



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

208 Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa,  
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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

*Zephaniah 3:14-18a;*

*Psalms 12;*

*Philippians 4:4-7;*

*Luke 3:10-18*

<b>This Week:</b> 15th-22nd Dec 2024 Psalter Week 3	<b>Holy Mass &amp; Services</b>	<b>Other Events</b>
<b>Sunday 15th December</b> <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Year C</b>	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
<b>Monday 16th December</b> Advent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Harry Remedios RIP(AK)	
<b>Tuesday 17th December</b> Advent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Hannah Imelda Heaney (ML) 11.30 am Funeral Service Mr Nigel Clifford Arthur Wild	7.00 pm Penitential service
<b>Wednesday 18th December</b> Advent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Tony Gilroy & Anne RIP (SG)	10.00 am - 6:00 pm Adoration 7.00 pm Journey in Faith
<b>Thursday 19th December</b> Advent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Frances Joseph and Mariyakutty Francis RIP(MF)	After Mass-Church cleaning 6.30 pm St Joseph's School Carol Concert
<b>Friday 20th December</b> Advent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am John Joseph Leahy (ML)	6.30 pm Youth Group
<b>Saturday 21st December</b> Advent Feria	11.00 am Rosemary O'Grady RIP (CE)	10:15-10.45 am Confession 11.00 am Anointing Mass
<b>Sunday 22nd December</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>  Second collection for Christmas Flowers	8:30 am Michael Sheriden (MM) 10:30 am Private Intention (MO) 6:00 pm People of the Parish	

***"I have chosen as the title for the 2025 World Day of Peace Message:***

***'Forgive us our trespasses: grant us your peace'.***

***Each of us can perform works of mercy and break the chains of injustice!"***

*Pope Francis via Twitter 12th December 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  
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

## 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

Shout aloud and sing praise,

For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

6.00 pm

Sing and shout for joy for great

in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

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

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## RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for Clifford Bowditch and Mr Nigel Clifford Arthur Wild who died recently. May they soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. The Funeral Service for Mr Nigel Clifford Arthur Wild will take place here at Sacred Heart Church on Tuesday 17th December at 11.30. The funeral of Clifford Bowditch will take place at The Vale Crematorium, Evesham Rd, Fladbury, Pershore WR10 2QR on Friday 3rd January 2025 at 1.00 p.m. Please keep the family and friends of Mr Nigel Clifford and Clifford Bowditch, in your prayers.

## ST RICHARD'S HOSPICE

John and Gina Pilley (two parishioners) are raising funds for St Richard's Hospice. There will be a craft table outside church after each mass on 15th December. Please come and do some Christmas shopping for hand made items; a great opportunity for a unique Christmas present and to support our local hospice. All takings will go to St Richard's.

## 12 DAYS OF A CLIMATE-CONSCIOUS CHRISTMAS

December's Responding to the Call of Creation – 12 Days of a Climate-Conscious Christmas are in the back of the Church

## PENITENTIAL SERVICE

As part of spiritual preparation for Christmas the Penitential Service will be on Tuesday 17th December at 7.00pm. During the service there will be opportunity for individual Confession.

## JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

The next Journey in Faith (RCIA) session will be on Wednesday 18th December at 7pm in the Elgar Room. The topic for discussion will be 'Faith and since'.

## SCHOOL CAROL CONCERT

St. Joseph's School Service is on 19th December at 6.30 pm in the Church. We would love the Parish Community to join us in this special celebration.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

The details for Christmas services and other activities are available to collect from the back of the Church.

## **GOOD NEWS**

St Vincent de Paul Society Droitwich is delighted to let you know that we have secured funding from the National Lottery Awards for All to fund the Bereavement Project in Droitwich for the next two years. For information about this project please contact us on [droitwichreferrals@svp.org.uk](mailto:droitwichreferrals@svp.org.uk) , 0771 362 3997 or see the notice at the back of church.

## **THANK YOU.**

Thank you everyone who donated gifts for the Giving Tree and wrote cards for Long Lartin prisoners. Fr Hudson Care are very grateful for the many gifts which will be taken to children for Christmas. The cards will go to those who would otherwise receive no Christmas cards. Thank you also to those who have donated jigsaws and puzzle books for prisoners. We don't need any more for the time being. Your support throughout the year has been, as ever, very generous.  
SACRED HEART SVP CONFERENCE

## **FOODBANK ADVENT CALENDAR**

The countdown to Christmas Calendar is on the noticeboard.

## **NATIONAL LOTTERY MOSAIC PROJECT – UPDATE**

In the New Year the community engagement part of the project will start. The parish has committed to supporting this element for the project through volunteer support. This means we donate our time as volunteers in lieu of a large financial contribution to the project . We now need volunteers to help deliver this programme. There are a variety of roles to fill. If you would like to find out more, please pop into the new Visitor Centre in the Parish Hall after any Mass on Sunday. Or if you are just curious, please come and have a look too.

## **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.

## **REFUGEE KNITTING**

Thank you so much for the hats, scarves, gloves, baby jacket and miscellaneous articles of clothing left recently. A special thank you for the matching jumper and hat sets- the children will be thrilled with those. Please continue knitting and storing at home until early in the New Year when I will have details of the next collection. As ever, thank you for your continual support of this very worthwhile collection.

## **CLIMATE ACTION-OLD LECTIONARY RECYCLING**

As we have started using the New Lectionary from first week of Advent, the old lectionaries are no longer to 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 them in the container at the back of the church they will be collected for recycling.

## **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

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

**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](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**

**£270.97**

**Gif Aid: £158.40**

**Second collection for  
Poor Parishes**

**£26.91**

**Gift Aid: £88.00**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

**Mass attendance  
last Sunday: 234**

**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 **12th January** 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**

*Micah 5:1-4;*

*Psalm 79;*

*Hebrews 10:5-10;*

*Luke 1:39-45*

*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 we celebrate "Gaudete Sunday" because today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon in Latin text: "Gaudete in Domino Semper" means "Rejoice in the Lord always". It reminds us that we are preparing for the very joyful occasion of the birth of Jesus. St. Teresa of Calcutta brought untold blessings and joy to the poor who lay unattended and forgotten on the streets of Calcutta. When she was asked the source of her joy, she replied: "Joy is prayer; joy is strength; joy is love. A joyful heart is the normal result of a heart burning with love, loving as Jesus loves..." The readings urge us to make the preparations required of us as we await the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives. Holy Scripture reminds us that the coming of Jesus-past, present, future- is the reason for our rejoicing.

The prophet Isaiah in the first reading encourages the Jewish exiles returning from Babylon to rejoice because their God is their strong guide, provider and protector. The responsorial Psalm from Mary's Magnificat exclaims: "My soul rejoices in my God my Saviour". In the second reading, from St. Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, he encourages the Christians to "rejoice always" by leading blameless, holy and thankful lives guided by the Holy Spirit. The Gospel reading records the voice of John the Baptist crying out in the wilderness, asking the people to prepare the way for the Lord. John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus as the Light of the world. He urges people to rejoice because the long-expected Messiah, as the Light of the world, will remove the darkness of sin from the world. The reason why we rejoice today is because, like John the Baptist, we, too, are chosen, anointed and commissioned to bear witness to Christ, the Light of the world.

The Third Sunday of Advent is an invitation to bear witness to Christ and His Light. Our mission, as brothers and sisters of Christ and members of His Church, is to reflect Christ's Light to others, just as the moon reflects the light of the Sun. It is important during this Advent season to reflect on sharing Christ's love and unconditional forgiveness through our lives. There are many people who live in darkness, who lack real freedom because of their poor choices. There are others who are enslaved by cheap attractions of the world. Many others feel lonely, unwanted, rejected and marginalized. We may be able to find victims of this kind among us, around us and maybe under the same roof where you and I live. We are called to bring glad tidings of joy and the true Light of Christ by illuminating the lives of these brothers and sisters during this Advent Season. Our sharing of love, overflowing mercy, unconditional forgiveness and humble service will go a long way in the lives of others. We will be able to accomplish the witnessing mission of radiating Christ's Light by repenting of our sins, asking God's pardon, renewing our lives through our daily prayers, frequenting the Sacrament of Reconciliation, taking part in the Eucharistic celebration, reading the Holy Bible in prayerful fashion and performing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Let us remember that Christmas is not complete unless we show real generosity to those who have nothing to give us in return. Christmas is a time of joyful sharing, selfless caring and compassionate giving, as Christ himself did for you and me. May God bless us!

Fr. George Mathew SCJ