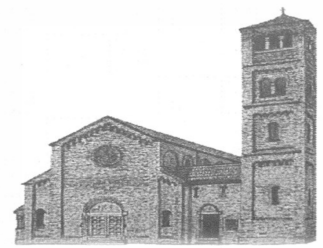




Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

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

Readings

2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16;

Psalm 88;

Romans 16:25-27;

Luke 1:26-38

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

This Week: 24th Dec-30th Dec (Psalter Week 4)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 24th December Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B Christmas Masses	9.30am Michael Sheridan & Margaret Harging (MM) 5.00pm First Mass of Christmas, Fergus O'Toole RIP (CH) 7.30pm Christmas Carols 8.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass	After 9.30 Mass coffee & tea 
Monday 25th December Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord	9.30 am Christmas Mass during the Day	
Tuesday 26h December Feast of St Stephen, the first Martyr	10.00am Cynthia Sharkey (C&PI)	
Wednesday 27th December Feast of St John, Apostle, Evangelist	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Kay McCarthy RIP (SM)	
Thursday 28th December Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 Ron Hancock for the speedy recovery (AM)	
Friday 29th December Feast of St Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Fr. Brian Boyle (AM)	After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart.
Saturday 30th December Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas	11:00 am Harry Remedios RIP(KA)	10:15 - 10:45 am: Confession
Sunday 31st December Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Year B	8.30am Holy Mass 10.30am Christian Lowe (SM) 6.00pm People of the Parish	

“ The liturgical Season of Advent invites us to encounter the Lord who comes through our prayer, penance, and works of charity. Let us prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus with diligent listening to the Word of God and a generous response to His Grace.”

Pope Francis via Twitter 21st December 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

9.30 am, 5.00pm, 8.00 pm I will sing for ever of your love, O 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, Beryl Hill, Alan Hurst, John Jennings, 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.

Fr. George SCJ, Fr. Brian SCJ, Fr. Tom SCJ and Bro. Patrick SCJ wish everyone in our parish community a blessed and peaceful Christmas. May the blessings of Christmas embrace you and your family. Sincere thanks for your prayers, cards, gifts, support and help during 2023.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Thank you to all those who supported the Christmas Fair, either by making cakes, advertising the event, helping set up the stalls, being a stall holder, selling raffle tickets, providing refreshments, clearing up afterwards, donating items, attending on the day and supporting the event. The total money raised for the parish was £2028.10. The list of winners of raffle prizes is at the back of the Church. Please have a look to see if you have won a prize. The Raffle prizes can be collected from the Romero Room after each Mass.

ST STEPHEN'S DAY

On 26th December at 10am we celebrate the Feast of St. Stephen the first martyr and the patron saint of Altar Servers. Could all the altar servers come along to celebrate the day. On this day two of our servers will be awarded with the St. Stephen's Guild medals. We are looking for recruiting new altar servers. If any children or adults who received First Holy Communion would like to be an Altar Server and join the Guild of St. Stephen, please give your name to Fr. George or Kevin Larkin.

WEDNSDAY ADORATION

There will be no adoration on Wednesday 27th December. Adoration will resume on Wednesday 3rd January.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING.

The Christmas offertory collection will be for the Parish Clergy.

CRIB OFFERINGS

Our parish will be donating crib offerings to Friends of the Holy Land. Every penny will help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel.

FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND– URGENT DONATION NEEDED

As violence rages in the Holy Land, the situation for our Christian family there has gone from very difficult to critical. Caught in the middle of terrible conflict after a year of pressure, many more families from places like Bethlehem, East Jerusalem and Ramallah are thinking seriously about emigrating. We face the possibility of the last members of the ancient Christian community leaving the homeland of our faith forever. Your support can make all the difference. Thanks to your donations so far, we have been able to send practical life-saving supplies to around 1,100 people sheltering in the Gaza church compounds – including children and people who are injured and ill. Now is the time to light a candle for our brothers and sisters. The Holy Land's Christians have been a light, both spiritually and practically, in the region for thousands of years. They follow Jesus where he walked and love their neighbours by providing the vast majority of hospitals, quality schools, universities and social care in the Palestinian territories. We can't let that light go out in our generation. With our office in Bethlehem, we are well-placed to use your donations to respond very quickly to families' urgent needs in the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem and Israel. With emigration looking more and more like Christians' only option, this is the time to help and invest in this vital community's future. Our brothers and sisters will weather this storm comforted by our practical help. Light your candle for them with a gift and a prayer today - thank you. For more information or to donate please visit <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/Appeal/christmas>

RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF CREATION

12 DAYS OF A CLIMATE CONSCIOUS CHRISTMAS

December's Responding to the Call of Creation newsletter looks at the 12 Days of Christmas with a sustainable twist. Please have a look at the back of the Church.

JOURNEY IN FAITH– 3RD JANUARY AT 7PM

On this day we will be discussing the topic: Faith and Science.

THANKS GIVING PRAYER

Sunday the 31st of December is the last day of the year. To express our gratitude to God for all the blessings He showered upon us in 2023, we have short prayer service at the end at 6pm Holy Mass.

SAVE THE DATE

Family Quiz, Saturday January 20th 2024 , 7pm, in the Parish Hall, hosted by SVP. This is a FREE event with questions for all ages, spot prizes and a raffle.

MARY'S MEALS

From now until 22nd January 2024 every donation made to the Mary's Meals Double The Love appeal will be matched, up to £1 million. For more information or to donate please visit <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/>

COMMUNITY MEAL

Monday 22nd January
at 12.30 pm in the
Parish Hall.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will
restart from 14th
January during the
10:30 am mass

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:

£325.95

Gift Aid: £204.01

**Second collection for
Christmas flower raised
£174.45**

**Late donation for
Poor Parishes raised an
additional £11
(envelopes).**

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 284**

**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 14th January 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**

Genesis 15;1-6; 21:1-3;

Psalms 104;

Hebrews

11:8.11-12.17-19;

Luke 2:22-40

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.

Today we celebrate Fourth Sunday of Advent. This evening we will join to celebrate the coming of the Light of God into the world. On Christmas we celebrate the coming of Jesus in the world. Maybe more than any other time of the year, we feel God's closeness to us for it seems to be easier to open our hearts to Him. And so, today's gospel presents Mary and her initiation to the first Christmas. Seeing her faith during the annunciation, this helps us to prepare properly for Christmas. Our Gospel today takes us to the home of the teenager, Mary in Nazareth. Gabriel, the messenger from God, asks her a favour-even in her fear, she is willing to take a risk.

A simple "YES" from a young Jewish peasant girl changed our history. Our "YES" can make a real difference today and change your history or the life of another; our generous response can change lives for the better. Our faith and trust can be one of the best Christmas gifts we give to today: let us tell our family and friends how much they mean to us! Our "YES" to Christmas 2023 will impact others in ways that you will probably never be aware of-so, thank you! The Good News in today's Scripture message is not only that God is making provision for the His people, but also that He has a plan for each individual person. Just as God called Mary, we too are called to move forward with unconditional love and guidance. In many cases, our work for God seems rather ordinary, but each ordinary task which we carry out fits into God's plan in ways that we perhaps cannot fully understand. God desires not the skill of our hands and talents alone, but the love of our hearts. The Babe in the Manger reminds us of what God has done and is still doing for us. What are we doing in return? Let us show our gratitude to God by living as true followers of Christ.

It is Mary's faith that makes the incarnation possible. And it is our faith that makes the incarnation possible in our own world. We can bring the Child to the world in our daily and simple interaction with others; Incarnation brings new meaning to our families, to grow with us, to be with us. And it is through the goodness of our own faith, one with him, that the love of God is to be radiated out into the whole world. The faith of that Holy Family shows that we are invited to be fully involved: our faith is something that we live fully, not just for a couple of hours on a Sunday. We are called to share the compassion of Jesus with those we meet today. Even though it is going to be different this year, friends and family will still need help-washing up support in the kitchen will be very much appreciated. As Pope Francis reminds us Mary can help us deepen our faith and share it with others. God bless us.



Fr. George Mathew SCJ