



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7;
Psalms 92(91);
1 Corinthians 15:54-58;
Luke 6:39-45

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

This Week: 2nd-9th Mar 2025 Psalter Week 4	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
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 10.30 am Children's Liturgy
Monday 3rd March Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Alan Remedios RIP(AK)	
Tuesday 4th March Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Sojan George RIP	
Wednesday 5th March Ash Wednesday	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Mike Rawlins RIP(BB) 7.00 pm Holy Mass	After Communion– Adoration
Thursday 6th March Thursday after Ash Wednesday	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Lalitha Ravi RIP	
Friday 7th March Friday after Ash Wednesday	No morning Prayer 9:00 am Station of the Cross 9:15 am Holy Mass	6.30-8.00 Youth Group
Saturday 8th March Saturday after Ash Wednesday	11.00 am Msgr. Graham Wilkinson RIP(MM)	10:15-10.45am Confessions 12:00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall 12:00– 3:00 pm Children's Workshop Tour
Sunday 9th March First Sunday of Lent Year C	8:30 am Margaret Allen RIP(PW) 10:30 am Holy Mass 6:00 pm Holy Mass	After 8:30 Mass: Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall 10.30 am Children's Liturgy 2.00 pm SVP Afternoon

“ I have recently received many messages of affection, and I have been particularly struck by the letters and drawings from children. Thank you for your closeness, and for the consoling prayers I have received from all over the world!”

Pope Francis via Twitter 23rd 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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Registered Charity
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PARISH SCHOOL

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Primary School,
Droitwich

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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

8.30, 10.30am

It is good to give thanks to you, O Lord.

6.00 pm

I thank you Yahweh with all my heart.

I thank you Yahweh my God.

Each time I call for help you hear and answer me.

I thank you Yahweh my God.

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, Peggy Garvey and Clare Tomlinson.

ONLINE LENT RETREAT

This Lent the Ignatian Spirituality Centre (ISC) are again offering a free online Lent Retreat. It is called "Fruits of the Spirit" and starts on Ash Wednesday 5th March. You can join in on the ISC Glasgow website or on <https://www.onlineprayer.net/fruits-of-the-spirit/> If you want further details, please contact Cecilia and Max Jourdier on mandcjourdier@gmail.com or 01886 812259.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On every Friday during Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross at 9.00am followed by Holy Mass. There will not be Novena to the Sacred Heart on Fridays during Lent.

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.

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.

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

The Journey in faith will take place on Wednesday 19th March and the topic will be 'Holy Orders and Matrimony'.

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.

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.

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.

FREE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

As part of our National Lottery project we are running free mosaic workshops aimed at primary school children and their parents (but we are flexible on ages). Feedback from both children and parents who attended the first two was excellent. The next workshops are on Saturday 8th March and Saturday 12th April with sessions at 12:30-2 and 2:30-4 on both days. Please encourage friends, children, grandchildren, nephews /nieces to come along. Booking is essential via Eventbrite. There are links on the parish website and on the 'Friends of Sacred Heart Church Droitwich Spa' Facebook page

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.

JOBS VACANCY

The Archdiocese is recruiting for the following four positions, which will all be closing for applications shortly: 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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am mass on **2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th March and 6th April.**

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 by 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

£283.22

Gift Aid: £212.80

Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.

Mass attendance
last Sunday: 254



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

Deuteronomy 26:4-10;

Psalm 91(90);

Romans 10:8-13;

Luke 4:1-13

Dear friends, we are almost in spring, a time for unveiling new growth and new roots, fresh life and enthusiasm in life. So to our life in the faith, and it is good to check whether Jesus's teaching is taking root in our hearts. In Springtime deepening of faith and dedication should lead to a spiritual maturity, when we aim to be mutually supportive. Today's readings focus on being steadfast in faith. As we are on the last Sunday of ordinary time and in a couple of days we will begin the season of Lent. The first reading is taken from the book of Sirach, which is one of the seven deuterocanonical books that you will not find in the protestant bible because of its frequent use in early Catholic teaching and worship. It was given the alternative title of Ecclesiasticus, from the Greek word for Church 'Ecclesia'. The reading teaches that what is inside us is revealed through our words and actions, as the grain and husks are separated in a farmer's sieve, as the quality of the metal is revealed in the potter's fire and as the size and quality of a tree's fruit reveal the care it has received from the planter. Sirach teaches that speaking is the test of men and their character. One who is upright will utter words that are truthful and encouraging to others. This passage is an invitation to self-reflection. The reading challenges us to cultivate a heart rooted in wisdom and love so that our words and deeds may always be a reflection of God's grace within us.

The second reading, taken from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, proclaims the ultimate victory of Christ over sin and death. This passage celebrates the fulfilment of God's promise that death, which entered the world through sin, has been defeated through the resurrection of Jesus. Paul reminds us that the sting of death is sin, meaning that sin is what makes death fearful. But through Christ's sacrifice, sin has been overcome and, therefore, death no longer has the final say. Paul then encourages us to stand firm in our faith, knowing that our labour in the Lord is never in vain (v. 58). This passage invites us to live with confidence and hope, something which this Jubilee Year invites us to do. No matter what challenges we face, we are assured of victory in Christ.

In the Gospel Jesus also teaches us that the quality of our heart determines the quality of our words and actions. He says, "A good person, out of the store of goodness in his heart, produces good, while an evil person, out of a store of evil, produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks". As Christians, if we live according to the good news, our actions and words would be guided by it. Consequently, it will affect others positively. On the contrary, if we fill our hearts with negativity, our words and actions would be filled with nothingness. While we ourselves are blind to many necessary virtues, yet we can spot this lack in others and have the audacity to offer to lead them on the right road. Sometimes we lack the basic knowledge of the teachings of our faith and yet we can find a thousand faults in the official doctrine of the teaching of the Church. We can all criticize minor defects in our neighbours' behaviour whilst our own Christian way of living needs far greater change. To change our Christian lives, we need to listen to our Lord and pay attention to His teaching. Without some inner silence, we can't hear Him, recognize the divine presence in our lives and grow from within as human beings and as believers. As Jesus says, 'people draw goodness from the store of goodness in their hearts'. Goodness doesn't blossom without help. We need to cultivate it and make it grow in the depth of our hearts. How our lives would blossom if we stopped to notice what God is stirring up in our hearts. Let us cultivate goodness in our hearts.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ