



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6;
Psalms 72(71);
Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6;
Matthew 2:1-12

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

This Week: 5th—12th Jan 2025 Psalter Week 2	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
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 John & Mary Ryan (DR)	After 8:30 Mass: Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall
Monday 6th January Christmas Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Mrs. Madder RIP (C&PI)	
Tuesday 7th January Christmas Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Maude McCann RIP (AM)	
Wednesday 8th January Christmas Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Rhian McGrath (SB)	7pm Journey in Faith
Thursday 9th January Christmas Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Jacky McClean RIP (BB)	
Friday 10th January Christmas Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Roy Crowther RIP (AM)	After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart 6:30-8:00pm Youth Group
Saturday 11th January Christmas Feria	11.00 am Aley Mathew (MM)	10:15-10.45am Confessions 12:00-5:00pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall 2:00pm Public Church Tour
Sunday 12th January Feast of the Baptism of The Lord Year C 200 Club Appeal	8:30 am Chris Dennis RIP (MD) 10:30 am Kitty Brennan RIP (SB) 6:00 pm People of the Parish	After 8:30 Mass: Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall During 10:30 Mass Children's Liturgy 2:30-4:30pm SVP afternoon

**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
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Email:

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PRINCIPAL

Mr A Carry

PARISH SECRETARY

Bogusia Koniszewska-
Fijolek

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Email:

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**PARISH HALL
BOOKINGS**

Please contact Sally at
volunteers.

sacredheart.droitwich
@rcaob.org.uk or
07891144870

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30, 10.30am All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord

6.00 pm In His days justice will flourish.

Peace will reign 'til the moon fades.

May His name be blessed for ever and endure like the noon-
day sun

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for Barbara Conway who died recently. May her soul
and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in
peace. Barbara's Requiem Mass will take place on Wednesday 15th January
at 11.30am. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.

WEDNESDAY ADORATION

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

NEW SUNDAY MISSAL

We have placed 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'.

FREE FAMILY QUIZ

The SVP are holding our annual Family Fun Quiz on Saturday 1st February in
the parish hall at 7.00pm. Teams will be of no more than 6, but don't worry
if you are on your own you will be able to join together with others to make
up a team.

This is a free event, there will be a raffle and you need to bring along your
own refreshments, glasses, plates etc.

Our recently formed Minnie Vinnies (junior SVP) will be helping run the quiz
so please come along to support this event and have a great fun evening.

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.

MOSAIC RESTORATION PROJECT

The Community Engagement part of the project is due to start in January. The Visitor Centre will be open every Saturday from 12-5pm. 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.

JUBILEE YEAR 2025

This year 2025, the Holy Father has announced as a Year of Jubilee for the universal church, a year to mark the 2025th anniversary of the manifestation of Our Lord. As pilgrims we know that prayer is at the very heart of our journey of faith as we allow ourselves to be drawn into the life of God through our encounter with His Son, Jesus Christ, with our personal prayer and setting up programmes for our renewal as individuals and a parish family. To help us to start with this journey of hope, we have The Jubilee Companion Booklet available at the back of the church, priced at £1.50.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will resume on Sunday 12th January.

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

£267.73

Gift Aid: £147.00

Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.

Mass attendance
last Sunday: 269

**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 40:1-5,9-11;

Psalms 104(103);

Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7;

Luke 3:15-16,21-22

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.

My dear friends today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek epiphaneia (ἐπιφάνεια) which means "to manifest," "appear," or "make known." According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church – "The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the world" (CCC 528). The traditional belief that there were three Magi: Casper, Balthazar, and Melchior, is based on the fact that three gifts are mentioned in Matthew's Gospel: gold, frankincense and myrrh. The Magi could have been Persian priests or Babylonian astronomers or even spice traders. Eventually, however, they were pictured as representatives of different peoples and races. The Magi brought the Christ Child gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gold symbolised kingship. Frankincense, used in worship to symbolise prayers rising to heaven, symbolises Jesus' divinity and myrrh, often used in burial, honours Jesus who came to give His life as a sacrifice for many.

The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord invites us to renew our commitment to seek, adore, and follow Him more closely. This feast celebrates the profound revelation of Christ to the world, not just to a select few but to all nations. It was necessary for God to start the history of salvation with His chosen people - the people of Israel. Then, gradually unfold His revelation over the centuries through various people and in the fullness of time He reveals Himself to the whole of humanity through His Incarnation. The Magi who come from the East, seeking the newborn King of the Jews, though not part of the Jewish faith, willingly travel a great distance, just to honour and pay homage to the Christ child. Despite the uncertainties and risks, guided by a special star, they journey to Bethlehem. The journey of the Magi is a model for our spiritual pilgrimage. In our journey of faith, we are sure to encounter uncertainties, challenges and dark moments. How do we face them? Do we give up or do we perseveringly continue our journey, trusting in the promises of God? The Magi had to leave their comfort zones, step into the unknown, and face uncertainties for the sake of the truth they sought. Are we willing to do the same?

In the first reading from Isaiah (60:1-6), we hear the call of the prophet, "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you." Isaiah paints a picture of a future where nations are drawn to the light of God, where the abundance of His gifts flow to those who seek Him. This prophetic vision finds its fulfillment in the coming of the Magi, seeking for the child. This vision continues to find its fulfillment in our own persevering search for Christ. The Magi, upon finding Jesus, adore him by offering their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. How do we respond to Christ's presence in our lives? Do we recognise Him as the King, the Saviour, and the Light of the world? And do we, like the Magi, offer our best and acknowledge His rightful place in our lives. Further, it is not merely enough to seek Christ and pay Him our homage. We need to follow Him closely. After worshipping Christ, the Magi went back on a different route, that symbolises a life that has changed after encountering Jesus the Saviour. The question before us today is how we are responding to the epiphany of Christ in our lives. The Church invites us today to embrace our role in spreading the light of Christ, just as the Magi did so long ago.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ