



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

208 Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa,
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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

Readings

1 Samuel 3:3-10.19;

Psalm 39;

1 Corinthians 6:13-15.17-20;

John 1:35-42

This Week: 14th Jan-21st Jan 2024 (Psalter Week 2)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 14th January Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B Second Collection for Construction of a Church in India	8.30am Chris Dennis RIP (MD) 10.30am Doreen & Peter Doran RIP (BB) 6.00pm People of the Parish	After 8.30am Mass : Tea & Coffee in the Hall During 10.30am Mass: Children's Liturgy 2.30-4.30pm SVP Afternoon
Monday 15th January Feria	8.55am Morning Prayer 9.15am Toney & Jean Leo RIP (BB)	
Tuesday 16th January Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Kevin Smith RIP (C&PI)	
Wednesday 17th January Memorial of St Anthony, Abbot	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Dn. Stephen SCJ	10.00am until 6.00pm Adoration 7.00pm Journey in Faith
Thursday 18th January Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am People with Dementia	After Mass-church cleaning.
Friday 19th January Feast of St Wulstan, Bishop	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Robert Tuner (C&PI)	After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart. 6.30pm Youth Group
Saturday 20th January Feria	11:00 am Alan Remedios RIP(KA)	10:15 - 10:45 am: Confession 11.00am Anointing Mass 7.00pm SVP Quiz Night
Sunday 21st January Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B Second Collection for Pax Christi	8.30am Dn. Povithro SCJ 10.30am Patricia Fahy RIP 6.00pm People of the Parish	After 8.30am Mass : Tea & Coffee in the Hall During 10.30am Mass: Children's Liturgy

*"One word in particular resounds in the two principal Christian feasts. That word is "peace".
Peace is primarily a gift of God, but is also a responsibility incumbent upon all of us."*

Pope Francis via Twitter 8th January 2024

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

8.30am & 10.30am and 6.00pm

Here I am, Lord!

I come to do your will.

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.

TALK ON ROLE OF LAITY IN THE CHURCH

Newman Association (Worcester Circle) organising a talk which will be devoted to the role of laity in the Church. Our guest speakers will be Archbishop Bernard Longley of RC Archdiocese of Birmingham and Bishop John Inge of Worcester Diocese. To book your place please follow this link <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/discipleship-and-mission-of-laity-in-church-today-tickets-784551413397?aff=oddtcreator>

The event will take place on Friday the 19th of January 2024 19:30 - 21:00 at St. George's Catholic Church in Worcester 1 Sansome Place, Worcester WR1 1UG.

YOU SUPPORT NEEDED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A CHURCH IN INDIA

As Christ's message is being spread far and wide in India, the Christianity is growing more than ever before amidst of many challenges. As Christians increases so the needs of the church too. We are asked to extend our helping hands to complete the construction of a new church in the southern state of Kerala-India. Therefore, today there will be a second collection in support of the appeal.

LIVE STREAMING WEB ADDRESS HAS BEEN UPDATED

To access MCN Media, please go to www.mcn.live on your web browser. To watch Mass on our Parish website there will be no change everything remains the same.

JOURNEY IN FAITH– 17TH JANUARY AT 7PM

On this day we will be discussing the topic: Word of God: The Bible

CATHOLIC HERALD MAGAZINE

Catholic Herald Magazine has resumed its monthly subscription. If you would like to purchase a copy, these are available at the back of the Church at a cost £5.

GIF AID

If you are a taxpayer please consider signing a Gift Aid Form (blanks are at the back of the Church). The Church can receive the tax back on your donation. This is a very important part of the funding of the Parish.

CAFOD

The Church relies on people getting involved. Our parish, our community, our world needs you. Could your New Year's resolution be getting more involved in the life of our church? Which aspects of church brings you life or joy? Could you give a bit of time to help those parts flourish?

CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking for people to give some time and join them in their mission. Could you help in our parish, inspiring our church to help build a better world or by visiting our local schools? Or raise a voice and campaign for justice or perhaps speak for CAFOD throughout the area? Could you support local volunteers or share your admin or people skills to help CAFOD keep costs low? Training and support is provided. See cafod.org.uk/Volunteer for more information or get in touch with Sylvester at birmingham@cafod.org.uk Or could you take part in The Big Lent Walk? cafod.org.uk/walk

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2024

If your child is in Year 3 or above and doesn't go to a Catholic school and you wish for your child to be prepared to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion this summer, please would you contact Fr. George SCJ or the Parish Office by Sunday 25th February. Holy Communion sessions will begin in middle of March on Saturdays at 9.30 am in the Parish Hall. More details will be given in due time. This year the First Holy Communion Mass will be on Saturday 15th June at 11.00 am

ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM DIRECTORY 2024

If you would like to purchase a copy of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Directory 2024, these are available at a cost £4.35. Please speak to Fr. George or contact the Parish Office if you would like one.

200 CLUB

We are being asked why 200Club prize winners' names no longer appear in the newsletter. Are ticket holders happy for their names to be made known, in the event of their winning in the monthly draw? Such publicity keeps the 200 Club in parishioners' minds at a time when we are in need of new subscribers.

Unless the promoters hear to the contrary, it will be taken that you have no objection to your name and good fortune being announced to the world and, from February, names of winners will once again feature in the parish bulletin.

SAVE THE DATE

St Vincent de Paul Society are hosting a quiz night on 20th January 2024 in the parish hall starting at 7 pm. The event is free of charge and we will be running a raffle in aid of SVP funds. Bring your own refreshments and drinks, teams of no more than 6 people but we can team you up with others on the night if necessary. Questions for all ages and prize for the winning team. Come and enjoy the fun and bring your family and friends.

COMMUNITY MEAL

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

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be
Children's Liturgy
during 10.30 am
mass on 14th, 21st,
28th January and 4th
February.

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:
£286.23
Gift Aid: £236

Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.

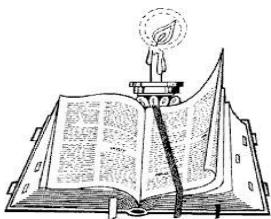
Mass attendance
last Sunday: 268



**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**

Jonah 3:1-5.10;
Psalms 24;
1 Corinthians
7:29-31;
Mark 1:14-20

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.

On this second Sunday of ordinary time, we hear the voice of God louder as always, inviting us to be his disciples. Today, the Holy Mother Church, reminds us that God's call is real and that, God knows and calls us personally by our names. Thus, she encourages us to respond effectively to this call with our body, soul and spirit. Our first reading from the first book of Samuel describes the dramatic call of Samuel. In fact, it reminds us of our own call. Many times, I have been asked, how does God speak to one? How can I respond to God's call? These are very genuine questions which reflect our puzzlements as we see in the young Samuel today. We live in a very noisy world, yet we can still hear God speaking to us. That is, if only we can discipline ourselves against both spiritual and worldly noise. Life is full of God's voice. As a father, He speaks to us through various people, events and circumstances of everyday life. Like Samuel, we must always be ready to say: "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." However, the only problem is that most times, we cannot hear him, especially the time we let ourselves engulfed in the noises of the world. So, we need to be always disposed to listen to God. The question is, when was the last time we spent up to ten minutes in silence in His presence? We cannot hear Him if we are the one doing all the talking all the time. To listen to Him speaking to us we need to discipline our mind and body.

This is what St. Paul speaking to us in the second reading. This reading can be called as "Paul's moral theology." This is because it touches a very important moral issue that has almost defiled solutions in our modern society. In fact, it keeps developing more tentacles as the day passes by. St. Paul simply narrowed down the to sin of the flesh. Of what relevance is this to responding to God's call? This vice is a sin against our body as well as against the Spirit of God who lives in us. Hence, Paul reminds us: "Your bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you since you received him from God." Sin of the flesh slows down one's spiritual and moral growth. Consequently, it slows down the ability to respond effectively to God's call. Through this, Paul draws our attention to the relationship between morality and spirituality. The spiritual is affected by the physical. When both our spiritual and physical life affected negatively our whole self loses its right balance. Also, Paul reminds us that we completely belong to God. Preserving ourselves for God, is a very important way of responding to his call. It a way of offering ourselves totally to God as, "a living and pure sacrifice" (Rom 12: 1).

In the Gospel we see after hearing the testimony of John, the first disciples had sufficient reason to follow Jesus. The experience of staying with Jesus had changed their life. As they experienced Jesus, they introduced many people to Jesus. Through history, people have come to Jesus for various reasons. People still come to Jesus for varying reasons. Indeed, a true and honest encounter with God can be life changing. An encounter with God turned the little boy, Samuel into one of Israel's greatest prophets. An encounter with God turned a fisherman into a rock on which the Church has stood for over 2000 years. An encounter with God turned a zealous Pharisee named Saul into the assiduous apostle and preacher, Paul. We too have been invited to come and see, to come and have an encounter with God as we hear the priest repeat the same words of John the Baptist at mass each day "Behold the Lamb". Let us continue to ask the Lord to give us the grace to listen to Him so that we can experience him.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ