



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Genesis 15:5-12,17-18;

Psalms 27(26);

Philippians 3:17-4:1;

Luke 9:28b-36

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

This Week: 16th– 23rdMar 2025 Psalter Week 2	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
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 Thanksgiving (BKF) 6:00 pm Peter Servini Speedy recovery	After 8:30 Mass: Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall 10.30 am Children's Liturgy
Monday 17th March Feast of St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am David Veale RIP (MD)	
Tuesday 18th March Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Holy Mass	
Wednesday 19th March Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Maureen Pinnell (C&GP)	After Communion– Adoration
Thursday 20th March Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Harry Remedios RIP(AK)	
Friday 21st March Lent Feria	No morning Prayer 9:00 am Station of the Cross 9:15 am Harriet Davies RIP (C&GP)	6.30-8.00 pm Youth Group
Saturday 22nd March Lent Feria	11.00 am Paulose Varghese Edathala RIP (JP)	10:15-10.45am Confessions 12:00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall 2.00 pm Public Church Tour NLHF
Sunday 23rd March Third Sunday of Lent Year C	8:30 am George & Ron Hancock RIP (AM) 10:30 am Holy Mass 6:00 pm People of the Parish	After 8:30 Mass: Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall 10.30 am Children's Liturgy

“ I think of the many people who find various ways to be close to the sick, becoming a sign of the Lord's presence for them. We need this 'miracle of tenderness' to accompany those who face adversity, in order to bring a little light into the night of pain.”

Pope Francis via Twitter 9th 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
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Roman Catholic
Diocesan Trustees:
Registered Charity
Number 234216.*

PARISH SCHOOL

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Primary School,
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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

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

6.00 pm

**There is one thing I ask of the Lord x2
For this I long to live in the house of God
each day of my life, each day of my life.**

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, Richard Wightman, Mrs. Roma,
Judy Lynam Pyper, Peggy Garvey and Clare Tomlinson.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for Fr. Dominic Innamorati SCJ, Breda Wightman,
Joan Bond, Norah O'Leary, Michael Marshall and Mr. Tony Mason who died
recently. May they soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through
the mercy of God, rest in peace.

The Requiem Mass for Mr. Tony Mason will take place on 27th March at
1.30pm. His body will be brought to the church on the evening before at
5.00pm.

The Requiem Mass for Breda Wightman will take place on Friday 4th April at
10.30am.

The Requiem Mass for Fr. Dominic will take place at Olton Friary St Bernards
Road, Solihull, B92 7BL on 7th April at 11.00am. Fr. Dominic will then be
brought to Sacred Heart Church around 3.00 pm followed by burial at 4 pm.

The Requiem Mass for Michael Marshall will take place on Friday 11th April
at 11.30am.

Please keep their family and friends in your prayers.

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.

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

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

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.

GIFT AID

The tax year end, 5th April 2025, is fast approaching. For anyone looking to increase their charitable giving before the year ends, please consider a one-off donation to the Church.

New weekly envelopes for 2025-2026 will be in the Narthex from next week. The archdiocese has reviewed the second collection envelopes as many of the charitable beneficiaries make their own tax claims. The majority of second collections will not be gift aided. There will only be three second collection we can claim on in the new tax year. It is therefore not viable to order envelopes for standing order donors with just three envelopes in each box. So, the Sunday of the three gift aided approved collections there will be a box in the Narthex with envelopes for those collections. As a standing order donor if you want to give to these second collections and enable gift aid to be claimed please take one of the envelopes, put your donation inside the envelope and write your surname on the envelope before putting into the second collection box.

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.

MOSAIC RESTORATION

The cleaning and restoration of the mosaics is scheduled to start on Tuesday 22nd April and is planned to be completed in early July. Whilst there will inevitably be some disruption, daily Masses will continue to be held as usual. Further details are available in the Visitor Centre – open every Saturday afternoon. This work is funded thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

POP-UP CAFE

The next public church tour is on Saturday 22nd March. There will also be a pop-up café, open to everyone, from 1-4:30pm, serving hot drinks and home-made cakes at very reasonable prices. All proceeds go towards parish hall funds. Even if you are not coming on the tour please do come along. Please note that it is cash only. There are still spaces available on the tour which must be booked in advance.

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!

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am mass on **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:**£302.36****Gift Aid: £159.00**

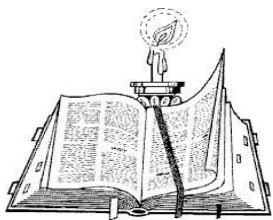
**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 281**



**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 **13th April** 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**

Exodus 3:1-8a,13-15;

Psalm 103(102);

1 Corinthians

10:1-6,10-12;

Luke 13:1-9

Dear friends. We all have experience of climbing the mountain at least once in a lifetime. Each climbing brings us new and different experience. St. Michael Garicoits, the founder of the Sacred Heart Fathers and Brothers, enjoyed climbing the Pyrenees. As a young boy he would climb the mountains in Ibarra, leaving his sheep in the valley, to see God closer, because his grandmother told him that God lives up on the horizon above the mountains. When he climbed the first time, he was disappointed, for there are many more mountains ahead to climb to reach the top. But he did not give up. The theme of today's readings is metamorphosis or transformation; we are invited to work with the Holy Spirit to transform our lives during this Lent so that they radiate the glory and grace of the transfigured Lord to all around us by our Spirit-filled lives.

As we reflect on this beautiful Sunday, Jesus is inviting each one of us by name to go to that mountain top to encounter Him closer. Once a catechism teacher was explaining to the Confirmation children how Jesus climbed the mountain to pray, listening to His father, and when He prayed, there was transformation in his life. So, there was one student who got up and asked the catechist, 'but how will I know when I go up to that mountain that Jesus will talk to me? Can't He talk to me when I'm here? I am doubtful whether I'll be able to go on that mountain top and see Jesus and listen to Him! The catechist, looking at the student, said, "Well, if you are obedient to God's voice and want to listen to Him, go where He calls you". To encounter God, we need to be patient and listen to Him. The first reading describes the transformation of Abram, a pagan patriarch, into a believer in the one True God and the first covenant of God with Abraham's family as a reward for Abraham's faith and obedience to God who promised to bless him and his descendants. How many of us will truly believe this? We will have lot of questions and doubts, 'is it possible that God is going to bless me and my family?' Abraham listened to the voice of God and He rewarded him because of his faith. We too are called today to have that strong faith. This is what the Mountaintop is all about: it's all about responding to that call of God.

All of us are reminded that, by becoming Christians, we embark on this journey of transformation and purification. Through what we have heard in that account of the Transfiguration of the Lord, we are shown that Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Saviour, was not merely just a Man, the Son of Man, but also the Son of God, Who had clad His Divine nature in the form of our human nature and flesh. And by sharing this Human nature with all of us, Christ Our Transfigured Lord reminds us of our original immaculate and perfect nature, that is to say how we were when He first created us all, untainted and uncorrupted by the corruption of sin and evil. By His Transfiguration, the Lord reassured us all of His salvation, fulfilling everything that He has promised to our ancestors, all the Law and the prophecies which He had passed on to them through the prophets, represented by the appearance of Moses and Elijah there at Mount Tabor with the Transfigured Lord. Both of them were very important figures in the history of the people of God. Therefore, as we continue to progress through this time and season of Lent, are we willing and able to commit ourselves to the Lord anew and follow Him wholeheartedly? Brothers and sisters in Christ, this Sunday let us all therefore strive to continue our Lenten journey with great faith and commitment, doing our very best so that we may come closer to God and be ever stronger in our relationship with Him, and be fully committed to His path. Amen.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ