



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Email: sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk  
Web: www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk



### Today's Mass Readings

*Isaiah 35:4-7;*  
*Psalm 145;*  
*James 2:1-5;*  
*Mark 7:31-37*

**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>8th Sep-15th 2024</b> Psalter Week 3	<b>Holy Mass &amp; Services</b>	<b>Other Events</b>
<b>Sunday 8th September</b> <b>Twenty-Third Sunday</b> <b>in Ordinary Time, Year B</b> Second collection for Catholic Education Service	8:30 am Mary & James McDonnell RIP(N&B) 10:30 am Ron Hancock (MD) 6:00 pm People of the Parish	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall 2.30 pm SVP Afternoon
<b>Monday 9th September</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Emilia	
<b>Tuesday 10th September</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Holy Mass	
<b>Wednesday 11th September</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Steve Knight	10:00 am until 6:00 pm Adoration
<b>Thursday 12th September</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Finbarr Cronin RIP	After Mass-Church cleaning
<b>Friday 13th September</b> Memorial of St John Chrysostom, Bishop, Doctor of Church	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Mariyama Madathikunnel RIP	After Mass Novena to the Sacred Heart.
<b>Saturday 14th September</b> Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross	11.00 am David & Angela Willcockson - Wedding Anniversary (BB)	
<b>Sunday 15th September</b> <b>Twenty-Fourth Sunday</b> <b>in Ordinary Time, Year B</b> Second collection for Catholic Evangelisation	8:30 am George Conway (BC) 10:30 am People of the Parish 6:00 pm Len RIP (BO'H)	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall 10.30 am Children's Liturgy 2.30 pm SVP Afternoon

*"14. ... "Everyone's talents and involvement are needed to redress the damage caused by human abuse of God's creation". [22] All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents."*

**Pope Francis Encyclical Letter 'Laudato Si'**

## 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

My soul, give praise to the Lord.

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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, 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 Timothy Finbarr Cronin who died recently. May his souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Please keep the family and friends of Finbarr in your prayers.

### 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. The Children's Liturgy will resume from Sunday 15th of September.

### 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.

### JOBS VACANCY

The Archdiocese is seeking to recruit an enthusiastic and experienced RICS Chartered General Practice Surveyor to join its Property Team. The key role of the Property Team is to provide advice and guidance for management of parish property, the school estate as well as manage all property held centrally by the Archdiocese. This is a permanent/full-time role. The application deadline is Wednesday 18 September. For more details please visit: <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Category/jobs>



## SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The theme for 2024 is “To hope and act with Creation” and the symbol is “The firstfruits of hope”, inspired by Romans 8:19-25.

In the letter of Paul the apostle to the Romans, the biblical image pictures the Earth as a Mother, groaning as in childbirth (Rom 8:22). Francis of Assisi understood this when he referred to the Earth as our sister and our mother in his Canticle of Creatures. The times we live in show that we are not relating to the Earth as a gift from our Creator, but rather as a resource to be used.

And yet, there is hope and the expectation for a better future. To hope in a biblical context does not mean to stand still and quiet, but rather groaning, crying, and actively striving for new life amidst the struggles. Just as in childbirth, we go through a period of intense pain, but new life springs forth.

### CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2024

Children who are in Year 6 or above in September and are not at St. Joseph’s Catholic Primary School can be prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in 26th November 2024. If you would like your child to be part of the parish preparation group please could you contact Fr. George or the parish office by the end of September. Confirmation classes will begin in October.

### FR. GEORGE MATHEW SCJ

Fr. George is away from the Parish this Sunday to make an appeal on behalf of the Sacred Heart Missions. In his absence Fathers from Olton Friary will be saying all Masses.

### FOODBANK

There a new wish list that is on the website and at the back of the Church. Any donations would be gratefully received. Thank you.

### REFUGEE KNITTING

Thank you so much for the knitted hats and various items of clothing donated recently. The appeal will be open until Sunday September 25th.

### 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.

### 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.

**Main collection:  
£325.65**

**Gif Aid: £233.50**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

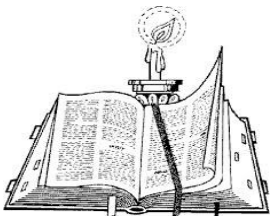
**Mass attendance  
last Sunday: 262**



**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](mailto:DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk) or on 07772 927535 or on Facebook, SVP Sacred Heart Droitwich.



**Next Sunday's Mass  
Readings**

*Isaiah 50:5-9;*

*Psalms 114;*

*James 2:14-18;*

*Mark 8:27-35*

*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.*

What is striking about today's Gospel is the trouble Jesus takes to heal the man brought to him, who was deaf and had trouble speaking. "He, taking him away from the people, alone, put his fingers in his ears and with the saliva touched his tongue. And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha' (that is, 'open up')." The man was healed and could hear and speak freely. Why did Jesus do all this? It was not his usual practice. He usually healed on the spot, simply with a word. Jesus cured the deaf man who regained his hearing. On this regard, Jesus cured our spiritual deafness and muteness during baptism so that we can listen to his Word and be witnesses of our faith. In the ritual of Baptism, the priest touches the ears and mouth of the infant, the same gestures which Jesus did during the miracle, with the following prayer: "The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father (Ritual of Baptism, Baptism of Infants)

It is a great occasion to examine ourselves whether we have our EARS READY TO LISTEN ATTENTIVELY TO GOD'S INSPIRATIONS which He directs to each one of us. Where and when? In our personal prayer, when we read the Bible, during the sacraments or through his instruments...God speaks to us in many ways! But we would not be able to listen to Him if we are not generous in dedicating some time exclusively for God: time for prayer, sacraments and interior recollection during our acts of piety (Gospel reading, reading of a spiritual book, examination of conscience at night before going to bed...) must form part of our daily schedule, gradually assimilating an act of piety one at a time, until we have acquired the good and stable habit. For this we need the help of a friend who can guide us spiritually. Moreover, we can also ask ourselves if we PROCLAIM OUR FAITH FIRST WITH OUR LIFE AND WHENEVER NECESSARY, WITH OUR WORDS. We cannot remain passive and indifferent especially when the enemies of Christ, the sowers of evil, are very active, vigorous and resolute in propagating their ideas which go against the dignity of the human person; when we see injustices abound in our surroundings; when we see that there are a lot of people who are lost...

We cannot tolerate a dumb and mute attitude towards all these but rather make our voice heard, proclaiming the Christ's teachings there and then where God placed us: in our home, at school, in our workplace...let us live the faith, proclaim the faith with deeds and words. Furthermore, spiritual deafness and muteness have grave consequences in our salvation. That is why it is necessary to live the virtues of sincerity (which includes simplicity and clarity) to speak out what is in our heart and of docility to listen and put into practice the advice received in the Sacrament of Confession and in spiritual direction so as not to be overcome by the "dumb devil" (cfr. Mk 9: 14-29). As St. Jose Maria said: "If that dumb devil mentioned in the Gospel gets into your soul, he will spoil everything. On the other hand, if you get rid of him immediately, everything will turn out well; you will carry on merrily, and all will be well".

Fr. George Mathew SCJ