



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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

Today's Mass Readings

Exodus 3:1-8a,13-15;
Psalms 103(102);
1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12;
Luke 13:1-9

This Week: 23rd-30th Mar 2025 Psalter Week 3	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 23rd March Third Sunday of Lent Year C	8:30 am George & Ron Hancock RIP (AM) 10:30 am Patrick Harnett RIP (GF) 6:00 pm Katherine & Michael Sekovski, Edward Sykes RIP (BS)	After 8:30 Mass: Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall 10.30 am Children's Liturgy
Monday 24th March Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am John Kenny RIP (MC)	11.00 am Private Church Tour
Tuesday 25th March Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Jude Fletcher RIP (MB)	
Wednesday 26th March Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Nora O'Learey RIP (AM)	After Communion– Adoration 5.00 pm Reception of the body Mr Mason 7.00 pm Journey in Faith
Thursday 27th March Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Celia Teiney RIP (GF)	After Mass Church cleaning 1.30 pm Funeral Service of Mr. Tony Mason
Friday 28th March Lent Feria	No morning Prayer 9:00 am Station of the Cross 9:15 am Daniel Pendergast (GF)	6.30-8.00 pm Youth Group
Saturday 29th March Lent Feria	11.00 am Joan Bond RIP (AM)	10:15-10.45am Confessions 12:00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall
Sunday 30th March Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C	8:30 am George McClenaghan RIP(MM) 10:30 am Rex Langford RIP (SL) 6:00 pm Pat Whaley (AP)	After 8:30 Mass: Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall 10.30 am Children's Liturgy

**“ Let us continue to pray for peace, especially in the countries wounded by war:
tormented Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Myanmar, Sudan, and the Democratic
Republic of the Congo.”**

Pope Francis via Twitter 16th 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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PARISH SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL

Mr A Carry

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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 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, 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 Thursday 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 Joan Bond will take place on 3rd April at 12.00 noon. Her body will be brought to the church on the evening before at 5.00 pm.

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.

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

The Journey in faith will take place on Wednesday 26th March and the topic will be 'Church the Visible body of Christ'.

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.

'WE BELIVE' FESTIVAL AT OSCOT, BIRMINGHAM

WeBelieve, 25th-28th July 2025, a festival of Catholic Life celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope, with parishes and families in mind. Four days of music, keynotes, conversation & worship, in the beautiful surroundings of St Mary's College, Oscott, Sutton Coldfield. Featuring Dr Gianna Emanuela Molla (daughter of St Gianna Molla), Fr Paul Murray, Mgr Michael Nazir-Ali, AnMari, Fr Toby Lees & many more. Pilgrim-attendees can choose to come for the whole weekend (camping, staying locally or coming from home) at an adult Early Bird rate of £70, or for a day for £40. Early Bird Tickets available now at www.webeliefestival.com Please see the poster in the back of the Church.

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.



JUBILEE YEAR 2025 ICON

Created by the artist Mulugeta Araya to celebrate 2025 Pilgrims of Hope, this icon was produced with a CAFOD partners from St Mary's College Wukro, northern Ethiopia, who have expertise in iconography. The artist interprets Jesus' teaching of healing and liberation in the Synagogue from Luke 4:16-21, which refers to Isaiah 61:1-2. Please see poster at the back of the Church.

To help us start to celebrate the Jubilee Year, we have The Jubilee Companion Booklet available at the back of the Church, priced £1.50.

RECOLLECTION FOR READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

A day of recollection for the Readers and Eucharistic Ministers will be on Saturday 12th April from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm. Lunch time refreshments will be provided. Please, all Readers & Eucharist Ministers mark this in you diary.

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.

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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

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

£252.12

Gift Aid: £1178.50

Second collection for

CAFOD Fast Day:

£272.12

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 283**

**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**

Joshua 5:9a,10-12;

Psalms 34(33)

2 Corinthians 5:17-21;

Luke 15:1-3,11-32

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 Friends in Christ Jesus. The reading taken from the book of Exodus gives us the famous narrative of the burning bush, a pivotal moment that not only alters Moses' destiny but also sets the course for Israel's liberation from Egypt. Moses, tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro near Mount Horeb, encounters a bush engulfed in flames yet not consumed. This extraordinary sight captures his attention. As Moses approaches, God calls him by name, emphasizing a personal relationship and divine awareness of individual identity. Moses' response, "Here I am," signifies his readiness to engage with the divine. God expresses His deep awareness of Israel's suffering in Egypt and announces His intention to deliver them. This reveals a God who is not distant but intimately concerned with human affliction and one who desires for their liberation. Anticipating the Israelites' inquiry about God's identity, Moses asks for His name. God responds with "I AM WHO I AM". This name, often rendered as Yahweh, conveys God's self-existence, eternal presence, and unchanging nature. It signifies that God is the ultimate reality, independent of all else, and is consistently present with His people. It challenges believers to trust in God's eternal presence and sovereignty, even when His ways are beyond human comprehension. God appears to Moses in the burning bush. But interestingly the fire was not consuming. This extraordinary phenomenon tells us that God never want to consume and destroy but rather purifies us by his unquenchable fire of love for each on of us.

In the second reading taken from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, Paul reminds the Corinthians of the experiences of the Israelites in the wilderness, using them as a warning against complacency and sin. He draws a parallel between the blessings received by the Israelites and those enjoyed by Christians, emphasizing that spiritual privileges do not guarantee salvation if they are not accompanied by faithful obedience. Paul recounts how all the Israelites passed through the Red Sea, were guided by the Lord, and ate the manna and drank from the spiritual rock, which he identifies as Christ. Despite these blessings, many fell into sin and faced God's judgment. Paul exhorts the Corinthians to learn from these examples and to remain vigilant.

In today's gospel, Jesus was straightforward in his words when he said: "Unless you repent, you will perish." One might say that this is too harsh to come from Christ, who is merciful and compassionate. When Jesus speaks this way, it does not diminish his compassion and mercy. Instead, he does so because he cares for us and sees what we cannot see. He simply warns us of the negative consequences of living a sinful life and wants us to repent and live a better life. This Sunday, the good news is that God gives us another chance to call upon the Lord, who is "merciful, compassionate and love." Jesus wants us to take a bold and positive step towards amending our way of life in this season of Lent. This is a call to repentance for the times we neglected and failed both God and our neighbours; for the times we chose evil over good, and for those moments, we despaired and displayed a remarkable lack of faith in God. The patient, compassionate and loving Father is ready to welcome us back. Hence, he says to us this season: "If my people, called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then...I will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7, 14). On this Sunday let us ask our Lord to consume us with his love so that we can be cleanse and purified. God bless us.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ