



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

Nehemiah 8:2-6;

Psalms 19(18);

1 Corinthians 12:12-30 ;

Luke 1:1-4,4:14-21

This Week: 26th Jan-2nd Feb 2025 Psalter Week 3	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 26th January Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C	8:30 am Bridget Mary Beddall RIP (RB) 10:30 am Maureen Weaver RIP (CL) 6:00 pm Bridget Beddall RIP(BB)	After 8:30 Mass: Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall 10:30 am Mass Children's Liturgy
Monday 27th January Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Communion Service	
Tuesday 28th January Memorial of St Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor of the Church	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Communion Service	
Wednesday 29th January Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Holy Mass	After Communion- Adoration
Thursday 30th January Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Communion Service	After Communion-church cleaning
Friday 31st January Memorial of St John Bosco, Priest	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Communion Service	After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart 6:30-8:00pm Youth Group
Saturday 1st February Feria	11.00 am Chris Dennis RIP (MD)	10:15-10.45am Confessions 12:00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall
Sunday 2nd February Feast of the Presentation of the Lord Year C	8:30 am Verona Gamble (SC) 10:30 am Chris Dennis RIP (AM) 6:00 pm Josephine Grant RIP (JP)	After 8:30 Mass: Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall 10:30 am Mass Children's Liturgy

**“ When Christians grow in the service of God and neighbour,
we also grow in reciprocal understanding.”**

Pope Francis via Twitter 23rd January 2025

**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:

jod_office@emmausmac.
com

PRINCIPAL

Mr A Carry

PARISH SECRETARY

Bogusia Koniszewska-
Fijolek

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rcaob.org.uk

**PARISH HALL
BOOKINGS**

Please contact Sally at
volunteers.

sacredheart.droitwich
@rcaob.org.uk or
07891144870

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30, 10.30am

Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.

6.00 pm

**The word of God is more desired than gold;
the word of God is sweeter than honey.**

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 Bridget Mary Beddall who died recently. May her
soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. The funeral service of Bridget will take place on Thursday 20th
February at 10.30am. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.

FR. GEORGE ON HOLIDAY

Fr. George will be away for his holiday and visiting his family from
21st January till 11th February. While Fr. George is away priests from the
deanery and from Olton Friary will supply for the weekend masses. Any
emergency sick visit or funerals please contact Fr. Tomas (07391550817) at
St. Peter's Bromsgrove.

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 six, 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 to run the quiz, so please come
along to support this event and have a great fun evening.

REFUGEE KNITTING

Could you please bring your items to church ready for collection on
28th January. If anyone has other items you think may help the refugees, I
can take those too. Thank you for the beautiful baby Christmas and adult
clothes collected recently. Donations of wool would also be gratefully
accepted and can be placed in the cupboard at the church entrance. As ever
thank you so much for supporting this cause.

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 this journey of hope, we have The Jubilee
Companion Booklet available at the back of the church, priced at £1.50.

GIFT AID

If you are a UK taxpayer, the Church can receive the 25% of tax back on your donation. This is a very important part of the funding of the Parish, so please consider signing a Gift Aid Form (blanks are at the back of the Church) and bring back to the parish office.

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

The Journey in faith will take place on Wednesday 18th February and the topic will be 'Mother Mary and Marian Devotion'.

PUBLIC CHURCH TOUR

As part of our National Lottery Heritage Fund project we continue to run activities for the local community.

Church tours will be conducted on one Saturday each month. To book, visit the website:

<http://www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk/the-church/church-tours/>

One Saturday a month children's mosaic workshops and mini tours will run. To book, visit the website: <http://www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk/news-and-events/upcoming-events/>

Thanks to all our volunteers who continue to make this work possible.

JOB VACANCY-CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

"The Archdiocese of Birmingham invite applications for the new COO of the first enlarged Catholic Multi-Academy Trust in the Archdiocese, the St Gabriel the Archangel CMAT. This is an incredibly exciting opportunity to commence May 2025. We are seeking an outstanding, dynamic, and visionary COO to guide our new Trust of 63 schools, opening in September 2025. The successful candidate will play a pivotal role in ensuring the smooth and efficient functioning of our schools, enabling us to continue to deliver an outstanding learning experience for all. For further details, please visit the Diocesan Education Service website: COO Vacancy. The closing date is 10th February 2025"

Please see poster in the notice board.

JOBS VACANCY- CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

"The Archdiocese of Birmingham invite applications for the new CFO of the first enlarged Catholic Multi-Academy Trust in the Archdiocese, the St Gabriel the Archangel CMAT. This is an incredibly exciting opportunity to commence May 2025. We are seeking an outstanding, dynamic, and visionary CFO to guide our new Trust of 63 schools, opening in September 2025. The successful candidate will be an outstanding financial leader who is able to inspire others and have the expertise to develop and articulate a financial vision that will enable us to continue to deliver an outstanding learning experience for all. For further details, please visit the Diocesan Education Service website: CFO Vacancy. The closing date is 10th February 2025"

Please see poster in the notice board.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2025

If your child is Year 3 or above and doesn't go to a Catholic school and you wish your child to be prepared to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion this summer, please would you contact Fr. George SCJ or the parish office. First Holy Communion Mass will be on Saturday the 21st of June. Holy Communion Sessions will start on Saturday the 8th of March 09:30 - 11:00 in the Parish Hall.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

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

**26th January,
2nd & 9th
February.**

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

£385.35

Gift Aid: £226.00

**Second collection for
Pax Christi**

£173.83

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 299**

**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 **9th February** 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**

Malachi 3:1-4;

Psalms 24(23);

Hebrews 2:14-18;

Luke 2:22-40

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.

On this Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, we rejoice in the Good News of Salvation because Christ has brought to us the mystery of salvation. Last week we saw Jesus solemnly inaugurate his public ministry at Cana in Galilee by meeting the need of the guest. This was the event that had unfolded the beginning of the 'Goodnews' that Jesus the Messiah has come, and he began to influence the ordinary lives of the people. Good news binds us together as the people of God and enables us to work for the kingdom of God. Christ himself is this Good News that brings us salvation. So, the church invites us to listen to the Good News and meditate on it in our hearts this Sunday. In our second reading today, through his letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul encourages us to remain united and work together as one body of Christ. To achieve this, everyone must be considered important. There must be reconciliation, understanding, truthfulness and respect for one another.

In today's gospel, Luke narrates his own "solid and ordered account" of the events about Christ. His audience is "Theophilus." This Greek name simply means "lover or seeker of God." Historically speaking, there was no known figure named Theophilus at the time when Luke wrote his account. So, it is believed that Theophilus simply refers to all who love or seek God. Therefore, this good news is for all of us and our salvation. Today Jesus presents to us his programme of evangelization. His programme is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah 61: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour". This prophecy was made eight centuries before the birth of Christ. This was when the Israelites lived in slavery and misery in exile. Hence, Isaiah's prophecy was a call to liberation. So, by using these same words as the basis of his ministry and mission, Christ announces His reign of peace, justice, freedom and love to all those suffering from all kinds of oppression and injustice. This freedom comes with a cost. The cost that each one must pay is to dedicate one's life to the service of Jesus and be the executor of His teaching. Jesus's teachings sound simple and unique at first glance, but, when it comes to real-life situations, one needs to apply a lot of dedication, discipline and charity. In fact, that was the purpose of His coming, as he came to show us how to live a Christian life, which is a life modelled after the life of Christ.

Like Nehemiah in our first reading today, Christ proclaims the good news of the new era to all of us. It is important to note that this good news is not directed only to the materially poor but to all who are poor in spirit, as Christ taught us in His beatitudes: "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of God" (Mt 5, 3). In other words, the kingdom that Christ has come to establish is open to all who will humbly receive him. All those who have the necessary disposition to receive the good news are poor in spirit. These necessary dispositions include charity and generosity, which are made manifest in service towards all. The good news liberates us from two types of slavery. The first is the personally imposed slavery, which results from our personal choices, sins and mistakes in life. This slavery makes us spiritually exiled, blind and deaf. It cripples our spiritual life and hardens our hearts against God and all that is good. So let us respond to His invitation to live our lives modelled after the life of Christ.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ