



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

208 Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa,
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Today's Mass Readings

Joshua 24:1-2;

Psalms 33;

Ephesians 5:21-32;

John 6:60-69

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

This Week: 25th Aug-1st Sep 2024 Psalter Week 1	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 25th August Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B	8:30 am Stephen Marshall RIP 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
Monday 26th August Feast of Blessed Dominic Barberi, Priest, Religious	10.00 am Communion Service	
Tuesday 27th August Memorial of St Monica	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Communion Service	
Wednesday 28th August Memorial of St Augustine, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Communion Service	10:00 am until 6:00 pm Adoration
Thursday 29th August Memorial of the Passion of Saint John the Baptist, Martyr	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Communion Service	
Friday 30th August Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Communion Service	
Saturday 31st August Feria	11.00 am Communion Service	After Communion Service-Novena to the Sacred Heart.
Sunday 1st September Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B	8:30 am Holy Mass 10:30 am Holy Mass 6:00 pm People of the Parish	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall

“The fragrance of Christ emanates from the ‘fruits of the Spirit,’ which are ‘love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control’ (Gal 5:22). How wonderful it is to meet someone who possesses these virtues!”

Pope Francis via Twitter 21st August 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

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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.**

CHILDREN'S LITURGY– PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The Children's Liturgy will resume from September. If your child is 4 years
old and above they can join the Children's Liturgy. Parents/Guardians/Carers
are very welcome to accompany their children to the Children's Liturgy for
their first few sessions to ensure that they have happily settled in. After that,
it is preferable if the parents don't attend unless necessary as it can be
overwhelming for the leaders and distracting for the children if there are too
many people present. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter. The
group is always looking for new helpers so please consider if this is
something you could do.

SPONSORED WALK

The Sacred Heart sponsored walk will be on Saturday 28th September. The
money we raise through the walk will be used for the formation of young
Seminarians for the Priesthood. Your generous support would be greatly
appreciated. If you would like to sponsor the walk please write your name
on the clipboard at the back of the Church. If you would like to make a
donation through Gift Aid, envelopes are available at the back of the Church.
If you would like to join the walk you are most welcome to join the Sacred
Heart Fathers & Brothers at Olton Friary Church at 1pm.

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. Seats are
still available in the coach.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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

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 CLAIM: 2023-2024 TAX YEAR

The parish received £10821.13 from the Gift Aid Scheme on regular donations and an additional £1995 via Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme. Thank you to all parishioners to giving so generously to the parish.

FR. GEORGE MATHEW SCJ

Fr. George will be away in Rome this week. So, from Monday till Saturday there will not be Holy Mass but there will be Communion Service instead.

GUILD OF SAINT STEPHEN

The annual Altar Server Mass of Thanksgiving will be offered at St. Chad's Cathedral on Saturday 5th October at 12.00 noon. All servers are encourage to attend; families are welcome to accompany them and refreshments are provided after Mass. If you would like to attend please let Fr. George or Kevin know before 16th September.

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. If you are interested in coming along please put your name on the list at the back of the church. Thanks

"UNDERSTANDING THE MASS—A PERSONAL JOURNEY"

"Understanding the Mass -a Personal Journey" organised by the Droitwich & District Catenians will held on Wednesday 16th October in the Sacred Heart Church, Droitwich at 7pm to 8.30 pm, and is open to all Parishioners in the Deanery

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. The first session of Journey in Faith will start on Wednesday 18th September at 7pm in the Elgar Room. Access is via the side door.

COMMUNITY MEAL

Monday **21st October**
at 12.30 pm in the
Parish Hall.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy
will begin on Sunday
the 15th of 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.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.

11th Aug 2024

Main collection:

£318.38

Gif Aid:£172.50

Second collection for

Survive-Miva:

£242.57

18th Aug 2024

Main collection:

£284.35

Gif Aid: £176.05

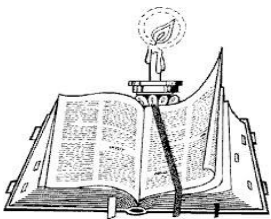
**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 233**

**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 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**

Deuteronomy 4:1-2.6-8;

Psalms 14;

James 1:17-18.21-22.27;

Mark 7:1-8.14-15-21-23

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.

From the time we get up in the morning, till we go to sleep there are many choices that we have to make. Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel at Shechem and recounted the history of the covenantal relationship. Joshua's speech was a powerful narrative of God's presence and action in the life of the people. The decision to serve God was presented as an option to either serve God or the gods of their ancestors had worshipped instead, before the call of Abraham.

In the Gospel today the disciples of Jesus had to make similar decision for or against the Lord and his teachings. Because his teachings seem to be difficult to contend with, especially the offering of his body to be eaten as flesh, many of his disciples seem to grumble and walk away from him. That's when the Lord turns to the 12 and asks whether they too are having second thoughts about following him, and Peter, the usual spokesperson for the others affirms the collective belief of all the apostles in Jesus, as the Holy One of God who has the words of eternal life. We need to remember this that the Lord never said that following him would be easy. His teaching was enough to make regular life topsy turvy since he spoke about forgiveness and love of one's enemies. He spoke about humility, servant leadership and readiness to serve and not to be served. From his teachings that St Paul culls the challenging text of the second reading, which appears to have overtones of a gender bias, but if seen in its right context is a lesson in proper relationships between husbands and wives, likened to the relationship between Christ and the Church.

Sometimes we think that we believe in God because it is going to make us happy and it is going to answer all of our questions. Indeed, it does make us happy and it does give us a good deal of insight. But that is not why we believe. We believe in God because it is true, and He is real. The truth of that belief does not guarantee that life will be easy and it will give us all the answers and we will be pleased with the answers we receive. But at the end of the day what it gives us is the assurance that the Lord looks after us and He will make the topsy turvy of daily life into His Divine Grace. When troubles in our life continue to disrupt our lives, when our health deteriorates, when people we love make decisions that wound us, it does not mean that our faith is misplaced or that God is not God. The troubles and difficulties of our life tell us that faith is as much about persevering as it is about celebrating and much more about trusting than understanding. Now, of course, all of us would prefer a life that is simple, clear and easy. Sometimes we merely need to hold on because there is no better place to go. And Jesus, like he did with Peter, is more than willing to accept us and our faith on those terms. When we understand what faith and discipleship are truly about, we can pray, "Lord Jesus, even though it is difficult, even though I am confused, even though it hurts, I still believe in you. But thank you for giving me the freedom to say I'm not happy about it and if I had better option, I would take it." Or in the words of today's antiphon, "Let us taste and see that the Lord is good!" Amen

Fr. George Mathew SCJ