



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



Today's Mass Readings

Isaiah 22:19-23;
Psalms 137;
Romans 11:33-36;
Matthew 16:13-20

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

This Week: 27th Aug - 2nd Sep (Psalter Week 1)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 27th August Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A	8:30 am Mary Mason RIP (DG) 10:30 am Cynthia Rappazzini RIP (CL) 12 noon Baptism 6:00 pm Johanna O'Dwyer for a speedy recovery.	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall
Monday 28th August Memorial of St Augustine, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Mary Mason RIP (BB)	
Tuesday 29th August Memorial of the Passion of Saint John the Baptist, Martyr	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am For the sick and housebound	
Wednesday 30th August Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Mary Mason RIP (DG)	10:00 am until 6:00 pm: Adoration
Thursday 31st August Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Holy Mass	
Friday 1st September Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Fr. Alex Rebello (AR) 12:30 pm Wedding	After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart
Saturday 2nd September Feria	11:00 am Mary Mason RIP	10:15 - 10:45 am: Confession
Sunday 3rd September Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A	8:30 am Holy Mass 10:30 am For the people of the Parish 6:00 pm Holy Mass	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall

“Let us Pray Together for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters who are suffering so much. War is cruel: so many children are missing, so many people have died! Let us not forget tormented Ukraine. Today is a significant date for their country.”

Pope Francis via Twitter 22nd August 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

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 SAFEGUARDING
REPRESENTATIVES**

Gerry Ceclich

Clare Tomlinson

Email:
sg.sacredheart.droitwich
@rcaob.org.uk

**Archdiocese of
Birmingham
Safeguarding Team**

Tel.: 0121 230 6240

Email: safeguarding
@rcaob.org.uk

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**8.30 am, 10.30 am 6:00 pm Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the
work of your hands.**

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, Frank Fawcett, Beryl Hill,
Alan Hurst, John Jennings, Sally McCool, 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.**

RRECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for Mary Mason who died recently. May her soul
and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in
peace. The funeral service will be on Thursday 7th of September at 11 am
followed by Cremation at 3pm. Please keep her family and friends in your
kind thoughts and prayers.

FR. BRIAN BOYLE SCJ

Due to his ill health Fr. Brian has been getting more frail day by day over the
last two years. He has reached a stage that full-time care is needed for him.
On the advice of the medical team who look after his health, we have
moved him to Brindley Manor Nursing Home at St. Peter's Walk, Droitwich.
If you would like to visit him, please contact Brindley Manor Nursing Home.
Please keep Fr. Brian in your prayers.

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

The Summer Garden Party was a great success and raised a total of
£1,586.52 after expenses. Thank you to all those who supported the event,
either by making cakes, advertising the event, helping set up the stalls,
being a stall holder, selling raffle tickets, providing refreshments, clearing
up afterwards, donating raffle prizes and items for stalls, counting the
takings and/or attending on the day and supporting the event. The Raffle
was the biggest attraction. A list of the winners of the Raffle are on the
notice board at the back of the church. Please check the notice board to see
if you have won a prize. The Raffle prizes can be collected from the Parish
Hall after each Mass.

JOB VACANCY AT BLESSED EDWARD OLDCCORNE CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Midday Supervisor – required for October 2023 Closing date: 10.00am Tuesday 5 September 2023

Business Manager – required for Autumn 2023 Closing date: 10.00am Tuesday 5 September 2023

Please see the Blessed Edward Oldcorne website for details and an application form; <https://www.blessededward.co.uk/about-us/vacancies/>

JOURNEY IN FAITH

Are you looking to explore the Catholic faith? Are you wondering about your relationship with God and not sure where to start? Join us on a journey and see if the Catholic Church can help your relationship grow. This may be the right path for you. It may even help you take the next steps towards coming into the Church. The parish will be organising a Journey in Faith programme from September onwards. If you are already a Catholic and would like to learn more about your faith, or if you want to become a Catholic, now is the time to start exploring your faith. More updates about the programme to follow.

WORCESTER CIRCLE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION-SECRETARY/TREASURER

The Worcester Circle of the Newman Association urgently needs a secretary/treasurer. Duties include booking the hall, contracting speakers, dealing with enquiries from prospective members and head office and maintaining simple accounts. The duties are not actually too onerous and the tasks can be very rewarding. The Circle has been a part of Catholic life in this area for the last 50 years and meetings attract good numbers, but without someone to fill this office we cannot continue. It would be possible to split these two roles and all assistance will be given to whoever takes this on.

If you are at all interested please contact John Duddington at duddingtonjohn@gmail.com

CHURCH CLEANING

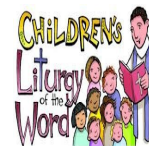
We have a beautiful church which is enjoyed by us all and by the increasing number of visitors. In order to keep it in good condition it does need regular cleaning. We are looking to re-establish the church cleaning group and invite any parishoners of any age, skill or level of mobility, with a little time to spare, to volunteer to join the group. Hopefully we will be able to establish a rota with the days and times of each group arranged to suit availability. Please let Fr George, or the parish office, know if you are interested/ available. Thank you.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY—BEREAVEMENT JOURNEY

As a follow on to our Bereavement Café we are starting a Bereavement Journey course of two hours a week for seven weeks on Wednesday 11th October at the Old Library 5.30-7.30. This course will be delivered by volunteers who are there to support guests but not offer counselling and is designed for those who need a little more than the “light touch” friendship of the Café. It comprises two films per session and discussion within the group. There will be a limit of 8 participants per course. If you know of anyone who might like to sign up for the course or want any further information, please contact Gina on 0771 362 3997.

COMMUNITY MEAL

The next Community Meal is on Monday 18th September at 12.30 pm in the Parish Hall.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be no Children's Liturgy during the 10:30 am mass

YOUTH GROUP

PARISH YOUTH GROUP

The youth group runs during term time on Friday evenings from 6.30 pm for children aged 9-14 years. All young people are welcome to attend.

PARISH HALL BOOKINGS

Please contact Sally at volunteers.
sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk or 07891144870

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

Main Collection:
£251.87 (cash) and
£108 (envelopes).

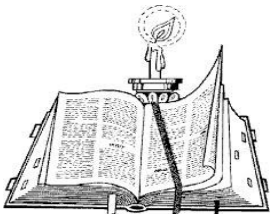
Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.

Mass attendance
last Sunday: 201



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 17th September 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

Jeremiah 20:7-9;

Psalms 62;

Romans 12:1-2;

Matthew 16:21-27

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.

I have heard people saying, "I believe in God, but I neither believe in, nor belong to any organised religion." They have some reasons for thinking this way. They think that there is a lot of superficiality among people belonging to organised religions and some leaders of the organised religions have been indicted for human failures and imperfections. Others are not into any organised religion because of an unlimited quest for freedom that naturally rejects any form of authority – including parental or religious authority. It is important to belong to an organised religion because an organised religion is like an organised community where people can share what is common between them. The human person naturally craves for community and for organised institutions. Jesus promoted community life when He said, "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). Therefore, Jesus established a community of believers, which is called the Church. Jesus said: "I will build my Church" (Matthew 16:18).

The Gospel reading we have heard just now indicates Jesus' clear intention to transform His followers into a community of believers called 'The Church'. He knew very well that if the community must remain one, sharing one faith, one Lord, one baptism, then there has to be one visible leader. For that reason, Jesus interviewed his apostles to find a suitable leader among them and this leader should know Him very well and will carry out His mission and vision exactly the way He wants. So, He asked; "who do you say I am?" The answer to this question will determine the suitability of the candidate. Peter spoke, "you are the Christ, the Son of the living God." This was the decisive answer Jesus was expecting to hear from them. Thus, in the presence of his other apostles, he said to Peter: "You are Peter, and on this rock, I shall build My Church" (Matthew 16:18). Jesus could not have prayed for the unity of the Church without laying the foundation of unity, which lies in leadership. Leadership goes with authority and so Jesus said to Peter: "I will give you the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:19). The Keys represent the teaching authority of the Church. The essence of the authority of Peter is to guide the Christian community in matters of faith and morals. This servant-leader, who, together with his brothers, is to teach, govern and sanctify the people of God. Thus, Peter was the first Pope of the Church. The keys of St. Peter were handed over through the years to his successor Popes, who work in collaboration with Bishops and are considered as the Magisterium (teaching authority of the Church). Their mission is "To teach all nations and to preach the Gospel to every creature". Some of the Apostles must have wondered, "why on earth did Jesus select Peter to be the head of the Apostles, knowing full well his record of failures?" This was a man who had denied Jesus and a man who had run away from Him at a very critical moment. Jesus knew that Peter was not impeccable; nevertheless, He knew he was a good man with a good heart, a positive capacity to rise after falling and to repent after denying Him. He chose for its cornerstone neither the brilliant Paul nor the mystic John, but a shuffler, a snob, a coward – in a word, a man. The modern world still expects impeccable and perfect men as Pope, Bishops and priests and has found none. And a church full of saints and a church without troubles and are yet to find one. But what our Lord expects is a man with a good heart, a positive capacity to rise after falling and to repent after denying him.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ