



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

Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17;
Psalm 65;
1 Peter 3: 15-18;
John 14: 15-21

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

This Week: 14th May – 21st May (Psalter Week 2)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 14th May Sixth Sunday of Easter Year A Retiring Collection for Empowering Vulnerable Children (EVC) Uganda	8.30 am William Tracey RIP (MB) 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Denis O'Hara RIP (BO)	After 8.30 am & 10.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy 2.30 pm: SVP Afternoon
Monday 15th May Feast of St Michael Garicoits	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Thanksgiving Mass for Helen (BB)	
Tuesday 16th May Easter Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Holy Communion Service	
Wednesday 17th May Easter Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Hilary Gaffey RIP (AM)	10.00 am until 6.00 pm: Adoration
Thursday 18th May Solemnity of the Ascension	9.15 am Thanksgiving Mass for Anne (BB) 7:00 pm Holy Mass	2.00 pm: Church Tour
Friday 19th May Easter Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mr. Thomas Glossop - 90th Birthday (BB)	After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart 6:30 pm Youth Group
Saturday 20th May Easter Feria	11.00 am Eliyama Matthew	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confession
Sunday 21st May Seventh Sunday of Easter Year A Retiring Collection for Catholic Communications	8.30 am Michael Webb RIP (PW) 10.30 am Holy Mass 6.00 pm People of the Parish	After 8.30 am & 10.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy

Did you know that Church teaching says that we should not only support those in poverty but also tackle the root causes of poverty? Pope benedict XVI said that "Love, caritas, is an extraordinary force which leads people to opt for courageous and generous engagement in the field of justice and peace." For decades CAFOD has spoken out against injustice. To find out more and get involved in tackling the root causes of poverty please go to cafod.org.uk/latest_campaigns

**SACRED HEART
COMMUNITY**

Fr. George Mathew SCJ
(Parish Priest)

fr.george.mathew@
rcaob.org.uk

**In an emergency, please
contact: 07448 042484**

Fr. Brian Boyle SCJ
(Retired Priest)

Fr. Tom Kelly SCJ
(Retired Priest)

Bro. Patrick Leighton SCJ

PARISH SCHOOL

St. Joseph's Catholic
Primary School,
Droitwich

Tel: 01905 773572

Email: office@st-josephs-
droitwich.worcs.sch.uk

HEAD TEACHER

Mrs. Cath Bryan

PARISH SECRETARY

Kate Dalgleish

Tel.: 01905 773258

Email:

sacredheart.droitwich@
rcaob.org.uk

**PARISH SAFEGUARDING
REPRESENTATIVES**

Gerry Ceclich

Kate Dalgleish

Clare Tomlinson

Email:

sg.sacredheart.droitwich
@rcaob.org.uk

**Archdiocese of
Birmingham**

Safeguarding Team

Tel.: 0121 230 6240

Email: safeguarding
@rcaob.org.uk

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.00 pm:

Cry out with joy to God all the earth

PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for all our parishioners, and/or their friends and relatives, who are unwell:

Barbara Conway, Finbarr Cronin, Eileen Dalton, Frank Fawcett, Bev Griffiths, Beryl Hill, Alan Hurst, John Jennings, Sally McCool, Andrew McDermott, Jackie McLean, Michael Sheridan, Jacky Smith, Paul Smith, Margaret Steward, Breda Wightman, Mark Wightman, Richard Wightman & Msgr. Graham Wilkinson

Due to the new data regulations (GDPR), the Archdiocese have requested that we do not list names unless we have the consent of the individual. If you would like your name to be included in this list please contact

Fr. George SCJ or the Parish Office Please note that the newsletter is also placed on the parish website. Thank you for your understanding.

EMPOWERING VULNERABLE CHILDREN (EVC) UGANDA

There will be an appeal by EVC to support the education of children in the Kyansi RC Parish of central Uganda at each Mass today. This is an extremely impoverished parish in the Diocese of Masaka. The charity is engaged in providing assistance to destitute families such that their children can attend school. We are also involved in the construction of a much-needed local primary school. For more information, please visit our website on www.evcuganda.org.

A BIG THANK YOU TO KATE DALGLEISH

We take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to Kate Dalgleish for her dedicated service to the parish as Parish Secretary, we wish her and her family every blessing and best wishes for her new job.

THANK YOU & GOODBYE FROM KATE DALGLEISH

Thank you very much for the kind wishes, gifts and cards that I have received over the last few weeks and also to everyone for your support during my time at the parish. Particularly in the early days when I was getting used to the role and with some of the more unusual enquiries I have received (some from as far away as Thailand, Australia and California!). I have very much enjoyed my time at the Sacred Heart Church and I will miss you all! Kate Dalgleish

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

If you have any complete but unwanted jigsaw puzzles the prisoners at Long Lartin prison would love to have them along with the puzzle and colouring books. Donations can be left in the box at the back of church. Thank you all for your support. Contact for SVP is DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk or 0777 292 7535.

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group will be putting a full update insert into the Newsletter in the next month or so. However, in the meantime we wished to make an appeal for new volunteers to help with the group. We now have around 18 young people attending each Friday evening. It is likely we could get more. We may have to limit the numbers if we can't get more volunteers. If you can give one Friday evening a month to the Youth Group it would make a great difference to the important work of developing the Group and the future of our Church. If you are interested please speak to Fr. George. Please note that this is a role that requires a DBS check. Thank you, Parish Youth Committee.

GIFT AID - UPDATE

The new gift aid envelopes for the tax year commencing 6th April 2023 are available for collection at the back of church. Please consider donating via Gift Aid so that the church can claim the tax back from the Government on your donations. Gift Aid forms are available from the parish office, or you can select the Gift Aid option when donating via the cashless device in the Narthex. **Making a gift aid declaration will not cost you anymore than you donate.**

RETRouvaille: A PROGRAMME FOR COUPLES STRUGGLING IN THEIR MARRIAGES

Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 6 - 9 July 2023 or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 13-15 October 2023, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

SACRED HEART CHURCH: JOB VACANCY

The last date for applications for the Parish Secretary role is Friday 19th May. The Parish Secretary assists in the parish office with finance administration, maintaining parish databases, updating the parish website, answering queries and providing general support to the parish priest and parishioners as required. The normal working hours will be 12 hours a week. Any applicants should have an adequate knowledge about computing and use of information technology. There will be an interview with the applicants and the date of the interview will be announced in due course. For further information and an informal chat about the role, please contact Fr. George on 01905 773258.

SEA SUNDAY APPEAL

Sea Sunday is on 9th July this year. It is the day when we come together to pray for seafarers, fishers and their families. Stella Maris are appealing for volunteers to either speak in church on the day or to help with preparation for the appeal. All materials will be provided. Please ask the Parish Office for contact details if you are interested.

COMMUNITY MEAL

The next Community Meal is on Monday 22nd May at 12.30 pm in the Parish Hall.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy resumes today during the 10:30 am mass

YOUTH GROUP

PARISH YOUTH GROUP

The youth group runs during term time on Friday evenings from 6.30 pm for children aged 9-14 years. All young people are welcome to attend.

Registered as a Charity, Birmingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Registered Charity Number 234216.

**Main Collection:
£329.30**

Gift Aid: £310.00

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 226**

**The retiring
collection for
the Clergy Training
Fund raised an
additional £70.00
through Gift Aid
Thank you for your
generosity.**

**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 today 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**

Acts 1: 12-14;

Psalm 26;

1 Peter 4: 13-16;

John 17: 1-11

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 sisters and brothers in Jesus Christ. On this sixth Sunday of Easter, the scene from Acts of the Apostles apparently depicts the rite of Confirmation. Philip, one of the first deacons proclaims the Gospel in the Gentile's city of Samaria. The Samaritans accept the Word of God and are baptised. It remains for the Apostles to send their representatives, Peter and John, to pray and lay hands on the newly baptised that they might receive the Holy Spirit. This is the origin of our Sacrament of Confirmation, by which the grace of Baptism is completed, and believers are sealed with the Spirit promised by the Lord. What Philip did by inviting Peter (the chief Shepherd of the Apostles) was in line with the Church's teaching on Confirmation: "The ordinary minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation is the bishop. If the need arises, he may grant the faculty to priests. However, he should confer it himself, mindful that the celebration of Confirmation has been temporarily separated from baptism. For this reason, bishops are the successors of the apostles" (CCC 1313). The Samaritans needed the Holy Spirit as much as we do today because it is the Holy Spirit that strengthens and makes one a true soldier of Christ (CCC1303-4). He helps us to bear witness to the truth without fear.

As we are a couple of weeks from Pentecost, Jesus promises us the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, in today's gospel. However, He gives a condition for receiving the Advocate: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." When we do this, he adds: "I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you forever, that spirit of truth... I will not leave you, orphans." Jesus promises us that the God who made a covenant with us will not leave us alone, but He will be with us in the form of the Holy Spirit- the Advocate, to defend us in the world. This is a great reassurance of hope that, constantly having a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit, fills us with true hope. St. Paul tells us in his letter to the Romans; "the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words". This is one of the consequences of being filled with the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who inspires and motivates us to pray. Prayer helps in continuous contact with Our Lord and that helps us to recognise that no situation is hopeless! Prayer puts our hope into action.

Do we really recognise the presence of the Holy Spirit in us? The Holy Spirit fills us with hope, by making us aware of our dignity as beloved sons and daughters of God. He convinces us that we are heirs of all God has promised us, including the promise of heaven, which obviously fills us with Christian hope. Finally, the Holy Spirit makes us hopeful by allowing us to share in God's life here in this world, through the sacraments. He is active in all the sacraments and his mission is to overshadow us, like He overshadowed Mary. So that, like Mary, we may be tabernacles of God and this makes us temples of the Holy Spirit, so that we live in God and God lives in us. That is what it is to be a Christian.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ