



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Jeremiah 17:5-8;
Psalms 1;
1 Corinthians
15:12,16-20;
Luke 6:17, 20-26

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

This Week: 16th-23rd Feb 2025 Psalter Week 2	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 16th February Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C Second collection for Racial Justice	8:30 am Private Intention (MJ) 10:30 am Maciej Grudzinski RIP(AOL) 6:00 pm John Ryan (DR)	After 8:30 Mass: Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall
Monday 17th February Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Margaret Green RIP(RB)	
Tuesday 18th February Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Nick Lynam 90th Birthday (SVP)	
Wednesday 19th February Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Maissie O'Rourke (JG)	After Communion– Adoration 7.00 pm Journey in Faith
Thursday 20th February Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Sojan George RIP 10.30 am Requiem Mass of Bridget Mary Beddall	
Friday 21st February Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Fr. Tom Kelly	After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart
Saturday 22nd February Feast of the Chair of St Peter, Apostle	11.00 am Gladys Remedios RIP(AK)	10:15-10.45am Confessions 12:00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall 2.00-3.30 pm Public Church Tour
Sunday 23rd February Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C	8:30 am Deceased members of Patterson & Joyce family (MJ) 10:30 am Eldona Grudzinska & her children (AOL) 6:00 pm Michael Conneely RIP(JD)	After 8:30 Mass: Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall

“ When goodness is not reinvested, it is lost. The greatness of our lives is not measured by how much we save but by the fruit we bear.”

Pope Francis via Twitter 13th February 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
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Roman Catholic
Diocesan Trustees:
Registered Charity
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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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**PARISH HALL
BOOKINGS**

Please contact Sally at
volunteers.

sacredheart.droitwich
@rcaob.org.uk or
07891144870

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30, 10.30am

Blessed the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.

6.00 pm

Happy are those who have placed their trust in the Lord.

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, Judy Lynam Pyper and Peggy Garvey.

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.

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 contact Fr. George SCJ or the parish office
before 23rd February. Holy Communion Mass will be on Saturday 21st June.
Holy Communion Sessions will start on Saturday 8th March at 9:30 - 11:00am
in the Parish Hall. There will be a meeting with the parents and children on
23rd February after 10.30 Mass in the parish hall.

200 CLUB

Thank you for listening to our appeal for new members. Our thanks,
particularly, to those of you who expressed an interest in joining the 200
Club, and who have now completed your applications. Father George has
asked us to gently prompt anyone who has yet to return theirs. From the
interest shown, we hope to increase membership by perhaps fifteen. So far,
we have only had eight forms returned. If you have questions, get in touch.
There are contact details on your paperwork.

To return the 200 Club to its full value to the parish, our need is for fifty new
ticket holders. If you felt a vague stirring of interest in our appeal, we shall
be leaving application forms in the narthex and ask that you take one and
complete it. Forms can be returned to us by post or can be left with Father
George or Brother Patrick. Thank you, Kevin and Elizabeth

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

The Journey in faith will take place on Wednesday 19th February and the
topic will be 'Mother Mary and Marian Devotion'.

WELCOMERS-10.30AM MASS

The 10.30am Welcomers are looking for new people to come and help. This
really doesn't take too much time and the more people we have the better.
We would welcome some new members, so please consider joining us to
welcome people into our beautiful church. If you interesting please contact
parish office 01905 773258.

COMMUNITY PLANTING PROJECT AT ST. JOSEPH'S IN ASSOCIATION WITH WORCETSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST-SATURDAY 8TH MARCH

At St Joseph's, we are working with Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire Wildlife Trust to be part of a big research project to see if the 'Miyawaki' method of tree planting is a good way of growing small areas of woodland in urban areas. The Miyawaki method (Tiny Forest) involves densely planting a wide selection of native tree and shrub species suited to the site into aerated, enriched soil, mulching and then maintaining the plot for two to three years, from which point minimal interventions should be made. At school we are going to have two Tiny Forest plots - one will be the traditional method control plot and one will be our experimental plot. This will have one variable to see how the trees benefit from very dense planting. Children will be monitoring the growth of these trees for years to come as the forest grows and develops just like our pupils. We would like to invite any parishioners to plant a tree on the morning of Saturday 8th March 2025. This will be a drop-in session from 10am until 1pm.

JOBS VACANCY

The Archdiocese is recruiting for the following four positions: Operations Director, IT Manager, Finance Manager and Gift Aid Officer. Full details and closing dates can be found at www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs. If you think you have the skills, please do apply.

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.

NEXT NEWMAN TALK

Wednesday 26th February. 7pm St. George's RC Church Hall, Worcester: Mystery, Meaning and Majesty, Orthodox Phenomena Expressed in Icons, Melangell Roe-Stevens -Smith, a member of the Orthodox Church. All welcome, especially newcomers!

THE CONCERT OF HOPE AT ST CHAD'S CATHEDRAL- FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

Please join supporters of Friends of the Holy Land for an evening of musical enjoyment at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham on 27th February at 7pm. There will also be a short talk by Fr Mamdouh Abusada (Director of the School of Joy in Bethlehem) during the concert, giving you the opportunity to hear first-hand about life in the West Bank currently. Tickets and further details can be found at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/concert-of-hope-for-the-holy-land-tickets-1187758801549?aff=oddttdtcreator>

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will resume after half term.

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 Clare Tomlinson, Carla Tucker and Bogusia Koniszewska-Fijolek. 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

£249.44

Gift Aid: £145.00

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 275**

**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 March** 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

1 Samuel

26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23;

Psalms 103(102);

1 Corinthians

15:45-49;

Luke 6:27-38

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 sixth Sunday of ordinary time the readings highlight the true value of human life filled with contrasting experiences of both positive and negative. Both these experiences are not contradicting but complimentary to each other. The Gospel we just heard would translate it as: "blessed are YOU poor, blessed are YOU hungry, blessed are YOU in mourning, and blessed are YOU who endure persecution." This makes us to realise that human life is not mealy earthbound but rather that it leans towards heaven. This heavenbound life became reality in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

This is why St. Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, passionately defends the resurrection of Christ as the foundation of our faith. He confronts those in Corinth who question the resurrection of the dead, making a powerful argument: if Christ has not been raised, then our faith is meaningless, and we remain trapped in our sins. Paul's words strike at the heart of what it means to be a Christian. Without the resurrection our hope is empty and death has the final say. But, because Christ is risen, He is the "first fruits" of those who have died, a promise that we, too, will rise with Him. This truth gives meaning to suffering, hope in loss and courage to face the future. One powerful aspect of this passage is how it calls us to examine our own faith. Do I really live as if Christ's resurrection matters? When I face difficulties, do I cling to the hope of eternal life, or do I let fear and doubt take over? Paul's words challenge us to anchor our lives in the reality of the resurrection—to see our struggles in the light of eternity, to trust that suffering is not the final word and to live with a boldness that reflects the victory of Christ. This passage also fills us with gratitude because Jesus rose from the dead - our faith is not in vain. Our sins are forgiven and death is not the end of our story. Instead of living in despair, we are called to rejoice in the promise that we, too, will one day rise with Him.

Listening to the Gospel for this Sunday, we might ask: is a happy, joy-filled life possible here and now? Jesus seems to be saying clearly that in fact even sorrow can be changed into happiness now for those who keep things in proper perspective and truly desire to live as children of God's kingdom. So much in our culture and times can bog us down and make God's entry into our lives difficult or impossible. We may prefer that which is not of God and miss the opportunity to allow God to rule in our hearts and lives. The beatitudes (or "blessed") of Jesus both amazed and challenged his listeners and are meant to amaze and challenge us as well. The word beatitude literally means happiness. The way of happiness that Jesus outlines calls for a transformation from within, a conversion of life, which we as Christians vow to do each day of our lives. The Gospel message, Good News for all people, is summed up well in this familiar phrase from scripture: "Be converted and live". No one is excluded from this call. That means dying to self, though, and living for God and neighbour without counting the cost. This is unlike what the world describes as happiness, often considered to be found in health, wealth and beauty, which in fact are very fleeting things. St. Thomas Aquinas said that no person can live without joy. That is why those deprived of spiritual joy seek out other forms of it, only to discover that real joy, what really satisfies and lasts forever, is joy in God. May we find perfect joy in doing the will of God, who lives and reigns forever and ever.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ