



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

*Exodus 16:2-4.12-15;*  
*Psalm 77;*  
*Ephesians 4:17.20-24;*  
*John 6:24-35*

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

<b>This Week:</b> <b>4th-11th Aug 2024</b> Psalter Week 2	<b>Holy Mass &amp; Services</b>	<b>Other Events</b>
<b>Sunday 4th August</b> <b>Eighteenth Sunday</b> <b>in Ordinary Time, Year B</b>	8:30 am Vincenca Eaton RIP (10th Anniversary) (MF) 10:30 am Michael & Katharine Sekovski RIP(BS) 6:00 pm Dorina Emanuel - speedy recovery (MW)	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall
<b>Monday 5th August</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Ian Martin RIP (MM)	
<b>Tuesday 6th August</b> Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Martin Jennings RIP (MC) 1:00 pm Funeral Service for Marie Carlton	
<b>Wednesday 7th August</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Phylis RIP (C&PI)	10:00 am until 6:00 pm Adoration
<b>Thursday 8th August</b> Memorial of St Dominic, Priest	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Bernadette Violet Duffy RIP (PD)	
<b>Friday 9th August</b> Feast of St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Alan Remedios RIP (AK)	After Mass– Novena to the Sacred Heart
<b>Saturday 10th August</b> Feast of St Lawrence, Deacon, Martyr	11.00 am Edward Trevor Sykes RIP (BS)	10.15 am –10.45 am Confessions
<b>Sunday 11th August</b> <b>Nineteenth Sunday</b> <b>in Ordinary Time, Year B</b>	8:30 am Bernadette Violet Duffy RIP (PD) 10:30 am Stuart Hake (NH) 6:00 pm People of the Parish	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall

*“Let us pray together that political leaders may be at the service of their people, working for integral human development and the common good, taking care of those who have lost their jobs, and giving priority to the poor.”*

**Pope Francis via Twitter 30th July 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**

**The Lord gave them bread from heaven**

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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 Marie Carlton, John Blackman & Eileen Morgan who died recently. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Please keep the family and friends of Marie, John and Eileen in your prayers. The Funeral Service for Marie Carlton will take place on Tuesday 6th August at 1pm. The Requiem Mass for John Blackman will take place on Tuesday 6th August at 12 noon at St. George Church in Worcester. The Funeral Service for Eileen Morgan will take place on Friday 16th August at 1pm.

**'IGNITE' 2024-TEENS CONFERENCE**

Jesus Youth UK invites all teenagers in school years 9 to 12 (starting September 2024) to 'IGNITE' 2024, a Teens Conference centred around 2 Timothy 1:6 "I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you." It will take place at Worth Abbey School in Crawley from Friday August 23rd to Monday August 26th 2024 and it will be a time filled with exciting talks, various workshops, personal testimonies, and plenty of time to interact with other like-minded teenagers, eager to grow closer to the Lord. For more details or to register, please visit [https://jesusyouth.co.uk/\(News/Events\)](https://jesusyouth.co.uk/(News/Events)) or email [teensministry@jesusyouth.co.uk](mailto:teensministry@jesusyouth.co.uk). If you'd like to speak to someone from the parish, please reach out to Vidya Thomas at [vidyann14@gmail.com](mailto:vidyann14@gmail.com).

**SAVE THE DATE**

The work of the SVP is needed now more than ever and thanks to your help and support we have been able to help even more families this year. As a thank you to you all you are invite to an afternoon tea on Saturday 31st August between 2.30 and 4.00pm. So please come along and enjoy a cuppa and a piece of cake while finding out what we have been up to. Thanks

### **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.

### **PARISH HALL - APPEAL FOR KEYHOLDERS**

We have managed to secure some new regular bookings for the Parish Hall, which will make a significant contribution to the finances, starting in September. We need keyholders to open and close for these events. There is a meeting of current keyholders on 13th August at 7pm. If anyone else is able to help then please come along to the meeting or contact the Parish Office.

### **NEW LECTIONARY**

The Lectionary, which is the book that contains the scripture readings for Mass and the Sacraments, is changing as part of the continuing process of revising liturgical translations. The process began with the Roman Missal in 2011 and has continued with all the other liturgical texts. The new Lectionary will use both the English Standard Version Catholic Edition of the Bible and the Abbey Psalter for the psalms. The changes are intended to make the biblical translations more faithful to the original languages, to reflect current biblical scholarship, and to provide a text for use in liturgical setting that is more proclaimable and, where appropriate, more inclusive. All through the year a set of 4 volumes is used. The total cost will be £960 including book of the Gospel. Thank you to all who have sponsored the Lectionary for the Church. The standard edition of the new Sunday missal for the people's use can be ordered. Hard back missals cost £19.95 but there is 10% reduction for preorders.

### **MARCH FOR LIFE UK**

March for Life UK is happening in London on Saturday 7th September. The theme for this year is "Abortion isn't Healthcare". Join thousands at this family-friendly event. There is a coach leaving from St George's Church, 1 Sansome Pl. Worcester WR1 1UG at 8am (departs London at 5pm). Cost is £25 per seat, payable in advance. To book a seat contact Isabel on 07773501721. Find out more about the day at [marchforlife.co.uk](http://marchforlife.co.uk)

### **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 explore more about your faith, or if you want to become a Catholic, now is the time to start exploring your faith. NB The times of the sessions is yet to be decided because the Parish Hall is booked out at the original time advertised.

### **NEW ROTA FOR READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

The Rota for the Readers and Eucharistic Ministers has been sent by email. There are few hard copies available at the back of the church if anybody would like to have one.

### **COMMUNITY MEAL**

Monday **19th August**  
at 12.30 pm in the  
Parish Hall.

### **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

The Children's Liturgy  
will resume in  
September.

### **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

£460.97

Gift Aid: £186.00

Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.

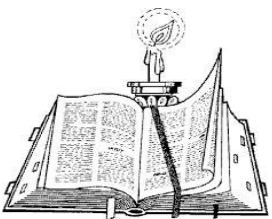
Mass attendance  
last Sunday: 240



**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 18th August 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**

*1 Kings 19:4-8;*

*Psalms 33;*

*Ephesians 4:30-5:2;*

*John 6:41-51*

*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.*

My sisters and brothers in Christ, the readings today reflect on the importance of physical and spiritual bread in our lives. In the first reading from Exodus we see the people of Israel murmuring against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, in fact complaining against God, accusing Him of bringing the whole community into the wilderness for annihilation by hunger, not liberation. God responds to their cry and provides quail and manna for them. However, God wanted to see if the people would obey His instruction or not. Thus, He commanded the people to gather only as much as they needed each day without taking any for the next day. The people, however, did not obey and gathered more than they required. There are a couple of lessons we learn from this narrative. Firstly, the gift of manna was a test of faith. God could have provided it once and for all, giving the Israelites everything they needed in the wilderness, but He didn't, He gave them only enough for the day. Every demand God makes of us is a test of faith. Faith is not a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence; it is a daily thing. Secondly, it is natural and easy to grumble and complain. Just like the Israelites we too react in the same way when faced with problems in life. Although God has never promised to remove obstacles from our path, He has promised to be with us through whatever we encounter in life.

In the second reading St. Paul emphasises that, because of our higher calling, Christians should live in a different way to the world around us. The life of the Gentiles was characterised by the 'futility of their minds' – because they were alienated from the life of God. Not only were they in a foolish denial of God, but they also harboured moral failures like licentiousness, uncleanness, and greediness. A prisoner was released, but still wore his prison clothes and acted like a prisoner, instead of a free man. The first thing we'd say to that person is that he should put on some new clothes. Fundamentally, Paul says that for Christians, there must be a break with the past. Jesus isn't merely added to our old life; the old life dies every day, and He becomes our new life. The person is created according to the image of Jesus Christ and instinctively becomes righteous and holy in contrast to the old man, who is the person inherited from Adam and who instinctively rebels against God.

The Gospel today focuses on the Eucharist. The opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Olympics has caused fury among Christians worldwide because of the depiction of the Last Supper. The Last Supper marks the institution of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. This is what Jesus tries to explain in today's Gospel - the importance of his body and blood. People are looking for Jesus and want to follow Him. What they want is not so much what Jesus is saying, but what Jesus can give them in this life. Jesus reminds them that although He can give them bread in this life, what they really should want is the bread of eternal life. Are we the same? Do we just want our desires to be fulfilled? Do we not want to believe in the Eucharist, Jesus the bread of life, who can provide much more than what we desire – eternal life? Can we avoid being influenced by the modern world and commit ourselves to the Eucharist. The Church celebrates today, the Feast of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of all priests. His own personal witness of holiness, faith and love for his people was the magnet that drew people, of all walks of life, not to him, but to the Lord's Presence in the Eucharist. He knew that he had to personally witness to this outpouring of God's love and mercy for His people at Mass. Please do pray for all priests especially those serving you, that we will be totally committed to the Eucharist by preparing ourselves worthily and, like John Vianney, be a witness of God's love and mercy.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ