



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Web: www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk



**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

*Deuteronomy 6:2-6;*

*Psalm 17;*

*Hebrews 7:23-28;*

*Mark 12:28-34*

<b>This Week:</b> <b>3rd - 10th Nov 2024</b> Psalter Week 3	<b>Holy Mass &amp; Services</b>	<b>Other Events</b>
<b>Sunday 3rd November</b> <b>Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B</b> Second collection for Johnson Association	8:30 am Deceased Members of Leason Family (MB) 10:30 am Michael & Katherine Sekovski, Edward Sykes RIP (BS) 6:00 pm People of the Parish	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall
<b>Monday 4th November</b> Memorial of St Charles Borromeo	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Bob Grant RIP (DG)	
<b>Tuesday 5th November</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Philip Duffy 90th Birthday (BB)	
<b>Wednesday 6th November</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Deceased Members of Van der Heijden Family (MB) 5:00 pm Reception of Body (Joseph Mason)	10:00 am - 5:00 pm Adoration
<b>Thursday 7th November</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Finbarr Cronin RIP (MC) 1:00 pm Funeral (Joseph Mason)	10:00 - 11:00 am Church Cleaning
<b>Friday 8th November</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am All the souls in Purgatory (MB)	After mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart
<b>Saturday 9th November</b> Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	11.00 am Harry Remedios RIP (AK)	10:15 - 10:45 am Confession
<b>Sunday 10th November</b> <b>Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B</b> Remembrance Day	8:30 am Deceased Members of Clapham Family (MB) 10:30 am People of the Parish 6:00 pm Deceased relations and friends of Peter & Whaley family (AP)	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall During 10:30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy 2:30 - 4:30 pm SVP Tea & Coffee Afternoon in the Hall

**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:

jod\_office@emmausmac.  
com

**PRINCIPAL**

Mr A 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**

8.00am, 10.30am I love you, Lord, my strength

6.00 pm Lord I love you, you are my strength, you are my shelter, my  
God and my king. You keep me from harm in the shadow of your wing.  
Lord I love you and that is why I sing. (AK 10)

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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 and Mrs. Roma.

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**RECENTLY DECEASED**

Your prayers are asked for Joseph Mason who died recently. May his soul  
and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in  
peace. The funeral will take place on Thursday 7th November at 1pm. Please  
keep the family and friends of Joseph 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.

**NOVEMBER: MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS**

In November we remember and pray especially for those who have died. At  
the back of the church there are "In Remembrance" sheets. If you would like  
to remember your loved ones who have died, write down their names, place  
the sheet in one of the envelopes provided and put it in the Holy Souls Box  
(do not put any money in the envelope). The 'Holy Souls Box' will be placed  
at the altar during each Mass in November. It is a special time of the year to  
offer a Holy Mass for the repose of a loved one or someone close to you  
who needs our prayers. There are Mass Intention Request envelopes  
available in the Narthex if you wish to have Mass offered for deceased  
relatives and friends.

## **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.

## **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.

## **"EMBRACE YOUR LIFE TOGETHER IN LOVE"**

The Marriage Encounter weekend (29 November - 1 December at The Ibis Hotel, Rugby) and online experience are an opportunity to explore your relationship at a deeper, more intimate level, regardless of how long you have been together. Thousands of couples in the UK have benefitted from a Marriage Encounter Experience. To find out more or book an experience visit [WWME.org.uk](http://WWME.org.uk)

## **THANK YOU EVENING FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER**

N.B. Date changed from previous newsletter.

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 13th November at 7pm in the Elgar Room. The topic for discussion will be 'Word of God: The Bible'.

## **IN MEMORY OF BETTY PARRY**

In memory of her gran, Betty Parry's granddaughter is fundraising for St Richard's Hospice. As a director of Worcestershire LitFest Nina nominated them for the Grow Your Dough campaign. She's producing online writing workshops and events from October to December in gratitude to the team at the Hospice, for the love and care they showed Betty and her family. If you are interested in learning more or donating, visit [justgiving.com/page/wlff-172716797879](http://justgiving.com/page/wlff-172716797879). Every bit helps.

## **NEWMAN ASSOCIATION**

The next meeting of the Worcester Circle Newman Association is on Wednesday 13th November at St George's RC Church Parish Hall, Sansome Place Worcester, WR1 1UG (Car park postcode WR1 1UT)

## **NEW SUNDAY MISSAL**

For all those who have ordered the New Sunday Missal, they are available to collect after each Mass. The cost is £18.00

## **COMMUNITY MEAL**

Monday **18th November** at 12.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

## **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

Children's Liturgy will resume on **10th November**

## **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](mailto:sg.sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/[safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.

Main collection

£326.94

Gift Aid: £168.00

Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.

Mass attendance  
last Sunday: 260

**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 **10th November** 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**

*1 Kings 17:10-16;*

*Psalms 145;*

*Hebrews 9:24-28;*

*Mark 12:38-44*

*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.*

Today in the Gospel we see a lawyer approach Jesus and ask a question, "teacher which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus immediately answers, without hesitation as was his normal attitude, that, "The Lord our God is one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and then love your neighbour as you love yourself". This affirmation of Jesus concludes that God is above all and Almighty. This is 'The Truth' that we all must confess and must accept and adore Him with our whole being. Because He has created this immense universe.

Throughout human history people have debated and discussed repeatedly this great truth about the immensity of God, the only ultimate answer to all man's quest. But very often the modern rationalists interpret God in a very distorted way. When they use the word God there are a lot of conversations today between theists and atheists - and they both use the word God. Like Christopher Hitchens and Richard Dawkins, who are seriously engaging with St. Thomas Aquinas's idea of God. But in fact, they have no idea what Thomas Aquinas really means when he uses the word God. For them, God is some reality in the world, or alongside the world, or above the world; a supreme instance in the category of all kinds of beings. All the new atheists believe they are looking for a 'thing' - so let's go and find Him. But that's exactly what God is not, according to Thomas Aquinas. Thomas couldn't be clearer: he says that God is not in any genus, even that most generic of genre. God's not a thing, or an individual, or an item within nature within the world, like the ancient gods of the Greeks and the Romans, who were like superhumans with super skills and power, who exist as dimensions within nature: on the mountain tops and deep in the ocean. But God is beyond all that; He is that great ocean of existence, from which the world in its entirety comes. That is why we can say that modern science has indeed proved the non-existence of these 'gods'. With great scientific spirit we've explored the heavens, and mountaintops and the depths of the ocean and indeed we haven't found 'gods' there. Based on that, science has indeed eliminated the gods.

But the important point we want to underscore is that science in principle cannot eliminate God because God is not an item within the natural world. God is not some event or phenomenon that can be examined by the physical sciences, He's not the subject or object of an experiment, even in principle. Therefore, God is the non-conditioned and non-contingent ground of contingency. Put in religious language, that's the creator of the heavens and the earth, all that is seen and unseen. That's why the first and the most important commandment, is to love God above all. The outcome of this love is expressed in loving other human beings, because a human person is the reflection of God, His image and likeness (Genesis 1:26-27), the love we have already experienced from God in our life, the love that is poured out here in this church when we are together, the love that God already showed for this world on the cross. This same love, that we are called to experience and share in this Eucharist today.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ