



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

Readings
Exodus 22:20-26;
Psalm 17;
1 Thessalonians 1:5-10;
Matthew 22:34-40

This Week: 29th Oct– 3rd Nov (Psalter Week 2)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 29th October Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A	8:30 am Dodd Family (LD) 10:30 am Deceased Members of both sides of the family (M&BW) 6:00 pm Raju Kannanthara RIP	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall 2:00 pm Indian Mass
Monday 30th October Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Emma J for speedy recovery (GS)	
Tuesday 31st October Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Elizabeth & Kevin Larkin :25th Wedding Anniversary (EL)	
Wednesday 1st November Solemnity of all Saints	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Deceased Members of the Leason Family (MB) 7.00 pm Holy Mass	10.00am until 6.00pm Adoration
Thursday 2nd November The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Rob Taylor RIP (GH)	All Soul's Day After Morning Mass: Blessing of the Graves
Friday 3rd November Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Fr. Alex Rebello (AR)	After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart
Saturday 4th November Memorial of St Charles Borromeo, Bishop	11:00 am Deceased Members of the Van der Heijden Family (MB)	10:15 - 10:45 am: Confession
Sunday 5th November Thirtieth-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A Second collection for the Johnson Association	8:30 am Anthony Bailey RIP(MM) 10:30 am Anthony Ringer & all the deceased family members & friend (PR) 6:00 pm Holy Mass	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall

"We must not become accustomed to war, to any war. We must not allow our hearts and minds to be anaesthetized at the repetition of these extremely serious horrors against God and humankind."

Pope Francis via Twitter 23rd 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)

Bro. Patrick Leighton SCJ

*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 I love you, Lord, my strength.

6.00 pm Lord I love you, you are my strength, you are my
shelter my God and my king. You keep me from harm in the
shadow of your wing. Lord I love you and that is why I sing.

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 Bob O'Sullivan who died recently. The Requiem
Mass will be on Monday the 13th of November at 11am followed by burial
at Hampton Lovett Churchyard. May his soul and the souls of all faithful
departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Please keep his family
and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

NOVEMBER: MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

In November we remember and pray especially for those who have died. At
the back of the church there are "In Remembrance" sheets. If you would
like to remember in this special way loved ones who have died, write down
their names, place the sheet in one of the envelopes provided and put it in
the Holy Souls Box (**do not put any money in the envelope**). The Holy Souls
Box will be placed near the altar at each Mass in November. It is a good
time to offer the sacrifice of Mass for a loved one in November and also
someone you know who is in need or close to you. There are Mass
Intention Request envelopes available in the Narthex if you wish to have
Mass offered for deceased relatives and friends.

BLESSING OF THE GRAVES

The Blessing of the Graves will be held on Thursday 2nd November-All
Souls Day after the morning Mass. During the blessing, if you wish to stand
by the grave of your family member, please do so; the priest will be
stopping to say a prayer. If you wish, you may arrange some flowers at the
grave on the previous day.

THANK YOU EVENING

To thank all the band of Parish Volunteers who involve in different areas of
parish life, this year the Thankyou Evening will be on Friday the 24th of
November. The Evening will start with Holy Mass at 6pm flowered by meal
and entertainments in the parish hall. Please keep this day in your diary.

THANK YOU FOR CELEBRATING WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Thank you for your prayers and donations to World Mission Sunday. Your support will help Missionaries in their work alongside communities who are poor and in need regardless of their background or faith. If you would like to contribute to their work throughout the year why not consider taking a "Red Box" home with you and join those Parishioners who are already "Red Box" holders? A "Red Box" enables you to donate your small change if ever you have some spare! Once the box is full it can be brought back to the Church to be emptied, counted and the monies sent off to Missio. If you interested in donating in this way then please leave your name with Fr. George. If you are already a "Red Box" holder and would like it emptied then please bring it to the Church and leave it in the Sacristy, from where it will be collected and counted. Can you ensure that your name is clearly written on the label / box, thank you, a new empty box will be left at the back of the Church for you to collect! If you are interested in contributing larger sums on a more regular basis would you consider setting up a Direct Debit? – If so please go to: missio.org.uk or call 020 7821 9755 The total money we raised for the World Mission Sunday is £228.89

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Thank you to everyone for your financial donations following our annual appeal. Your continued support for the work that your Droitwich SVP do is much appreciated. Without the financial support of the parish we would struggle to function. If you would like to make a regular monthly or quarterly donation via a standing order please contact us so that we can help you set this up. The regular donations help ensure that we have funds readily available to help those in need. A big thank you to those who donate in this way. We can be contacted on droitwichreferrals@svp.org.uk or 0777 292 7535.

THE WORCESTER CIRCLE OF THE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION

The Worcester Circle of the Newman Association is restarting for 2023 -2024 and the next meeting is: "Yoga, Zen, & Christian Faith" Rev Ian Spencer Thursday 23rd November 2023. Everyone is welcome. All meetings are at St. George's RC Church Hall, Worcester, and start at 7.30 pm.

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.**

SAVE THE DATE

Friday 24th November
Thankyou Evening
16th December
Christmas Fair

COMMUNITY MEAL

Monday 11th
December at 12.30
pm in the Parish Hall.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

After the Half term the
Children's liturgy will
resume on Sunday
12th November.

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
Gerry Ceclich, Clare
Tomlinson and Carla
Tucker. 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:
£225.26**

Gift Aid: £197

**Second collection for
Missio: £228.89**

**Late collection for
CAFOD: £2.00**

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 211**

**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 or on 07772 927535 or on Facebook, SVP Sacred Heart Droitwich.



**Next Sunday's Mass
Readings**

Malachi 1:14-2:2.8-10;

Psalms 130;

*1 Thessalonians
2:7-9.13;*

Matthew 23:1-12

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 Jesus sums up all the commandments into two: Love of God, and love of neighbours as oneself. Love is the virtue. Love is the key, the answer to all our problems and questions. People who are unbalanced in this virtue can be seen as an imbalance person in the society. A story is told of such a person who appeared to be very religious externally but was a tyrant to his family and employees; intolerant of anyone and anything if something goes wrong. Yet he claimed himself a good Christian. Jesus tells us quite clearly that there are two great commandments. The first being to love God totally with all our being. The second resembles it: to love our neighbour as ourselves. Both are necessary to please God. The man in the story felt he loved God, even though he neglected to love his neighbour (his family and employees). On the other hand, a young woman, raised as a Catholic decided that she no longer need to practice her faith and go to Church, since she believes that in loving and serving her neighbour, she is automatically loving God. Prayers and Mass, celebrating the sacraments, vital expressions of our love of God now have little importance for her. Both have got it wrong, or neither have it completely right.

Some people emphasize the love of God in such a way that makes the relationship with one's neighbour secondary. Others prefer to give great importance to serving the neighbour without feeling the need to have a personal relationship with God. Interestingly Jesus does not give us a choice. He says that loving God is the first and greatest commandment. It is from that relationship with God that the second gets its meaning and importance. The two loves are not meant to be conflicting. It is not a question of either one or the other but 'both'. The danger here is that some think that they really know what is right and wrong. But in fact, they don't. The reason Jesus emphasizes our need to love God and so be rooted in His Love through prayer and practice of faith that they are the vital means of enabling us to love the neighbour. In Christianity we cannot be Do It Yourself people, i.e. DIYs. We need God's sanctifying power, that is, the Holy Spirit. We need to be nourished at the Eucharist and by the Word of God to have the capacity, the ability to love our neighbour as Jesus loved. Basically, our neighbour according to Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan is anyone who is in need. This demands a concrete response.

If we give a visual imagery to these two commandments of love, the best image will be a 'Cross'. It is our call to balance the vertical dimension of our relationship with God in prayer and spiritual sacrifices with the horizontal dimension of our relationship with others in mutual and loving service. So, if we take away the vertical dimension or detach either beam, you'll obtain neither love of God nor love of neighbour, there is no sign of the cross and we are not true Christian. To love God above all sounds great but are we aware how often we violate the first important commandment? Too often, things come first in our life when we say, 'family first,' or 'earning enough money first,' or 'work first.' This is fine and good but where does God come in? I'm sure not in the first place but in the last for many! Every Sunday we gather in our church to pray and worship God. During the offertory, we offer our money in the collection basket, but we offer too, our pains, our hurts, our sacrifices, the struggles of the past week and so on. In other words, a true Christian is not only prayerful, but must also be helpful and sharer of the gospel. True prayer must bear fruit in real life, and real life must in turn lead to deeper prayer.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ