



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

Samuel 1:20-22,24-28;

Psalm 83;

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

Luke 2:41-52

| This Week: 29th Dec 2024—5th Jan 2025 Psalter Week 1 | Holy Mass & Services | Other Events |
|--|--|---|
| 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 | |
| Monday 30th December Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord | 8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Barbara Conway RIP (BB) | |
| Tuesday 31st December Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord | 11:00 am Requiem Mass Fr Brian Boyle SCJ | Refreshments in the Parish Hall |
| Wednesday 1st January Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God | 10:00 am Iain Martin RIP (MM) | |
| Thursday 2nd January Memorial of St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen | 8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Jacek Michalski RIP (KM) | Church cleaning after Mass |
| Friday 3rd January Christmas Feria | 8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Barbara Conway RIP (C&PI) | After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart |
| Saturday 4th January Christmas Feria | 11.00 am Fr. Brian Boyle SCJ RIP | 10:15-10.45am Confessions 12:00-5:00pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall |
| Sunday 5th January Solemnity of the Epiphany of The Lord Year ABC | 8:30 am Fr. Brian Boyle RIP (AM) 10:30 am Thomas & Maureen Fahy RIP 12:00 Baptism 6:00 pm People of the Parish | After 8:30 Mass: Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall |

**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
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Roman Catholic
Diocesan Trustees:
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PARISH SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL

Mr A Carry

PARISH SECRETARY

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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 Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord

6.00 pm O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in His
way

PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for all our parishioners, and/or their friends and relatives, who
are unwell:

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. BRYAN BOYLE SCJ

The body of Fr. Brian Boyle SCJ will be received into the church of St
Joseph in Whitnash on the evening of Monday 30th December at
5pm. The Requiem Mass will take place here at 11am on Tuesday 31st
December, followed by burial. Refreshments will be provided in the
Parish Hall afterwards and all are welcome. Please keep him and his
family in your prayers.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for Barbara Conway and Clifford Bowditch who died
recently. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through
the mercy of God, rest in peace. Clifford's funeral 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 their families and friends in your
prayers.

WEDNESDAY ADORATION

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

THANK YOU

Fr George SCJ, Fr Tom SCJ and Bro Patrick SCJ would like to thank
everyone who has helped with the Christmas services and also sincere
thanks for your prayers, cards and gifts.

NEW LECTIONARY

We will place another order for the new Sunday Missal following a
couple of requests. This will be the last order placed by the Parish.
Please advise either Fr George or the Parish Office if you would like to
reserve one. You can still order directly from the CTS.

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'.

MOSAIC RESTORATION PROJECT

The Community Engagement part of the project is due to start in January. The Visitor Centre will be open on Saturday 4th January from 12-5pm and then every Saturday. There will also be a programme of Church Tours and Children's Workshops. We believe we have enough volunteers to start the programme but it is due to run for two years so we will need additional volunteers to come forward. Please feel free to come to the Visitor Centre and any of the advertised activities to see what it is all about.

We hope to appoint the contractor to clean and restore the actual mosaics at the end of January. The work will then take place later in the year.

The conservation and digitisation of the 'cartoons' is well underway and examples can be seen in the Visitor Centre.

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!

CAR PARK DEVELOPMENT

A bid has been provisionally accepted for the development of the car park at the rear of the church. This bid is subject to the success of a new planning application. Instead of building houses, the developer would like to construct a building housing retirement apartments. It is believed that this proposal would be less disruptive to the Parish during the build with the same number of parking spaces available to the Parish as the previous proposal.

The land at the back of the Parish Hall has also been prepared as an overspill car park.

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.

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 the 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

£351.50

Gift Aid: £177.00

**Additional collection
for Christmas Flowers**

£133.29

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 241**

**Christmas Mass
attendance: 651**

**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

Isaiah 60:1-6;

Psalms 72(71);

Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6;

Matthew 2:1-12

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.

Pastoral Letter

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, On this Feast of the Holy Family, I send you my prayerful greetings as we continue to celebrate the Octave of Christmas. On Christmas Eve Pope Francis opened the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica in Rome. This was the Solemn Opening of the Jubilee Year which will continue throughout 2025. During this Holy Year we are invited to become Pilgrims of Hope. Since the year 1300 when the people of Rome asked the Holy Father to declare a special year of jubilee, the Church has regularly offered us this opportunity – another chance to make a fresh start on our pilgrimage of faith towards Christ. The Holy Door in each of Rome's four basilicas is a sign of the welcome that the Church offers us in the name of Jesus Christ for our sins to be forgiven and our way ahead to be cleared of obstacles. Pope Francis has called upon every diocesan bishop to celebrate the Solemn Opening of the Holy Year in his own cathedral this weekend. I shall therefore be celebrating Mass at St Chad's Cathedral and offering it for your intentions, that the Jubilee Year will bring many blessings to the life and mission of our Archdiocese. I invite all our parishes, schools, Religious communities and organisations to become pilgrims of hope throughout the coming year.

The surest way to be a faithful pilgrim of hope is to share in the mission of Jesus Christ himself. He has told us that he was anointed to proclaim good news to the poor... to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind. In our world there are many kinds of poverty, captivity and blindness – spiritual as well as material and physical – and this Jubilee Year invites us to share and celebrate hope with those around us who have yet to hear the good news. In a unique gesture for this Jubilee Year Pope Francis opened a Holy Door on the day after Christmas in Rome's Rebibbia Prison. This bronze door is hidden behind the walls of the Roman prison – but it symbolises prisons throughout world. Pope Francis wrote that "In the Jubilee Year, we are called to be signs of hope for many brothers and sisters in hardship—especially prisoners who endure both the harshness of confinement and emotional emptiness." The Holy Father's visit to a prison is a profound sign of hope for the thirteen prisons that lie within our own Archdiocese. I thank all our Prison Chaplains and volunteer visitors for their intention during the Jubilee Year to carry this message of hope through their ministry and their regular visits. We can all find a way to push open the door of hope during this Jubilee Year – both for ourselves and for all the people we shall meet during the coming year. In order to equip us to become pilgrims of hope, do remember that there are many helpful resources for the Jubilee Year available on the diocesan website. I hope that you will have an opportunity to visit one of our diocesan pilgrim churches in the course of this year – to pray there for all who suffer the hardships that we can help to relieve – and also to pray for the Church and the Holy Father. As pilgrims of hope we can be grateful for the love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God. May the Holy Family of Nazareth help us all, this Jubilee Year, to grow closer to Christ the Prince of Peace and to serve our brothers and sisters with kindness and generosity. With my prayers for you and your family this Christmastide.

Yours devotedly in Christ, Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham