



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



**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 25:6-10;*  
*Psalms 22;*  
*Philippians*  
*4:12-14.19-20;*  
*Matthew 21:1-14*

This Week: 15th Oct– 22nd Oct (Psalter Week 4)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
<b>Sunday 15th October</b> Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A Second collection for SVP	8:30 am Jean Grieviers (LD) 10:30 am Peggy & Michael Cronin RIP (GF) 6:00 pm For the people of the Parish	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall 10.30 Children Liturgy
<b>Monday 16th October</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Jean (BB)	
<b>Tuesday 17th October</b> Memorial of St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop, Martyr	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am For peace in the Middle East	
<b>Wednesday 18th October</b> Feast of St Luke, Evangelist	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Christopher Larkin (KL)	10.00am until 6.00pm Adoration
<b>Thursday 19th October</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Zdzislaw Koniszewski RIP (BK-F)	
<b>Friday 20th October</b> Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Fr. Alex Rebello (AR)	After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart 6.30-8pm Youth Group
<b>Saturday 21st October</b> Feria	11:00 am For the sick and suffering	10:15 - 10:45 am: Confession 11:00 am Anointing Mass
<b>Sunday 22nd October</b> Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A Second collection for World Mission Day	8:30 am For the people of the Parish 10:30 am Alan Remedios RIP (KA) 6:00 pm Maggie Sunderland RIP (JL)	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall 10.30 Children Liturgy

*“ To feel sorry for means to suffer with victims of the world’s inhumanity, & to feel sorry for those who commit errors & injustices, not justifying, but humanizing, through forgiveness always open to another chance, to open up paths of hope & allow for change. “*

**Pope Francis via Twitter 11th October 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

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and  
ever.

6.00 pm

His goodness shall follow me all the days of my life.  
I will walk in God's kingdom forever.

## 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.**

## CHRISTMAS FAIR

Parish Fair is the time we all can come together as a Parish Family apart  
from liturgical services to meet and greet our fellow parishioners twice a  
year. Also, though small, yet it is one way of raising some additional fund  
for the parish to cope with the massive increase of gas and electricity bill in  
this winter. The Christmas Fair this year will be on Saturday 16th December  
from 12noon till 3pm. To add colour to its social aspect, we have Christmas  
Raffle. If you would like to sponsor a raffle prize, please give your name to  
Terry Poulten as soon as possible or write your name on the clipboard in  
the narthex. Please keep this day in your diary.

## 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. 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.

**The first Session of Journey in Faith will start on Thursday the 9th of  
November at 7pm in the Parish Hall.**

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the latest Parish Council Meeting on 19th September are  
available at the back of church on the notice board. If you would like a copy  
of these minutes, please contact Jenny Leonard on  
jennyleonard4@aol.com

## WORLD MISSION SUNDAY.

Next Sunday is World Mission Sunday., when the Holy Father invites all Catholics to contribute to a special collection for Missio, his charity for world mission. Please support mission in helping missionaries to work along side communities throughout the world that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. Join in on this special day, that unites Catholics all over the world in prayer and celebration of our Church's mission to share God's love with all people. Please call 02078219755 (office hours) or visit Missio's website to give a single gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift aid your donation if possible: mission.org.uk

## THE REDDITCH CARMELITE SPIRITUALITY GROUP

The Redditch Carmelite Spirituality Group is holding its October meeting on Saturday 21st October, 11am to 2pm at the Bridge Centre, Evesham Road, Headless Cross, Redditch B97 4JX. We'll be looking at the life of St Teresa of Avila, through reading a chapter of the book 'To Live is Pray'. In this book the author (Elizabeth Ruth Obbard) imagines St Teresa's own words about her life. New members and enquirers are very welcome. For more information or to be included in future mailing about forthcoming meetings and our 2024 programme, contact please contact Dr Susan Porter (group convener), email ingeva@btinternet.com or phone 07789741900.

## REFUGEE KNITTING

Thank you for the two exquisite, large Crochet blankets and the baby knitting left this week. They alongside the previous items will be dispatched to the camps during the week.

The next collection at church will take place in November, so please continue knitting and crocheting with this in mind. As ever please retain the items at home until requested because of storage problems.

Donations of wool will be gratefully accepted to help defray costs and can be placed in the cupboard at the church entrance. Once again thank you so much for your continual support, which is so appreciated both by the organisers and recipients.

## CHURCH CLEANING

As you are all aware that we have beautiful church which is a gem in the town and in the country people of all faith and no faith admire its atmosphere of prayer and beauty. To preserve this richness of our church, we invite any parishioners of any age, skill, or level of mobility, with a little time to spare, to volunteer to join the Church cleaning group. Thanks to all those who came on last Thursday to clean the church. We need a few more hands. Would you like to help? That will be greatly appreciated. Next cleaning day is on Thursday the 26th of October soon after morning Mass

## JOB VACANCY

Father Hudson's Care is a Catholic charity serving the needs of vulnerable people, without discrimination, within the large Archdiocese of Birmingham. It is motivated by Gospel values and Catholic Social Teaching and takes Christ's command to "Love one another" as its inspiration. We are seeking a new CEO to play a full part in shaping and delivering future developments for the charity. For more information visit fatherhudsons.org.uk/vacancies

**Closing date: 12pm Friday 27th October 2023. Interview date: Tuesday 28th November 2023**

## 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:**  
**£254.94**

**Gift Aid: £147.50**

**Second collection for  
CAFOD: £162.50**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

**Mass attendance  
last Sunday: 287**

**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 12th November 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**

*Isaiah 45:1.4-6;*

*Psalms 95;*

*1 Thessalonians 1:1-5;*

*Matthew 22:15-21*

*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.*

The Banquet is prepared. The Hall is ready. The food is on the table. The King has issued the invitations for his son's wedding feast. You have received one. Your name and RSVP are written on it. He is waiting for your reply. Come!. Are you surprised by the response of the invitees? They had initially accepted the invitation to join the feast, and now when it happened, they seek to excuse themselves for a variety of personal reasons. Remember, the invitation came from the King. How could they refuse him and continue to enjoy his favour/protection? What kind of guests are we? The parable depicts three kinds of guests. (1) Guests who initially accepted the invitation, but when the time came to honour the invitation, they were preoccupied with other things. (2) Without wedding garment: They came for the feast but do not take the trouble to prepare sufficiently for it, as the occasion deserves. (3) Then there are the guests with the wedding garment who make the necessary preparation to present themselves as worthy for the banquet of the King. Neither the absentee guests nor the one who came without wedding garments were sinners. They all were addressing the genuine concerns and realities of their daily life. But big question is that, were all those daily concerns of life a sufficient reason to decline the invitations or going unprepared? I would say no. Because it is the King who is inviting us to the feast, so there is nothing that should concern us more than His Feast. Remember, all in the town were not invited but only the few, and I am one among those few. So how can I miss the chance!

The feast we are called to share is the eternal banquet that awaits us all in heaven. Therefore, but we must remember that it begins here on earth. Heaven does not begin when we die; it begins the moment we open our lives to God and decide to follow him in our daily life. The Bridegroom will feed us now (The Eucharist – his Body and Blood; The Scriptures – his Word) so long as we approach him wearing the right heart and mind, dressed in the right attitude and openness, and clothed with a sincere desire to be spiritually fed. The Bridegroom longs to have us share in his banquet but to be admitted to the Hall and to receive the foretaste it is necessary that we respond now to his invitation and be of the right disposition (the wedding garment) to receive what he wants to give. We must not presume we will be admitted otherwise. We must not put it off to later. Later may be too late. As disciples of Christ are we willing to honour God's invitation to put our faith into action and take the necessary risks to live an exemplary life?

Of course, God respects our freedom. Instead of forcing us to do His will, He lovingly invites us. He showers His gifts upon us, and yet when the time comes to show our gratitude, we so often prefer to honour the gifts rather than the giver. If the invited guests in the parable had truly respected their king, they would have adjusted their plans for his sake, putting aside their personal preferences for a little while to show their gratitude to him. This week, God invites each of us to change our plans for the sake of his Kingdom. It may be a small task or a big task. Let us be generous in accepting God's invitation. Do I have any excuses at this moment in my life for turning down His invitation? Let's think about it seriously.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ