



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](mailto:sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk)  
Web: [www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk](http://www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk)



### Today's Mass Readings

*Jeremiah 20:7-9;*  
*Psalm 62;*  
*Romans 12:1-2;*  
*Matthew 16:21-27*

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

This Week: 3rd Sep– 9th Sep (Psalter Week 2)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
<b>Sunday 3rd September</b> <b>Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A</b>	8:30 am Mary Mason RIP 10:30 am Mary Mason RIP 6:00 pm For the people of the Parish	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall
<b>Monday 4th September</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Holy Mass	
<b>Tuesday 5th September</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Annie RIP (17MM)	
<b>Wednesday 6th September</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Harry Remedios RIP (MW)	10:00 am until 6:00 pm: Adoration
<b>Thursday 7th September</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Eliyamm Matthew for speedy recovery	
<b>Friday 8th September</b> Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Fr. Alex Rebello (AR)	After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart
<b>Saturday 9th September</b> Feria	11:00 am Catenian Association (J.D)	10:15 - 10:45 am: Confession
<b>Sunday 10th September</b> <b>Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A</b> Second collection for the Catholic Education Services	8:30 am Holy Mass 10:30 am For the people of the Parish 12:00 noon Baptism 6:00 pm Holy Mass	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall

*"In this **Season of Creation**, which begins tomorrow, let us think about these heartbeats: our own, those of our mothers and grandmothers, the heartbeat of creation and of God's heart."*

**Pope Francis via Twitter 31st August 2023**

**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**

Bogusia Koniszewska-  
Fijolek

Tel.: 01905 773258

Email:

sacredheart.droitwich@  
rcaob.org.uk

**PARISH SAFEGUARDING  
REPRESENTATIVES**

Gerry Ceclich

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 For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

6.00 pm I will call on the Lord I will glorify His name; I will  
give Him thanks I will serve Him all my days. I will call on  
the Lord who is worthy of all praise: I glorify my God, my Lord.

**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, 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, Fr. Brian Boyle, Mrs. Roma.

**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.**

**RECENTLY DECEASED**

Your prayers are asked for Mary Mason who died recently. May her soul  
and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in  
peace. The Requiem Mass will be on Thursday 7th of September at 11 am  
followed by cremation at 3pm at Vale Crematorium. Please keep her family  
and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

**FR. BRIAN BOYLE SCJ**

Due to his ill health Fr. Brian has been getting more frail day by day over  
the last two years. He has reached a stage that full-time care is needed for  
him. On the advice of the medical team who look after his health, we have  
moved him to Brindley Manor Nursing Home at St. Peter's Walk,  
Droitwich. If you would like to visit him, please contact Brindley Manor  
Nursing Home. Please keep Fr. Brian in your prayers.

**SPONSORED WALK**

The Sacred Heart sponsored walk will be on Saturday 23rd September. The  
money we raise through the walk will be used for the for the formation of  
young Seminarians for the Priesthood. Your generous support would be  
greatly appreciated. If you would like to sponsor the walk please write your  
name on the clipboard at the back of church. If you would like to join  
the walk you are most welcome to join the Sacred Heart Fathers and  
Brothers. This year the walk will be in Droitwich.

## GUILD OF SAINT STEPHEN

The annual Altar Servers Mass of Thanksgiving will be offered at Saint Chad's Cathedral on Saturday, October 7th. All Servers are encouraged to attend; families are welcome to accompany them and refreshments are provided after Mass. We are asked to supply numbers likely to attend so would you advise Kevin or Father George, if you plan to be at this Mass.

### MASS O THE HILLS:10TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 1 PM.

Bishop David Evans with priests of the Kidderminster and Worcester Deanery will celebrate Mass on The Hills on 10th September at 1pm on Black Hill off Jubilee Drive. This will be followed by a bring-and-share picnic lunch. There is parking at Black Hill car park, Jubilee Drive, WR13 6DW, SO765406. The car parking can be busy on a Sunday afternoon. So please consider car sharing. The stewards at the car park to point you in the right direction. There is a £5.25 charge for parking for the day. For full details please visit <https://www.malvern hills.org.uk/visiting/parking/> Please wear sensible shoes, bring a chair or blanket to sit on, sun cream, water and a picnic to share. Be prepared for changeable weather. If you have any questions, please contact Fr Naz or the Parish Office: St Joseph's Parish, Malvern ph:01684 574250.

### FEAST OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS

This feast occurs on September 15th (a Friday, this year). On a couple of occasions over the last few years, we have marked the feast by saying the rosary of the Seven Sorrows and plan to do so again, this year. We are giving more notice than previously, in the hope that more of you might be able to join us, here in church, at 3pm on Friday, September 15th.

### CHURCH CLEANING

We have a beautiful church which is enjoyed by us all and by the increasing number of visitors. In order to keep it in good condition it does need regular cleaning. We are looking to re-establish the church cleaning group and invite any parishioners of any age, skill or level of mobility, with a little time to spare, to volunteer to join the group. Hopefully we will be able to establish a rota with the days and times of each group arranged to suit availability. Please let Fr George, or the parish office, know if you are interested/ available. Thank you.

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY—BEREAVEMENT JOURNEY

As a follow on to our Bereavement Café we are starting a Bereavement Journey course of two hours a week for seven weeks on Wednesday 11th October at the Old Library 5.30-7.30. This course will be delivered by volunteers who are there to support guests but not offer counselling and is designed for those who need a little more than the "light touch" friendship of the Café. It comprises two films per session and discussion within the group. There will be a limit of 8 participants per course. If you know of anyone who might like to sign up for the course or want any further information, please contact Gina on 0771 362 3997.

## COMMUNITY MEAL

The next Community Meal is on Monday 18th September at 12.30 pm in the Parish Hall.



### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will restart from 17th September 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.

### PARISH HALL BOOKINGS

Please contact Sally at volunteers.

sacredheart.droitwich

@rcaob.org.uk or  
07891144870

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

**Main Collection:**  
**£327.23 (cash) and**  
**£140.50 (envelopes).**

**Thank you for**  
**supporting your**  
**Parish.**

**Mass attendance**  
**last Sunday: 189**



**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 17th September 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](mailto:DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk) or on 07772 927535 or on Facebook, SVP Sacred Heart Droitwich.



**Next Sunday's Mass**  
**Readings**

*Ezekiel 33:7-9;*

*Psalms 94;*

*Romans 13:8-10;*

*Matthew 18:15-20*

*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.*

In today's Gospel we have a very peculiar interaction between Jesus and Peter. In the immediately preceding verses we read last Sunday Jesus has just declared that Peter is the rock on which he will build his Church. Now he calls him a Satan and accuses him of trying to make him trip and fall. The problem is that Peter is OK with believing that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, but he can't handle the thought of Jesus' death. But this is what Jesus came for so Peter's opposition to the cross is not helpful — indeed, his concern for Jesus' physical well-being is an obstacle and a temptation. Just like the Satan had tempted Jesus in the desert, now Peter tempts him go around God's plan instead of fulfilling it.

The cross, when embraced with love and trust that God knows what He's doing, changes us. Every one of us has to face hurdles in this life. Some of them are harder compared to other. Naturally Peter didn't want Jesus to suffer. Who could find fault with that? None of us wants any of our loved ones to suffer; who can find fault with that? But if that was God's will, if that was the price of our salvation, then to push for anything else was against God's plan. Likewise, God's plan for that loved one may be beyond our capacity to understand. The cross they have to bear may be what saves their soul. There was a man who came to faith as a result of being arrested for a crime he committed. His whole world had come crashing down and in his despair, he turned to his wife's Catholic religion for comfort. He attended RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) in his parish while his case was awaiting trial and later received him into the Church. He eventually got a 10-year sentence. One day he said, "this is the most horrible thing I've ever had to go through, but if I had not been arrested, I may never have come to faith. If this is the price of my salvation, then I guess it's worth it." That's what Jesus is telling us. The cross is the price of our salvation, Jesus' cross, of course. But also, the crosses that we have to bear.

Sometimes we ask, 'why God allows someone to suffer especially the innocent?' Is He blind and deaf? To understand the meaning of suffering we need to understand the purpose of our human lives. God created us to be with Him to share His love. "God created man in his own image...Of all visible creatures only man is "able to know and love his creator" (CCC 355-356). Therefore, unlike other creatures, human beings have an undivided bond with God. So, while on earth, to know him, to love Him and be with Him is the ultimate purpose of our lives. Once this earthly life is over, we return to God reunite with him for eternity. Hence, the momentary suffering and pain while we are still alive is insignificant compared to the beatific vision that is promised to all who love Him. Through this death and resurrection, Christ has purchased salvation for the entire humanity and our earthly life is the time to accept or reject this offer. God has given us freedom to choose; so, let us choose wisely, that our human desire for a life without pain and suffering should not be a hindrance in making the right choice. The Question is, do we accept our cross, that we embrace it, that we learn to love it, confident that this cross whatever it is, is part of God's plan of salvation for us and for others: "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me."

Fr. George Mathew SCJ