



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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

| This Week: 23rd Feb-2ndMar 2025 Psalter Week 3 | Holy Mass & Services | Other Events |
|---|--|--|
| 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 |
| Monday 24th February Feria | 8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Patricia Fahy | |
| Tuesday 25th February Feria | 8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Vincent Collins & Darrel Lansley Speedy recovery (K&PG) | |
| Wednesday 26th February Feria | 8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Rose Martin RIP(BB) | After Communion– Adoration 7.00pm Journey in Faith |
| Thursday 27th February Feria | 8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Bridget Mary Beddall RIP (RP) | After Mass– Church cleaning |
| Friday 28th February Feria | 8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Mathew RIP (SM) | After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart 6.30-8.00 Youh Group |
| Saturday 1st March Feast of St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales | 11.00 am Patricia Ceclich RIP(GC) | 10:15-10.45am Confessions 12:00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall |
| Sunday 2nd March Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C Second collection for Cathedral Maintenance | 8:30 am Paul Seddon RIP(RB) 10:30 am Holy Mass 6:00 pm John Millar RIP (JD) | After 8:30 Mass: Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall |

**“ Thank you for the affection, prayer and closeness with which
you are accompanying me in these days.”**

Pope Francis via Twitter 16th 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
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

Tel.: 01905 773258

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sacredheart.droitwich@
rcaob.org.uk

**PARISH HALL
BOOKINGS**

Please contact Sally at
volunteers.

sacredheart.droitwich
@rcaob.org.uk or
07891144870

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30, 10.30am

The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

6.00 pm

My soul give thanks to the Lord

all my being bless His Holy name.

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.

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 26th February and the
topic will be 'Sacraments: The Commandments and Reconciliation'.

7TH MARCH 2025 WOMEN'S DAY OF PRAYER

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian
women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

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!

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.

WALK WITH ME BOOKLET

"Welcome to this special Jubilee Lenten edition of Walk with Me. Hope is the central message of the Jubilee Year but also the perennial message of Lent. We are pilgrims of hope." Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham.

The Walk with Me booklet for the Lenten Journey is available to collect from the back of the Church. Please consider taking a copy to home. The booklets are free, but any donation would be much appreciated and will be given to the Sacred Heart Mission.

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.

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.

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=oddtcreator>

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

£392.67

Gift Aid: £309.50

Second collection for
Racial Justice

£91.06

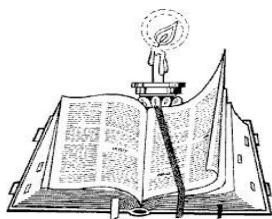
Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.

Mass attendance
last Sunday: 327

**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**

Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7;

Psalm 92(91);

1 Corinthians

15:54-58;

Luke 6:39-45

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.

Dear Brothers and sisters, as we gather on this 7th Sunday of Ordinary Time, in this Jubilee Year, a time for Pilgrims of Hope, we are reminded of the enduring power of hope, even amidst challenging times. The readings of today challenge us with a radical call to love, a love that transcends our natural inclinations and mirrors the boundless mercy of God. This boundless mercy promises us hope which goes beyond all human conditions and limitations because God's mercy is unconditional and unlimited. The Gospel of today from Luke presents us not with comfortable and pleasant words, but with challenging directives: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." These words are not easy to hear and put into practice. They cut against the grain of our human nature, which often seeks self-preservation and reciprocation. We live in a world that often operates on the principle of "an eye for an eye," a world where hurt begets hurt, and where resentment becomes worse. Jesus, however, presents us with a different path, a path that breaks the cycle of violence and hate. He calls us to a love that is not conditional, not based on merit, but rather a love that flows from the very heart of God.

As pilgrims on this journey of hope we are called to embody this love. Think about the implications of Jesus's words. He doesn't just ask us to tolerate those who wrong us, He asks us to love them. He doesn't just ask us to refrain from retaliation, He asks us to actively do good to them. He asks us to bless those who curse us, to pray for those who mistreat us. This isn't a sentimental, weak kind of love. This is a powerful, transformative love that has the potential to change hearts and break down barriers. It is a love that fuels our pilgrimage of hope; that hope which leads us to holiness. This love is not possible through human effort alone. It is a gift, a grace that we receive from God. It requires us to surrender our own will, our own desire for revenge, and to open our hearts to the transformative power of divine love. It urges us to look at the world, and at those who hurt us, through the eyes of Christ. Like true pilgrims, we must rely on God's grace to guide us. Jesus, in his own life, perfectly embodied this radical love. He loved those who betrayed, denied and crucified Him. He showed us the face of a compassionate Father who loves unconditionally and desires mercy not sacrifice. He drew this image of a loving Father in the hearts of humanity, and now He calls us to do the same. He calls us to be pilgrims of love, an icon of Christ and reflections of His compassionate heart in the world. This means not just loving those who are easy to love, but also those who are difficult, those who challenge us, those who even hurt us. It means extending mercy as God extends mercy. It means forgiving as God forgives. This is the path of the pilgrim of hope.

Today let us reflect on these challenging words of Jesus. Let us ask ourselves: Who are the "enemies" in our lives? Who are the people who are difficult to love? How can we, through God's grace, extend love and mercy to them? Let us not be afraid to embrace the radical demands of Jesus's love. Let us not be afraid to become icons of His compassion in the world. For it is in loving as He loved that we truly become children of God, and it is in extending mercy as He extended mercy that we truly reflect the heart of our Father in heaven. As we journey on this pilgrimage of hope, may love be our compass and mercy our guide. Amen.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ