



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Isaiah 50:5-9;
Psalms 114;
James 2:14-18;
Mark 8:27-35

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

This Week: 15th Sep-22nd 2024 Psalter Week 4	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 15th September Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B Second collection for Catholic Evangelisation	8:30 am George Conway (BC) 10:30 am People of the Parish 6:00 pm Len Frobisher RIP (BO'H)	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall 10.30 am Children's Liturgy
Monday 16th September Memorial of Ss Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Tony Mason (MC)	
Tuesday 17th September Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Children who are suffering from Leukaemia	
Wednesday 18th September Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Cathy Pinnell (GP)	10:00 am until 6:00 pm Adoration 7.00 pm Journey in Faith
Thursday 19th September Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Mariama RIP	
Friday 20th September Memorial of St Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest, Paul Chong Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Harry Remedios RIP(AK)	After Mass Novena to the Sacred Heart.
Saturday 21st September Feast of St Mathew, Apostle, Evangelist	11.00 am Niamh & Riaz (MM)	11.00 am Anointing Mass
Sunday 22nd September Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B Second collection for Fr. Hudson's Society	8:30 am Holy Mass 10:30 am People of the Parish 6:00 pm Holy Mass	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall 10.30 am Children's Liturgy

"The entire material universe speaks of God's love, God's boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is a caress of God."

Pope Francis Encyclical Letter 'Laudato Si', 84

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

PRINCIPAL

Mr Andy Carry

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

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

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.

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.

WELCOME TO NEW PRINCIPAL OF ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

As Mrs. Cath Brian retired end of last academic year as Head Teacher of St. Joseph's School we have Mr Andy Carry as new Principal of St. Joseph's School. We extend a warm welcome to Mr Andy Carry and wish him and his new team all the very best. Also, we are happy to let you know that from this academic year 2024-25 our school will be part of Emmaus Multi Academy.



SEASON OF CREATION 2024

September 21: Day of advocacy action

This year we have a specific day to focus on the ecumenical common call to action on advocacy. It will be a day of action to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FFNPT). The 79th Session of the UN General Assembly will be taking place from 10 - 24 September and it is within this context that we Christians, as a global family, will raise our voices and show how faith communities can be powerful actors for justice and hope across the world.

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.

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.

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 exquisite knitted items and the clothing donated last week. The collection will close next Sunday, after which the items will be mainly distributed to people in Bulgaria. The charity which is based in the center of Birmingham also helps local Refugee who settle in the area.

ENCOUNTER MORNING

You are warmly invited to a time of reflection & fellowship, led by Cursillo. Through talks and discussion, discover how Cursillo can help you and your parish deepen, renew and share our Catholic faith. Join us on Saturday 5th October from 9.30am – 1pm. Light refreshments as well as lunch will be provided. To let us know you are coming, and to help us cater for the numbers, please email Paul at: paul.northam@rcaob.org.uk or call 0121 321 5148

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

There will be
Children's Liturgy
during the 10.30 am
mass on 15th, 22nd,
29th September; 6th
& 13th October.

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:

£365

Gif Aid: £199

**Second collection for
Catholic Education
£35.25**

Gift Aid: £113

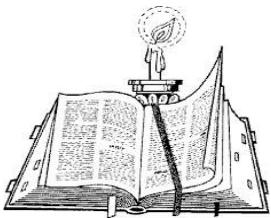
**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 289**

**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 13th October 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**

Wisdom 2:12.17-20;

Psalms 53;

James 3:16-4:3;

Mark 9:30-37

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.

In today's Gospel, we reach a key moment in our walk with the Lord. After weeks of listening to Jesus' words and witnessing His deeds, miracles and healings, along with the disciples we're asked to decide who Jesus truly is. On the first glance, this question of Jesus may appear quite simple, but in fact it is rather tricky as it directly knocks at the very ground of one's faith. Of course, it is a personal question and so it demands a personal answer too. Peter, answered simply: 'You are the Christ'... You are the Messiah'. This is Peter's confession of faith, and this is what the disciples gradually came to discover that 'Jesus is indeed the Christ, the Messiah'. Then quite unexpectedly comes the bucket of cold water! Jesus begins to tell them what being Messiah will mean for him - and for them, that He will suffer and die in the hands of men.

The Messiah was long expected, who would be more than a prophet, or a King. The Messiah was the hope of Israel, the culmination of God's promises to his people. Many in Israel at that time expected the Messiah would conquer the enemies Israel's and restore David's kingdom to its lost glory. This clearly comes as a real shock to the disciples. For them these make no sense whatever. This is not the Messiah they expected. Peter found it hard to accept. For him the Messiah would not, could not suffer. Judging by human standards, not God's - Peter's faith failed to accept God's will for the Messiah. Jesus then assures all his disciples that they too must suffer and exhorts them - 'to deny themselves, to take up their cross and to follow him'. We may not be asked to die for our faith, but we will be asked to live our faith with courage and full faithfulness. Again, "faith without good work is dead" - St. James says. In his letter to the Christian believers, he exhorts that our 'faith' has to be backed up by 'works', practical behaviour. That is to say, our way of life should correspond fully to the faith we profess. Our faith in Jesus should compel us to reach out compassionately to other people, to give our time, talent and yes, perhaps even some of our treasure to the people around us, especially the needy; else, we are just pretending, or even lying. What good is being deeply religious, if one does not reach out to a world in need? To be a Christian disciple is not primarily to 'save my soul' or 'go to heaven', but to enter fully into the mainstream of human living and human concerns, to become part of it through loving and sharing and building up with 'others'.

As we celebrate this Eucharist, Jesus is asking you and me, the same very question which he had asked his disciples about two millennium ago: "WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?" What does Jesus mean to us today? This is personal question regarding our faith in Jesus and answer must come from each individual based on his/her personal experience of Jesus. To truly know "who Jesus is", one has to fulfil the conditions of discipleship which Jesus himself has put forward, viz. 'to deny oneself, to carry one's daily cross and to follow him'. What are our images of Jesus, and what image or images do we reflect in our own lives? Does in our lives our belief and behaviour correspond? Or are we just pretending to be a follower of Jesus, or lying?

Fr. George Mathew SCJ