



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

Acts

10:25-26.34-35.44-48;

Psalm 97;

1 John 4:7-10;

John 15:9-17

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

This Week: 5th May-12th May 2024 Psalter Week 2	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
<b>Sunday 5th May</b> <b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b> <b>Year B</b> Second collection for CAFOD Urgent Sudan Crisis Appeal 2024	8:30 am For the suffering people in Uganda 10:30 am Bernadette Violet Duffy RIP (PD) 6:00 pm People of the Parish	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am Mass
<b>Monday 6th May</b> Easter Feria	<b>10.00 am For the peace in the world</b>	
<b>Tuesday 7th May</b> Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am For persecuted Christians	
<b>Wednesday 8th May</b> Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Holy Mass	10:00am until 6:00pm Adoration
<b>Thursday 9th May</b> Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Holy Mass 7.00 pm Holy Mass	After Mass-Church cleaning
<b>Friday 10th May</b> Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Holy Mass	After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart 6.30 pm Youth Group
<b>Saturday 11th May</b> Easter Feria	11.00 am Alan Remedios	9:30 am FHC Meeting in the Hall 10:15 am-10:45 am Confession
<b>Sunday 12th May</b> <b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b> <b>Year B</b> Second collection for Catholic Communication	8:30 am People of the Parish 10:30 am Bernadette Violet Duffy RIP (PD) 6:00 pm Dennis O'Hara RIP	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall 10.30 am FHC Commitment Mass Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am Mass 2.30 pm SVP Afternoon

*"During this month of May, may we entrust to the Blessed Virgin Mary our personal and family matters, as well as the suffering of those who fall victim to war. Let us Pray Together for the Church, all nations, and for peace in Ukraine and the Middle East."*

**Pope Francis via Twitter 2nd May 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: 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

The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

6.00pm

Sing a new song to the Lord AK 29

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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, Finbarr Cronin, Beryl Hill, Alan Hurst, John Jennings,  
Andrew McDermott, Jackie McLean, Michael Sheridan, Jacky Smith, Paul  
Smith, Margaret Steward, Breda Wightman, Richard Wightman & Msgr.  
Graham Wilkinson, Fr. Brian Boyle, Mrs. Roma, Pamela Wojciechowski

**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.**

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## RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for Rex Langford who died recently. May his soul  
and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in  
peace. Please keep the family and friends of Rex Langford in your prayers.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the latest Parish Council Meeting are available on the notice  
board at the back of the Church.

## SACRED HEART SUMMER FAIR 29TH JUNE 2024

We are hoping and praying for delightful sunny weather for our Summer  
Fair! We are also hoping to have a BBQ, Indian Food Stall, Beer or Wine  
Tasting, Games organised by the Youth Group and much more. We just  
need you!! Could you please offer to organise one of these attractions or a  
different event just for this one occasion? Get together with a couple of  
friends or family to help us out! Please see Fr George to share your talents  
and skills.

To add colour to its social aspect, we have Summer 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.

## RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF CREATION APRIL 2024

Please see poster at the back of the Church

## DROITWICH COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

Droitwich CVS invited you to Droitwich Community Showcase on Saturday  
11th May 2024 10am – 2pm Droitwich Baptist Church, Ombersley Street  
East, WR9 8QS, Free entry

Please see poster at the back of the Church

### **GIFT AID**

If you are a taxpayer please consider signing a Gift Aid Form (blanks are at the back of the Church). The Church can receive the tax back on your donation. This is a very important part of the funding of the Parish.

### **GIFT AID ENVELOPES**

Gift Aid envelopes for 2024-2025 are available for collection from the back of church.

### **PARISH NOTICE BOARD**

The notice boards at the back of the church and the narthex are the traditional way of communicating information about the parish and the life in the community. So, there should be enough room for such information to be displayed. For this reason, please do not put any leaflets or notice on the notice board or at the back without the consent of the parish office. We always appreciate your good intention. So, if you want to leave a leaflet or a notice on the noticeboard or at the back of the church please send them to the parish office.

### **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 organizing a Journey in Faith programme from September onwards. If you are already a Catholic and would like to explore 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.

### **NEWSLETTERS**

We have been trying to reduce the number of newsletters we print each week. Please could you consider taking only one newsletter per family group, returning newsletter after Mass if you do not need it and/or, if possible, joining the distribution list to receive the newsletter via email. To be added to this email distribution list, please contact the parish office. The newsletter can also be found at <http://www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk/>

Thank you for your understanding and support.

### **CHURCH CLEANING**

As you are all aware that we have beautiful church which is a gem in the town and in the country people of all faith and no faith admire its atmosphere of prayer and beauty. To preserve this richness of our church, we invite any parishioners of any age, skill, or level of mobility, with a little time to spare, to volunteer to join the Church cleaning group. Thanks to all those who came last time to clean the church. We need a few more hands. Would you like to help? That will be great appreciated. Next cleaning day is Thursday 9th May soon after morning Mass.

### **COMMUNITY MEAL**

Monday 20th May at  
12.30 pm in the  
Parish Hall.

### **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

There will be  
Children's Liturgy  
during 10.30 am mass  
on 5th, 12th & 19th  
May

### **PARISH YOUTH GROUP**

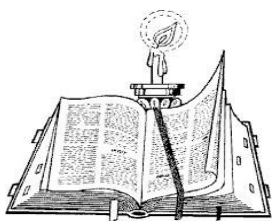
Runs during term time  
on Friday evenings from  
6.30 pm for children  
aged 9-14 years.

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

**Main collection****£184.86****Gift Aid: £185.79****Late second collection for Clergy Training Found****Gif Aid: £1.00****Thank you for supporting your Parish.****Mass attendance last Sunday: 249****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 12th May 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***Acts**1:15-17.20-26;**Psalms 102;**1 John 4:11-16;**John 17:11-19*

My dear friends, on this Sixth Sunday of Easter takes us further into the Gospel of John with Jesus' Last Supper discourse. So last week we were looking at the famous image of the vine and the branches, and this Sunday the gospel picks up right where last week left off and continues into Jesus' teaching on the new commandment, the commandment to love one another as he has loved us. A monk was walking on the beach, he saw a scorpion being carried away by the waves in the ocean. He bent down and used his bare hand to save the crawling scorpion. But he was stung by the scorpion. As a reflex he threw the scorpion back to the waters and began to nurse his finger. He went down for the second time and a third time he was stung by the scorpion, he was not spared. A man who watched this said to the monk "My friend, are you out of your mind? You were trying to save the scorpion three times and it stung you three times. Yet you are going down for the fourth time to rescue this ungrateful creature. The monk said in reply, "it is the nature of the scorpion to sting, while it is the nature of the monk is to love and save this crawling scorpion." This story tells us that we should not allow the bitterness of someone to take away our sweetness.

In the context of Last Supper, Jesus is taking the analogy of the vine and the branches even further and giving us an image for what it means to abide in him and what it means to bear fruit, with a particular focus on love. There are three kinds of love expressed by human person. First, erotic love which is sensual or carnal love. Second, filial love: love between parents and children. Thirdly, agapē which in Greek is sacrificial love. This agapē is that what Jesus is calling his disciples to carry out and to emulate in Him. So, he says if you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I who kept the father's commandments and abide in his love. St. Thomas Aquinas in his famous Summa Theologica, defines love — caritas in Latin or agapē in Greek. He says, "...to love a person is to wish that person good or some translations have "to will the good for another." So, love isn't just an emotion but it's a choice. It's an act of the will to choose the good for another and that's exactly what God does, in the Incarnation and in the Passion.

St. Thomas Aquinas beautifully explains this love in his Summa Theologica. He says, "It seems that it was not necessary for the reparation of humanity that the Word of God should become incarnate... for God of His omnipotent power could have restored human nature in many other ways... but the reason He saves the world through the Incarnation and through the Passion is because both of these mysteries best and most fully reveal the love of God for humanity" St. Thomas (following St. Augustine) says, "that God could have simply declared us all to be forgiven, like a judge might say "not guilty". But God doesn't just want to save us from Hell. He wants to unite us with Him. He wants to bring us into divine life of the blessed Trinity, which is a relationship of love. So it's fitting, Thomas said, "that God would come to us in the Incarnation and become fully human in order to show us the proof of His love for us, that He loved us so much that He became one of us in order to lead us and journey with us back to the life of God, back to the mystery of the Trinity, back to the Father and to the love from which we fell". So, the Incarnation, should move us to love God in return, out of gratitude for the love that He showed us. That's what salvation is all about. It's not about not going to Hell. It's about loving God, so the Incarnation is a motive for humanity to love God in return — a God who loved us so much that He emptied Himself of His divine glory and became fully human... assumed our humanity to redeem us and then to bring us back to God. What a wonderful love.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ