



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

Isaiah 55:6-9;

Psalms 144;

Philippians 1:20-24.27;

Matthew 20:1-16

This Week: 24th Sep– 30th Sep (Psalter Week 1)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 24th September Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A Second collection for Fr. Hudson's Society	8:30 am Baby Anna (MS) 10:30 am Catherine & Charles McGlinchey RIP (GM) 6:00 pm For the people of the Parish	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall 10.30 Children Liturgy
Monday 25th September Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Fr. Brian Boyle (AM)	
Tuesday 26th September Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Brendan McGlinchey RIP (GM)	
Wednesday 27th September Memorial of St Vincent de Paul, Priest	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am For people suffering from cancer	10:00 am until 6:00 pm: Adoration
Thursday 28th September Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Children at St. Joseph's	
Friday 29th September Fest of Ss Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael. Archangels	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Fr. Alex Rebello (AR)	After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart 6.30-8pm Youth Group
Saturday 30th September Memorial of St Jerome, Priest, Doctor of the Church	11:00 am Francis McCabe RIP (GM)	10:15 - 10:45 am: Confession 1:00 - 4:00 pm Sponsored walk
Sunday 1st October Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A	8:30 am Jane & Peter 50th Wedding Anniversary (MB) 10:30 am For the people of the Parish 6:00 pm Holy Mass	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall 10.30 Children Liturgy

"The cry of children, the women and men wounded by war rises up to God like a prayer that breaks the heart of the Father. Every war is solely a path of death by which some are led to believe that they are the victors."

Pope Francis via Twitter 21st September 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)

*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: 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 HALL BOOKINGS

Please contact Sally at
volunteers.

sacredheart.droitwich
@rcaob.org.uk or
07891144870

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am, 10.30 am The Lord is close to all who call him.

6.00 pm The promises of the Lord are true and loving are all
his deeds. I will give you glory O God my king and
praise your name forever, and praise your name for ever.

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.**

SPONSORED WALK

The Sacred Heart Sponsored walk was successful. A big thank you to all
those who contributed to the success of the Walk by sponsoring and joining
the walk and all those who offered spiritual support for the walk. The
money we raised will be send for the formation of Seminarians in two SCJ
Seminaries in India.

FR. HUDSON CARE ANNUAL PARISH COLLECTION

Today the second collection will be for Father Hudson's Care to support
their mission of supporting vulnerable people through the Archdiocese of
Birmingham. It cares for the elderly, for those with learning, physical and
sensory disabilities, for children and families and also provides fostering
and community projects. Please give generously to this worthy cause.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Change for Change is an SVP initiative that will help to boost our funds
locally and nationally. If you can donate your old and foreign currency to
help boost our funds we would appreciate your help. We can accept all
foreign coins and bank notes, any old British and Irish money even obsolete
currency. Donated money will be changed for English currency. There will
be a money box on the table at the back of church after each Sunday
mass for donations. During the week donations can be put into the SVP box
in the porch or make contact with SVP on droitwichreferrals@svp.org.uk or
0777 292 7535. Thank you for your support.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY.

This year World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday 22nd October. It is the one Sunday of the year when Mass is celebrated exclusively for Missionary activity. Donations collected at these worldwide Masses go in their entirety to support Churches, Hospitals, Schools and Vocations in countries where the church is new, young or poor. 'Missio' is the Pope's charity in England and Wales, and part of the International network of Pontifical societies, which oversees the distribution of resources equitably and justly on the basis of need. The money goes directly from the Bishops of England and Wales to the Bishops in the Mission Territories – Local churches directly helping Local churches!

If you are interested in the work of Missio there are a few copies of the Missio magazine: Mission Today – Impact report Summer 2023; and Mission Today - Autumn 2023 at the back of the Church.

JOURNEY IN FAITH

Are you looking to explore the Catholic faith? Are you wondering about your relationship with God and not sure where to start? Join us on a journey and see if the Catholic Church can help your relationship grow. This may be the right path for you. It may even help you take the next steps towards coming into the Church. The parish will be organising a Journey in Faith programme from October onwards. If you are already a Catholic and would like to learn more about your faith, or if you want to become a Catholic, now is the time to start exploring your faith. More updates about the programme to follow.

REFUGEE KNITTING

If you have any items for this collection please bring them to Church by Sunday October 8th. Thank you to everyone who has so faithfully supported this project, which given the recent disasters is more needed than ever. Please continue Knitting as there will be another shipment before Christmas.

Donations of wool will be gratefully accepted to help defray costs.

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 23rd October at 12.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be Children's Liturgy during the 10.30 am Mass today.

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 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 Gerry Ceclich and Clare Tomlinson.

They can be contacted on 01299 851188 or email: sg.sacredheartdroitwich@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:

£266.05

Gift Aid: £177

**Second collection for
Catholic**

Evangelisation raised:

£31.58

Gift Aid: £72.20

**Late collection for
Catholic Education**

Service: Gift Aid: £30

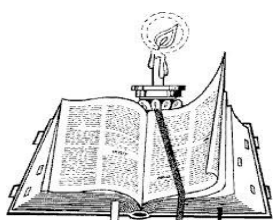
**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 236**

**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 8th October 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

Ezekiel 18:25-28;

Psalms 24;

Philippians 2:1-11;

Matthew 21:28-32

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.

How often do you hear the cry "It isn't fair?" It is, of course, a complaint we hear from people of all walks of life. Capitalism, we are told, isn't fair. In the name of fairness, socialism and communism were tried and found not fair either. The Church, we are often told, the way it treats women, the way it appoints bishops, the way it treats victims of abuse isn't fair. Life isn't fair, bad things happen to good people. The way Jesus Christ rewarded Mary and ignored Martha's complaint wasn't, according to Martha, very fair. In the Book of Genesis Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden where they could have anything they wanted. Only one thing was forbidden to them, the fruit of but one tree. Was God being unfair? "Did God really say that they should not eat from the tree of knowledge?" The battle between our will and God's will, between our ways and God's ways, has gone on ever since that original rebellion. Throughout human history God has repeatedly attempted to subdue our pride to reach us.

Today's first reading we heard God, through prophet Isaiah, once again calling us away from Satan's pride. Said he: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord". In the light of the fact that we still question God's ways and many of us still think what we consider to be fair is the ultimate standard, measuring God's fairness by our standards of fairness. But what really is "fair"? In the end, it's a good thing God is God and that He is the ultimate judge of fairness because, to be honest, we haven't done such a good job in understanding it's meaning and content. Nor have we done such a good job with what is meant by Justice.

The Gospel reading brings us a with a message that God's love, mercy and fairness are not based on merit or performance. He showers his grace freely and generously to everyone, to the good and the bad alike. From today's parable, we learn that envy and jealousy have no place in the kingdom of God. The workers who had grumbled against their colleagues were envious, that the one who came at the eleventh hour worked only an hour, yet they were paid the same as the one who worked all day. The landowner saw it from a different angle that even though they worked only an hour, yet they may have to feed the whole family with their earning. Realising that the earnings of an hour's labour will not be sufficient to feed a whole family, he equally paid a day's wage even to the one came at the eleventh hour. In that way he became a just man. Likewise, God's justice and fairness is not treating others equally but equitably. It also reminds us that it is never too late to turn to God and receive His mercy and forgiveness. It may be true that we may have wasted many years pursuing our own interests by living in sin. But God's grace is not limited by our past shortcomings. He is always ready to welcome us back into His loving embrace. "Are you envious because I am generous?" asked the landowner. Speaking on this, St Augustine says, 'Envy is diabolic sin'. Then he adds, 'From envy are born hatred, detraction, calumny' etc. As true children of God, we should not harbour such feelings in our hearts because they are against the love and the generosity of God. Dear friends, a very important message that we can take home today is that we should learn to rejoice when God blesses the people around us. Would you like to see God glorified by you? Then rejoice in your brother's and sister's progress, and you will immediately give glory to God. 'Because by rejoicing in the merits of others, God will be praised', said St John Chrysostom. May God bless you.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ