



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Micah 5:1-4;

Psalm 79;

Hebrews 10:5-10;

Luke 1:39-45

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

This Week: 22nd-29th Dec 2024 Psalter Week 4	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 22nd December Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C Second collection for Christmas Flowers	8:30 am Michael Sheriden (MM) 10:30 am Private Intention (MO) 6:00 pm People of the Parish	
Monday 23rd December Advent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Special intention (KL)	10:00 am Christmas Flowers Arrangements
Tuesday 24th December Advent Feria	5:00 pm First Mass of Christmas 7:30 pm Christmas Carols 8:00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass	
Wednesday 25th December Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord	9:30 am Christmas Mass during the Day	
Thursday 26th December Feast of St Stephen, the first Martyr	10:00 am Cynthia Sharkey (C&PI)	
Friday 27th December Feast of St John, Apostle, Evangelist	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Gladys Remedios RIP(AK)	
Saturday 28th December Feast of the Holy Innocents	11.00 am Dawson Family (GB)	10:15-10.45 am Confession 12:00 noon Baptism
Sunday 29th December Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year C	8:30 am Eileen Mary Cottrell RIP (ML) 10:30 am Michael & Margaret Cronin RIP 6:00 pm People of the Parish	

"Advent invites us to prepare for Christmas in order to welcome Jesus without reservation. He is our hope. Let us pray together, full of trust: 'Come, Lord!'"

Pope Francis via Twitter 19th 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. 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:

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com

PRINCIPAL

Mr A Carry

PARISH SECRETARY

Bogusia Koniszewska-
Fijolek

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**PARISH HALL
BOOKINGS**

Please contact Sally at
volunteers.

sacredheart.droitwich
@rcaob.org.uk or
07891144870

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.00am, 10.30am & 6.00 pm

**Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth,
and we shall be saved.**

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, Mrs. Roma and Judy Lynam Pyper.

**Fr. George SCJ, Fr. Tom SCJ and Bro. Patrick SCJ wish
everyone in our parish community a blessed and peaceful
Christmas. May the blessings of Christmas embrace you
and your family. Sincere thanks for your prayers, cards,
gifts, support and help during 2024. Wish you and your
family peaceful New Year 2025.**

FR. BRYAN BOYLE SCJ

We are sorry to inform you that Fr. Brian Boyle SCJ died peacefully on
Thursday night. Please keep him and his family in your prayers. The
information about the funeral will be announced later.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for Clifford Bowditch. May his soul and the souls of
all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. 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 Clifford Bowditch, in your
prayers.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

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

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The offertory collection on all three Christmas Masses will be for the Parish
Clergy.

ST STEPHEN'S DAY

On 26th December at 10:00 am we celebrate the Feast of St Stephen the
first martyr and the patron of Altar Servers. Please could all the altar
servers come along and celebrate this day.

WEDNESDAY ADORATION

There will be no adoration on Wednesday 25th December, 1st & 8th
January. Adoration will resume on Wednesday 15th January.



CRIB OFFERINGS

'This Christmas, there will be no celebrations in Bethlehem – AGAIN.

Though Christmas celebrations may be cancelled in Bethlehem, our brothers and sisters there share our hope in Christ, which is very much alive. With your help, we can ensure that hope shines brightly through the remarkable Christians who continue to serve so bravely. Right now, our brothers and sisters are suffering, and they are scared. But we are not powerless, despite the enormity of the devastation we see in our TV news. By supporting our Christmas appeal, you can help our local team to respond quickly and effectively to the unfolding catastrophe. Your support can make all the difference Thank you.' Friends of the Holy Land

Mariam's story is an amalgamation of real stories and experiences from people in the Holy Land. You can find it on <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/Appeal/Christmas>

or in the noticeboard in the back of the Church.

Our parish will be donating crib offerings to Friends of the Holy Land. Every penny will help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan.

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

The next Journey in Faith (RCIA) session will be on Wednesday 8th January at 7pm in the Elgar Room. The topic for discussion will be 'Marian Devotion'.

ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM DIRECTORY 2025

If you would like to purchase a copy of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Directory 2025, these are available at a cost £3.50. Please speak to Fr. George or contact the Parish Office if you would like one.

PARISH DIARIES

2025 Parish Diaries have arrived and are available to collect from the Narthex. The diaries are free but any donation would be appreciated and will be given to the Sacred Heart Mission.

FACEBOOK

Our parish has a new Facebook page 'Friends of Sacred Heart Church Droitwich Spa'. We would love you to follow our new page. Please do share this page and tag your friends as we try to make people aware we are on Facebook!

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 , 0771 362 3997 or see the notice at the back of church.

SAVE THE DATE

The SVP annual Family Quiz will take place in the Parish Hall on the evening of Saturday 1st Feb 2025. This will be a free evening for everyone to come together for some friendly competition and to have fun. Further details nearer the time.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will resume in New Year.

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

£293.60

Gif Aid: £186.40

**Additional collection
for Poor Parishes**

Gift Aid: £10.00

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 257**

**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 or on 07772 927535 or on Facebook, SVP Sacred Heart Droitwich.



**Next Sunday's Mass
Readings**

Samuel 1:20-22,24-28;

Psalms 83;

1 John 3:1-2,21-24;

Luke 2:41-52

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's readings remind us of our baptism and the mission entrusted to us at the Baptism. Every baptised Christian, by virtue of his or her baptism, is called to be a prophet, one of the threefold mission of Christ-Priest, Prophet and King. In this twenty-first century, the prophet is not just a large, dramatic figure such as Moses. Nor is it limited to the mystic past, as in ancient Israel. Each one of us is called to be a prophet in the midst of our ordinary life. But what is our prophetic mission? At Baptism we hear the threefold description in our call to holiness. After the Baptism comes the anointing with sacred chrism oil, wherein the priest or deacon prays these words: "As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life". This anointing is a stirring reminder of the sublime dignity conferred on us. This is a call to embrace these shared offices of Christ as priest, prophet and king. In the ministerial priesthood, these are fulfilled by preaching and teaching and in governance of the Church. How might the laity live these prophetic offices? Vatican II described the lay vocation this way: "It belongs to the laity to seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God's will ... so to illuminate and order all temporal things with which they are closely associated that these may always be effected and grow according to Christ and may be to the glory of the Creator and Redeemer" (CCC, 898).

With faith and the grace of the sacraments, we must bring Christ to our families, societies and the wider culture. The faithful are sent out from Mass to go and serve Christ wherever life takes them. This is a prophetic mission. They are very much in the front lines for Christianity, to consecrate the world, to make it holy. This understanding was expressed by Pope Pius XII and later echoed by St. John Paul II: "Lay believers are in the front line of Church life; for them the Church is the animating principle of human society. Therefore, they in particular ought to have an ever-clearer consciousness not only of belonging to the Church, but of being the Church" (CCC, 899). The laity act prophetically when they speak the truth, and live the Gospel by example before their families, neighbours and co-workers. Their mission is "accomplished in the ordinary circumstances of the world" (CCC, 905). This is a noble and sublime responsibility that we are entrusted with. In a single word, the prophet calls God's People to integrity. The prophet sets before God's People the truth that their lives today must reflect the promises they made to God in the past so that they can enjoy God's Presence in the future. In the Gospel Reading we see this reflected in the mission of Jesus, that He taught with authority. Having never expected anything like this, most people had no idea how to respond. Some were frightened, others threatened. But to those who would follow him, Jesus offered an amazing new take on life. He rooted his message in their traditions, yet, rather than close the book saying, "That's all folks!". Jesus spurred them to hope that all the promises of old would come true — in ways so new that they would continually be astounded. Our prophetic mission leads us to hope that we share the mission of Christ and thus we become an extension of Christ's mission on earth. God bless you all.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ