



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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

Today's Mass Readings

Numbers 11:25-29;

Psalms 18;

James 5:1-6;

Mark 9:38-43.45.47-48

This Week: 29th Sep-6th Oct 2024 Psalter Week 2	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 29th September Twenty-Six Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B	8:30 am Philomina McDonaell RIP . 10:30 am Cathy Pinnell (GP) 6:00 pm Finbarr Cronin RIP(BH) :	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall 10.30 am Children's Liturgy
Monday 30th September Memorial of St Jerome, Priest, Doctor of the Church	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Finbarr Cronin RIP (MC)	
Tuesday 1st October Memorial of St Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin, Doctor of the Church	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Teresa Clarete RIP (CC)	6.00pm Confirmation Meeting in Church
Wednesday 2nd October Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels	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 3rd October Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Paddy McLoughlin RIP (BB)	
Friday 4th October Memorial of St Francis of Assisi	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Donatella Colombo-speedy recovery (CC)	After Mass Novena to the Sacred Heart. 6.30 pm Youth Group
Saturday 5th October Feria	11.00 am Harry Remedios RIP (AK)	10:15-10:45 Confession
Sunday 6th October Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B Second collection for CAFOD Harvest Day	8:30 am Arthur Blizzard RIP(RB) 10:30 am Finbarr Cronin RIP (M&LR) 6:00 pm People of the Parish	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall 10.30 am Children's Liturgy

"When we can see God reflected in all that exists, our hearts are moved to praise the Lord for all his creatures and to worship him in union with them."

Pope Francis Encyclical Letter Laudato Si', 87

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

The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

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.

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.

WORCESTER CIRCLE OF THE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION

We are starting our 2024/25 programme on Wednesday 2nd October with a talk by David McLaughlin with the intriguing title: Jesus in his own time: Religion, economics and politics. Please note two changes for this year: we shall be starting our meetings at 7pm and not 7.30 pm and all meetings are likely to be on Wednesdays and not Thursdays due to the increased availability of the hall on Wednesdays. Everyone is welcome, both regular attenders and especially new members. All meetings are at St. George's RC Church Hall, Worcester and finish around 8.30 pm.

"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

SAFEGURDING TRAINING FOR PARISH VOLUNTEERS

Safeguarding is everyone's business. All parishioners, and particularly those who volunteer within the parish, need to be aware of Safeguarding issues. Free, online training is available for everyone who has a voluntary role in our parish. All volunteers are encouraged to complete Level 1 Safeguarding Training via the CSSA (Catholic Safeguarding Standards Authority) website. Level 1 is in fact a short leaflet to read and should only take about 30 minutes. Please see the link below. Thank you.

<https://training.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/course/safeguarding-in-the-catholic-church-l1>

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. The first meeting for parents and children will take place on Tuesday at 6.00pm in Church.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Parish Fair is the time we all can come together as a Parish Family apart from liturgical services to meet and greet our fellow parishioners twice a year. Also, though small, yet it is one way of raising some additional fund for the parish to cope with the massive increase of gas and electricity bill in this winter. The Christmas Fair this year will be on Saturday 30th November from 11.00am till 3pm. To add colour to its social aspect, we have Christmas Raffle. If you would like to sponsor a raffle prize, please give your name to Terry Poulten as soon as possible or write your name on the clipboard in the narthex. Please keep this day in your diary.

JOURNEY IN FAITH

The next Journey in Faith session will be on Wednesday 2nd October at 7pm in the Elgar Room. On this day we will be discussing the topic: Who is Jesus for me? The historical Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah, the Christ .

NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND GRANT

It is wonderful news that the Parish has won a grant of almost £190,000 as part of a £260,000 project to clean and conserve our beautiful mosaics and to repair and digitise Gabriel Pippet's 'cartoons' - life size paintings which Maurice Josey then turned into the mosaics around 100 years ago. As part of our bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund we have agreed a community engagement programme which includes church tours, children's mosaic workshops and tours, as well as a weekly exhibition in the Parish Hall. This is a great opportunity to make the Parish more relevant to the wider community and our volunteering time is regarded as part of our financial contribution to the project. If you would like to help as part of the team we have plenty of interesting roles, with training available if required. These include being a tour guide, assistant tour guide, or helping with the exhibition, although this is not a complete list. If you would like to find out more about the project and perhaps find a volunteering role that might suit you, please contact Fr. George, Jim Spink, Peter Vella or our Parish Secretary, Bogusia t: 01905 773258 e: sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk .

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

“Go and invite everyone to the banquet” is the theme chosen by Pope Francis for this year's World Mission Sunday which is October 20th. This is the day that all Catholics, throughout the world, are invited by the Holy Father to support his charity through a special collection. In England and Wales this charity is called: Missio. Every single Catholic parish in the world is asked to play their part through their prayers and offerings, and by giving what they can will be sending a powerful message of faith, hope and love through those prayers and donations. In 2023 Malawi contributed £15,762 to the World Mission Sunday collection, whilst Malta contributed £246,720. Here, in England and Wales, £595,648 was raised to support the work of missionaries and local faith communities who requested our help in order to share the Gospel in areas of great poverty, conflict, and turmoil. There will be a special second collection on October 20th.

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 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:
£306.38**

Gif Aid: £127

**Second collection for
Fr. Hudson Society
£227.20**

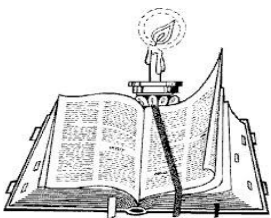
**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 267**

**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**

Genesis 2:18-24;

Psalms 127;

Hebrews 2:9-11;

Mark 10:2-16

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.

On this 26th Sunday in ordinary time, the liturgical readings provide us three insights, to help us in our journey as disciples of Christ. The first insight is from the first reading taken from the Book of Numbers we witness a powerful moment where God's Spirit comes upon the seventy elders, enabling them to prophesy. Especially having witnessed the effect of the Holy Spirit on the Eldad and Medad he was convinced that the people of Israel would be better off if the Spirit came upon everyone. Moses' desire reflects God's inclusive vision for His people. The call to be a prophet - sharing of God's message of love and peace to the world, wasn't a calling reserved for a selected few but a vocation for all. By this we are reminded that the presence of God is not confined to our individual expectations or our traditions; it can appear in unexpected places and through unexpected people. Therefore, the challenge of the first insight is to acknowledge those who are different from us or who might even question our understanding of faith. People who promote the sacredness of life, people who live and teach the true Christian values in families, people who live a good moral and social life – they are all our partners in the work of promoting the Gospel. As Jesus says, in today's gospel, "Whoever is not against us is with us".

The second insight is from the letter of St James. He invites us to look beyond what we HAVE, or what we possess to what we are doing with 'what we have'. The reading reminds us that our faith is not just about personal piety; it is also about justice and the moral implications of our actions. It calls us to reflect on how we use our God given resources. What are we doing with our material prosperity, our natural talents, our access to various resources? His words are a stark reminder of the responsibility that comes with resources and power.

Today's Gospel reading gives us the third insight. Jesus speaks about temptations. There are two kinds of temptations to avoid. 1. Temptations that come to us: Jesus uses dramatic terms and says, "if your eye, arm, leg is causing you to sin, cut it off". In other words, if anything separates us from God, then we need to separate ourselves from it. Cut it off. Pluck it out. If we apply Jesus' words to our times, it would be: If the internet is causing you to sin, get a blocking device If the social media is causing you to sin: stop, sign out and read a good book. 2. The second type of temptation that we need to stay away from is the temptation we can become to others. As Jesus says, if you cause one of my disciples to sin, if you tempt or scandalize one of my disciples, it's better for you to throw yourself into the sea. The text though, is not to be taken literally – Jesus is not telling us to harm ourselves to deal with sin, rather it speaks about the dangers of how a Christian's disreputable life might affect others who believe in Christ. It is better to act now in this life than suffer the effects of sin for the age to come. In other words, discipleship demands not only belief but also action—often requiring us to make difficult choices and sacrifices. Are we willing to abandon the narrow confines of our own perspectives and recognize that God's Spirit operates in ways we might not expect? Are we prepared to cultivate a sense of justice and responsibility in our communities, particularly towards the disadvantaged, disregarded and fraught? Let us pray for the courage to be inclusive, the wisdom to discern God's voice in unexpected places, and the strength to lead lives that reflect our commitment to justice and compassion. May God bless you all!

Fr. George Mathew SCJ