



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

208 Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa,
WR9 8AZ, Tel: 01905 773258
Email: sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk
Web: www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk



Today's Mass Readings

Deuteronomy 26:4-10;

Psalms 91(90);

Romans 10:8-13;

Luke 4:1-13

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

This Week: 9th-16h Mar 2025 Psalter Week 1	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 9th March First Sunday of Lent Year C	8:30 am Margaret Allen RIP(PW) 10:30 am Chris Larkin & Family (KL) 6:00 pm Keith Faulkner RIP (JL)	After 8:30 Mass: Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall 10.30 am Children's Liturgy 2.00 pm SVP Afternoon
Monday 10th March Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Colum MacCourt RIP(LM)	
Tuesday 11th March Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Asha Prakash	
Wednesday 12th March Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Thomas Taylor (C&GP)	After Communion– Adoration
Thursday 13th March Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Fr. Dominic Innamorati SCJ RIP	After Mass– Church cleaning
Friday 14th March Lent Feria	No morning Prayer 9:00 am Station of the Cross 9:15 am Anthony Pinnell RIP(C&GP)	6.30-8.00 pm Youth Group
Saturday 15th March Lent Feria	11.00 am Gladys Remedios RIP(AK) 11.00 am Anointing Mass	10:15-10.45am Confessions 12:00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall
Sunday 16th March Second Sunday of Lent Year C Second collection for CAFOD Lent Fast Day	8:30 am Fr. Brian Boyle RIP(MM) 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

“ The Ashes remind us of who we are, which does us good. It puts us in our place, smooths out the rough edges of our narcissism, brings us back to reality, and makes us more humble and open to one another. None of us is God; we are all on a journey.”

Pope Francis via Twitter 5th March 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

Email:

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

Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.

6.00 pm

And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of His hand.

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for Fr. Dominic Innamorati SCJ who died recently. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.

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.

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

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

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.

CAFOD LENT APPEAL-FAMILY FAST DAY COLLECTION 16TH MARCH

Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection and be a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year. You'll be supporting communities experiencing the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call us on 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

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.

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.

NEXT NEWMAN TALK

Wednesday 19th March 7pm St. George's RC Church Hall, Worcester: What are the Challenges in Catholic Education right now? Dr Eamonn Elliott, Senior Lecturer in Religious Education at Birmingham Newman University and a former headmaster and Melanie Elliott, Headmistress of St John and St Monica's Primary School, Moseley, Birmingham. All welcome, especially newcomers!

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.

KENELM YOUTH TRUST MISSION TEAM

Unlock an Extraordinary Opportunity with KYT's Mission Team! Are you (or someone you know) aged 18–25 and ready to make a difference? KYT's Mission Team invites you to embark on a journey of impact and transformation! This is your chance to be part of something truly meaningful. Whether it's leading outdoor activities, empowering the next generation, or simply exploring your faith journey, there's a place for you on the Mission Team.

Please see the poster in the back at the Church

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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

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

£519.58

Gift Aid: £194.00

Second collection

for Cathedral

Maintenance:

£50.23

Gift Aid: £89.00

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 274**

**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**

Genesis 15:5-12,17-18;

Psalm 27(26);

Philippians 3:17-4:1;

Luke 9:28b-36

Dear friends, the readings today deal with the theme of staying true to our calling and identity, even in the face of temptations and difficulties. The first reading taken from the book of Deuteronomy presents the offering of first fruits as a grateful celebration of God's gift of the Promised Land to Israel. The act of offering first fruits serves as a testimony to the fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham and affirming their inheritance of "the Promised Land". This communal memory fostered a sense of empathy, urging them to share their abundance with Levites, foreigners, orphans and widows. Such inclusivity was a reminder that all provision ultimately comes from God, meant for the flourishing of the entire community. This takes us to the theme of the season.

Last Wednesday we began the season of Lent, a time for us to enrich our Christian life by focusing on threefold relationship of our lives: firstly, our relationship with God through our spiritual exercises; secondly, the relationship to oneself by fasting and abstinence by which one disciplines oneself to be a better Christian; thirdly, Alms-giving by sharing our time, talents, resources with the needy. In our effort to enhance this threefold relationship, we will have to face great challenges and temptations, just as even Jesus had. The Devil never gives up so easily. The temptations we face are many and varied. Some may be obsessed with material passions. Others may be addicted to alcohol, drugs and sins of the flesh. There are those who may be violent and abusive in their dealings with people. Some may be tempted to gossip about others and ruin their reputation. A married person may be tempted to seek affection in an extramarital relationship. Some of us may be tempted to waste time or be lazy rather than involve ourselves in constructive activities. The list goes on and on. When we give in to temptation, it means we are allowing the Evil One to have power over us. Jesus showed how he would not be tempted by the Devil because the Devil's instructions were all directed towards gaining power, doing the spectacular and avoiding responsibility, which seem to be the catch phrases of our secular world. The Season of Lent is a time of grace for each one of us. During this Jubilee Year as we journey together in hope, we are invited to take up responsibility of our lives and to believe in a God who is with us in our distress till the end of time, as Moses reminds the people of Israel in the first reading.

Lent is a time for the 5 P's: namely Preparation, to prepare ourselves to celebrate New Life in Jesus. It is a time for Prayer, as we grow stronger in our faith through our time of personal communication with God, our participation in the Eucharist, our reading and reflection on the Word of God and through our presence at the Stations of the Cross and prayerful activities in the community. It is a time for Penance, as we fast and abstain and repent for our sins and seek reconciliation through the Sacrament of CONFESSION, as well as in showing forgiveness and repairing broken relationships. It is a time for practising Philanthropy, which is another word for being generous with our almsgiving in a more focused manner, rather than just doling out from our resources. If I may be creative in playing with the word- almsgiving, then it can be about offering my arms, my hands in service towards the communities and the needy around us. Lent is a time for Proclamation, through our words and actions, that the Devil has no power over us whatsoever, because we live by every word that comes from the mouth of God. Lent is a time to be renewed and strengthened as we put the Devil in his place. Amen.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ