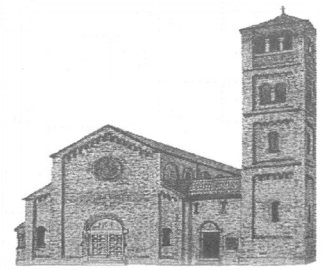




Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

208 Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa,
WR9 8AZ, Tel: 01905 773258
Email: sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk
Web: www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk



Today's Mass Readings

Baruch 5:1-9;

Psalms 125;

Philippians 1:3-6,8-11 ;

Luke 3:1-6

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

This Week: 8th-15th Dec 2024 Psalter Week 2	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 8th December Second Sunday of Advent Year C Second collection for Poor Parishes	8:30 am Anthony Ringer, deceased members of the family RIP(PR) 10:30 am Souls of Turner & Ingram Family RIP (C&PI) 6:00 pm Jackie McLean RIP (FL)	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall During 10:30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy 2.30 pm SVP Afternoon
Monday 9th December Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Joseph Mason RIP (AM)	12.30 pm Community Meal
Tuesday 10th December Advent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Msg Graham Wilkinson RIP (C&PI)	
Wednesday 11th December Advent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Jackie Mclean RIP (AK)	10.00 am - 6:00 pm Adoration 7.00 pm Journey in Faith 7.00-9.45 pm Quinborne Choir rehearsing
Thursday 12th December Advent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Jackie McLean RIP (C&PI)	
Friday 13th December Memorial of St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Brenda O'Keeffe (JCH) 11.15 am Funeral of Grace Nunney	6.30 pm Youth Group
Saturday 14th December Memorial of St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church	11.00 am Alan Remedios RIP (AK)	10:15-10.45 am Confession 12.00 noon -4.15 pm Quinborne Choir rehearsing & concert
Sunday 15th December Third Sunday of Advent	8:30 am Jackie MacLean RIP (AM) 10:30 am The Children's Liturgy (SY) 6:00 pm People of the Parish	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall During 10:30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy

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

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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

What great deeds the Lord worked for us!

Indeed, we were glad.

6.00 pm

They go out etc. 167 Grey

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, Mrs. Roma and Judy Lynam Pyper.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for Clifford Bowditch and Grace Nunney who died recently. May their soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. The Funeral for Grace will take place on Friday 13th December at 11.15 am. The Funeral Service for Clifford will take place on Tuesday 17th December at 11.30 am. Please keep the family and friends of Jackie, Clifford, Grace and Terence in your prayers.

SACRED HEART CHRISTMAS FAIR

Thank you to all those who supported the Christmas Fair, either by making cakes, advertising the event, helping set up the stalls, being a stall holder, selling raffle tickets, helping with the games, providing refreshments, clearing up afterwards, donating items, attending on the day and supporting the event. The total money raised for the parish was £2470.04. The list of Raffle Prize winners is displayed at the notice board.

LIVE SIMPLE CHRISTMAS

Have you started your Christmas shopping yet? **THEN STOP AND THINK.** We all need to save money and energy, as well as living simply. Reduce your Christmas footprint: don't buy too much food, use wrapping paper and cards made from recycled or FSC certified paper, make you own cards, no foil or glitter on cards...

More inspiration in the notice board.

CLIMATE ACTION-OLD LECTIONARY RECYCLING

As we have started using the New Lectionary from first week of Advent, the old lectionaries no longer be used for the liturgical celebration in the church. So, if you do not know what to do with your old lectionaries, please bring them to the church and leave it in the container at the back of the church they will be collected for recycling.

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.

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.

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

The next Journey in Faith (RCIA) session will be on Wednesday 11th December at 7pm in the Elgar Room. The topic for discussion will be 'Word Became flesh: Meaning of Christmas'.

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)

WORCESTER CIRCLE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION

Worcester Circle Newman Association's next meeting is on Wednesday December 11th at the usual venue, St. George's RC Church Hall at 7pm, when Tom Piotrowski will be talking on The Church and Migration, exploring some of the facts and myths about it from the Christian perspective. This will be followed by seasonal Advent refreshments. Everyone very welcome.

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER 3:00 P.M.

We are delighted to welcome Quinborne Choir to our church for a Carol Concert on Saturday 14th December at 3:00 p.m. The choir will sing a variety of carols and music for winter, including Elgar's The Snow, and there will be communal carols for us all to enjoy singing.

After the concert at approximately 4:15 p.m. tea, coffee and seasonal treats will be served in the Parish Hall. What better way to start your Christmas Season?

Tickets £10, under 18s free, contact Jenny and Peter Leonard 07970 824102, tickets may be available on the door.

KNOCK PILGRIMAGES

Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 10th March 2025. £799.00 pps. Please see poster in the notice board. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

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 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.

Main Collection

£340.05

Gif Aid: £313.00

Additional donation for
Jonson Association

£10.00

Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.

Mass attendance
last Sunday: 301



**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**

Zephaniah 3:14-18a;

Psalms 12;

Philippians 4:4-7;

Luke 3:10-18

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 the readings call us to prepare ourselves to welcome The Newborn Baby-Christ into our hearts and homes. The Gospel text of today begins with several chronological references. These are not merely historical but theological. The chronological references are of two kinds: political and religious. By such a strategy, Luke has succeeded, not only in situating the preaching of John the Baptist in history but also in stating that God works through His Son Jesus in every sphere of human life. No area is beyond the purview of God's influence. However, as true as this is, it is also true that God's word regarding His Son and His coming is not revealed to the great and powerful but to a humble prophet in the wilderness. The preaching of John the Baptist extends to all peoples everywhere. It breaks all barriers and boundaries. In his preaching John issues a summons, to all who are willing to listen, to "repent". Repentance is completed in conversion and baptism-accepting Jesus. This repentance is an ongoing process that needs to carry our life's journey along, because accepting Jesus and following His path is an ongoing journey.

The first reading of today speaks about God's unconditional love for humanity which, in His mercy and infinite love, has visited His people and brought them salvation. Even when all seems lost, even when it does not seem worthwhile to carry on, perseverance is, indeed, the key. The misery and desolation will not continue forever. Things will change. This means that His people must constantly engage with human life in all its complexity, ambiguity and incomprehension. They do not deny the sufferings and pains and challenges ahead. Rather, despite our awareness of these things, we carry on. What will sustain us on the path is the confidence that the Lord will turn it all good at the appropriate time.

Sometimes it seems the oppressors are seen to get away with even the most violent of crimes. The cries of the poor and marginalized seem to fall on deaf ears. Where is the God of hope? Where is the God of consolation? Where is the God of justice and righteousness? Why does He not answer? So many unanswered questions. The truth is that He is here and that He does answer. He keeps speaking His word at every moment but, His word will not be heard as long we close our ears, our eyes and our hearts. It is not God but we, as humans, who are responsible for the depressing situation in which we find ourselves today. However, even in this depression, there is a ray of hope, and St. Paul provides it in the Second reading of today. Writing to the Philippians from prison, he exudes confidence, courage and joy. His first words to them are words of thankfulness and joy. Though he had a capital sentence hanging over him, he will continue to be hopeful. He will continue to believe. The source of his faith is based on what God has already done in Christ and what God will do in all who believe. This message of hope is what Advent brings to all of us. The readings of today pose two related challenges to us who profess to be disciples of Jesus. The first challenge is that we continue to proclaim, even when things do not go the way we want, that God is still in charge. This proclamation cannot remain at the verbal level but must be translated into action. A Christian is called to be that "voice in the wilderness". We must proclaim this message to everyone. God bless you all.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ