting should not be passive or drowsy, but rather we should stand firm and raise our heads, being vigilant and passionate. Let not this new season of Advent just be a ritualistic affair but rather a realistic affair. Let us have a family and community preparation, journeying together in the true spirit of Advent. As we prepare for the coming of the Lord, what is of highest value for us? What is the highest mountain? During these four weeks before Christmas let us keep that image of Isaiah's Mountain in our mind. Where do you worship? What is of highest value to you? I wish you a blessed Advent.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ