



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

Daniel 7:13-14;
Psalm 92;
Apocalypse 1:5-8;
John 1:5-8

This Week: 24th Nov-1st Dec 2024 Psalter Week 1	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 24th November Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe Second collection for Catholic Youth Services	8:30 am Kevin Mc Corry RIP (MM) 10:30 am Anthony Ringer RIP (PR) 6:00 pm Gladys Remedios RIP(AK)	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall During 10:30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy
Monday 25th November Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Fr. Giles Goward RIP (MB)	
Tuesday 26th November Feria	<u>7.00 pm Confirmation Mass</u>	
Wednesday 27th November Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Mary & Arthur Leason RIP (MB)	10:00 am - 6:00 pm Adoration 7.00 pm Journey in Faith
Thursday 28th November Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am John & Ruby Martin RIP (MM)	
Friday 29th November Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Jackie Mclean RIP (AK)	After mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart
Saturday 30th November Feast of St Andrew, Apostle	10:30 am Mildred Paling RIP (MB)	10:00 am Confession 11.00 am - 2.00 pm Christmas Fair
Sunday 1st December First Sunday of Advent	8:30 am for SVP members past and present 10:30 am People of the Parish 6:00 pm Betty Clark RIP (JD)	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall During 10:30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy

"In a letter I received from a young man from Ukraine, he writes: 'Father, when you will speak of the thousand days of our suffering, please remember them also as a thousand days of love, because only love, faith, and hope give true meaning to our wounds.'"

Pope Francis via Twitter 20th November 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
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Roman Catholic
Diocesan Trustees:
Registered Charity
Number 234216.*

PARISH SCHOOL

St. Joseph's Catholic
Primary School,
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Tel: 01905 773572

Email:

jod_office@emmausmac.
com

PRINCIPAL

Mr A Carry

PARISH SECRETARY

Bogusia Koniszewska-
Fijolek

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Email:

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rcaob.org.uk

**PARISH HALL
BOOKINGS**

Please contact Sally at
volunteers.

sacredheart.droitwich
@rcaob.org.uk or
07891144870

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.00am, 10.30am & 6.00 pm The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.

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,
Michael Sheridan, Jacky Smith, Paul Smith, Margaret Steward, Breda
Wightman, Richard Wightman, Fr. Brian Boyle and Mrs. Roma.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for Jackie McLean, Msgr. Graham Wilkinson and
Terence Downes, who died recently. May their soul and the souls of all the
faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. The Requiem
Mass for Jackie will take place on Thursday 5th December at 11.00 am.
Jackie will be brought to the Church on the evening before at 5.00 pm. The
Funeral Service for Terence will take place on Wednesday 4th December at
10.30 am. Please keep the family and friends of Jackie, Terence and Msgr.
Graham in your prayers.

CHRISTMAS FAIR 30TH NOVEMBER

The Parish Fair is a time when we can all come together as a Parish Family,
apart from liturgical services, to meet and greet our fellow parishioners,
twice a year. Also, though small, it is one way of raising some additional
funds for the parish to cope with the recent massive increases in energy
costs, though this winter is likely to be better than the last couple of winters.
The Christmas Fair this year will be on Saturday 30th November from
11.00am until 2pm. To add colour to the social aspect, we will have the
Christmas Raffle. If you would like to sponsor a raffle prize, please give your
name to Terry Poulton as soon as possible, or write your name on the
clipboard in the narthex. Raffle tickets are available to buy from the parish
hall after each Mass. Please buy some tickets for yourself and for your
friends and family. In addition, there will be stalls such as cakes, bric-a-brac,
tombola, toiletries, toys and books. Please start bringing items for these
stalls, especially items for tombola and toiletries. There will be tea, coffee &
cake available too. We are looking for volunteers to help with the Christmas
Fair, if you can help, please contact Fr. George. Please keep this date in your
diary. Paper plates will be given out after Mass today. Please take one and
fill it with a donation (home made or bought) for the Cake Stall, all
contributions will be very gratefully received.

THANK YOU EVENING FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER

To thank all of you and the parish volunteers who are involved in different
areas of parish life both spiritual and temporal, this year the Thank You
Evening will be on Friday 6th December. The Evening will start with Holy
Mass at 6pm followed by a meal and entertainment in the parish hall. Please
keep this date in your diary. Please help the catering team by letting us
know if you would like to join the meal and social in the parish hall after
Mass.

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

The next Journey in Faith (RCIA) session will be on Wednesday
27th November at 7pm in the Elgar Room. The topic for discussion will be
'Mary the Mother of God'.

26TH NOVEMBER-CONFIRMATION MASS

This Tuesday the 26th at 7pm we have the Confirmation Mass. So, there will not be Mass in the morning. This year we have a smaller number of confirmands. There will be enough space in the church for anybody who would like to join us for the Confirmation Mass. Archbishop Bernard Longley will be the principal celebrant. Please remember the children receiving Confirmation this Tuesday in your prayers.

NEWS FROM BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

We are calling on Catholics in England and Wales to unite in prayer and compassionate action to oppose assisted suicide. It will be debated on Friday 29th November. This is another attempt to legalise assisted suicide and we need you to contact your MP to voice your opposition. Act now! Contact your MP. The charity 'Right to Life' has a simple online mechanism to do this. It takes little more than a few minutes to input your postcode, make sure the suggested text suits your viewpoint and submit your message to ask your MP to stop assisted suicide being rushed into law. Click here to contact your MP <https://righttolife.org.uk/> via the 'Right to Life' website or send the card Assist us to Live Not to Die to your MP by post. Cards are available at the back of the church.

MISSIO RED BOX COLLECTION

These boxes are due to be emptied and counted. If you have one and would like it counted, please bring it to church but do not leave it at the back of church with money in it; make sure that you give it to either Fr. George, Brother Patrick or take it to the presbytery. Your box will be returned as soon as possible.

If you would like a Red Box to support Missio, please contact Fr. George or Maddie (01905 429036)

FOODBANK ADVENT CALENDAR

The countdown to Christmas Calendar is on the noticeboard.

ADVENT JOURNEY/PARISH DIARIES

The 'Walk With Me' booklet and calendar for the Advent Journey are available at the back of the Church. The booklet is to help focus on our relationship with God and with people during Advent. Please consider taking a copy home to help prepare for Christmas. Also, 2025 Parish Diaries have arrived and are available to collect from the Narthex. The diaries, 'Walk With Me' booklet and children Advent calendar are free but any donation would be appreciated and will be given to the Sacred Heart Mission.

GIVING TO OTHERS THIS CHRISTMAS

SVP will be putting up a Christmas Giving Tree for parishioners to donate gifts for children. Fr Hudson's will distribute these gifts. The Tree will be ready on 24th November for you to take an Angel tag. Please put the age range on the tag. Wrapped and tagged gifts can be left under the tree. There will be instructions alongside the tree. Fr Hudson's will be collecting the gifts on December 9th.

Christmas Cards for Prisoners in Long Lartin will be available at all Masses on 1st December. If you wish to write a card, DO NOT put any money in the card and DO NOT add your name, "From Sacred Heart Parish" is acceptable. Leave the envelope open as all mail has to be checked at the Prison. Leave your card in the appropriate box at the back of the Church. A 50p donation towards the cost of the card would be appreciated.

COMMUNITY MEAL

Monday 9th December at 12.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am mass on 24th

November & on 1st, 8th & 15th December

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 or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.

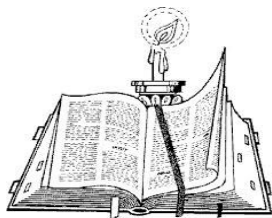
Mass attendance
last Sunday: 250



**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 December** 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**

Jeremiah 33:14-16;

Psalms 24;

1 Thessalonians

3:12-4:2 ;

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

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.

The Feast of our Lord Jesus Christ king of the universe was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 in response to the growing secularism and pseudo-nationalism of his time. Today is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. This feast prepares us for the birth of The Newborn King as we are entering the season of Advent. Going back to the days of my childhood, at the Feast of Christ the King there was always a great procession from the church to the town, carrying the figure of Jesus Christ the King. In a way this sums up what the Christian life is all about. Is Jesus the King of my life? Can we say that He's our "dominus", to use that Latin word, because it sounds like "dominate" in English, and that's okay. He's meant to be The One who dominates. He's the Lord of every aspect of our lives. Therefore, can we say with St. Paul, "it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me"? That means he's become the King of every aspect of my life.

When we come to today's gospel reading, from the trial of Jesus before Pilate, we find Jesus referring to the very same truth. Jesus has been accused of calling himself a king and Pilate's own concern is political. All he wants to know is whether Jesus is a political agitator claiming some kind of earthly kingship. And Jesus makes it very clear that His kingdom is not of this world. That is good enough for Pilate. He immediately realizes that Jesus is no political threat. So, this might have been a wonderful opportunity for Pilate. No longer threatened he is now curious to know what other kind of kingship there might be. Jesus's reply is that He bears witness to the truth. If Pilate had given Him the opportunity, Jesus might have gone on to explain that this truth is about God's love for humanity. But Pilate's reaction was the sceptical response of a half-educated man – 'what is truth?' So, on the one hand Pilate is impatient to know the truth about Jesus but on the other hand his Roman education and his experience of the world has made him profoundly sceptical. And that inability to accept the reality of objective truth not only makes him deaf to what Jesus is saying, it also makes him into a very poor judge. He knows that Jesus is innocent of the charge against Him. And yet this truth has so little value that he will sweep it aside just to keep the mob happy. Truth and morality are connected – but reason alone will fail to grasp this without the insight that comes from faith in God. That is why the rejection of Christianity in modern society is leading to the 'breakdown of the basic framework of society'.

Today's readings look back in time and look forward, but they are also very much about the present, because the kingship of Christ has been an ever-present reality since Calvary, since that moment when Christ demonstrated the infinite love of God on the cross. It is not just at the end of the Church's year but each day that we face the reality of Christ's kingdom. We can be sceptical or weak like Pilate and ultimately capitulate to the idea that all that matters is not rocking the boat, going along with the majority just for the sake of peace and quiet. Or we can rise to the challenge of God's truth, that a God of infinite love and mercy is in charge of this world, and we have to bear witness to that like Jesus Himself, whether people listen or not, confident in the knowledge that one day they will all see and understand. God bless us all.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ