



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

208 Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa,  
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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

*Deuteronomy 18:15-20;*

*Psalm 94;*

*1 Corinthians*

*7:32-35;*

*Mark 1:21-28*

| This Week: 28th Jan-4th Feb 2024<br>(Psalter Week 4)  | Holy Mass & Services   | Other Events   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Sunday 28th January</b><br>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time,<br>Year B<br>Second Collection for Racial Justice | 8.30am Rose Brooks RIP(PW)<br>10.30am Special Intention (C&PI)<br>6.00pm Margaret Alan RIP & Family<br>(J&GP)    | After 8.30am Mass : Tea& Coffee<br>in the Hall<br>During 10.30am Mass: Children's<br>Liturgy |
| <b>Monday 29th January</b><br>Feria   | 8.55am Morning Prayer<br><b>9.15am Communion Service</b>   |  |
| <b>Tuesday 30th January</b><br>Feria  | 8:55 am Morning Prayer<br><b>9:15 am Communion Service</b>   |  |
| <b>Wednesday 31st January</b><br>Memorial of St John Bosco, Priest  | 8:55 am Morning Prayer<br><b>9:15 am Communion Service</b>   | 10.00am until 6.00pm Adoration<br>7.00pm Journey in Faith                                    |
| <b>Thursday 1st February</b><br>Feria   | 8:55 am Morning Prayer<br><b>9:15 am Communion Service</b>   | After Communion Service-Church<br>cleaning   |
| <b>Friday 2nd February</b><br>Feast of the Presentation of the Lord   | 8.55 am Morning Prayer<br><b>9.15am Catherine Kelly RIP (P&amp;CI)</b>   | After Mass: Novena to the Sacred<br>Heart.<br>6.30pm Youth Group                             |
| <b>Saturday 3rd February</b><br>Feria   | 11:00 am Alan Remedios RIP(AK)   | Confession- After Mass   |
| <b>Sunday 4th February</b><br>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time,<br>Year B  | 8.30am Lucy- Special Birthday (MB)<br>10.30am Tony Sawyer RIP (CT)<br>6.00pm Margaret Alan RIP & Family<br>(SVP) | After 8.30am Mass : Tea& Coffee<br>in the Hall<br>During 10.30am Mass: Children's<br>Liturgy |

*"The Journey toward Christian Unity, which we are on, respects diversity. The Holy Spirit never imprisons us in uniformity, but instead prepares us to embrace each other in our differences."*

**Pope Francis via Twitter 23rd 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 & 6.00pm

**O that today you would listen to his voice!**

**Harden not your hearts.**

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### 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.**

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### RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Tony Sawyer (Father of Clare Tomlinson) who died recently. Please also pray for his family at this sad time.

### FR. GEORGE ON HOLIDAY

Fr. George will be away for his holiday and visiting his parents from 22nd January till 12th February. While Fr. George is away priests from the deanery and from Olton Friary will supply for the weekend masses. Monday to Thursday there will not be Mass but communion service will be available at 9.15 am. Wednesday adorations will continue as usual after communion service and on Fridays Mass will be at 12noon followed by Novena to the Sacred Heart. Saturday priest will be available to hear the confession soon after Mass. Any emergency sick visit or funerals please contact Fr. Tomas at St. Peter's Bromsgrove.

### 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

### DEACON TRAINEE

Andrew Forster from St. George's Worcester will be with us this weekend and few Sundays in February and March to have some experience in the parish as part of his training as deacon. He will be ordained deacon in July. We hope and pray that he will have a great experience in the parish.

### JOURNEY IN FAITH- 31ST JANUARY AT 7PM

On this day we will be discussing the topic: Mary Mother of God. Talk will be led by Fr. Austin SCJ.

### **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.

### **CREDIT CARDS ARE STOLEN**

We have heard from our friends in another church in Droitwich that there are two young ladies taking advantage of unattended handbags and purses. Credit cards are stolen, during services (!) and used in other towns in the area. PLEASE keep your handbags and purses under very close guard.

### **ONLINE LENTEN RETRAT**

This coming Lent the Ignatian Spirituality Centre (ISC) will again be offering a free online Lent Retreat. It will be called "Through Lent with Pope Francis". Details will be on the ISC Glasgow website fairly soon. If you think you might be interested, please contact Cecilia and Max Jourdir on [mandcjourdir@gmail.com](mailto:mandcjourdir@gmail.com) or 01886 812259

### **COLLETES HEDERAE**

Late summer and early Autumn, walking past the SCJ Community graves, you may have noticed several hundred small, striped bees busily hovering among the grasses. Colletes hederæ, the Ivy Mining bee is a useful late pollinator of such plants as ivy, which flower late in the year, providing food for late-flying insects and berries through the winter for birds and small mammals.

For all that in early Autumn, the bees gather in large numbers, they are actually solitary in habit and overwinter in separate holes in the ground within that area where we observe them preparing for winter.

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust were pleased to have been notified of the presence of Colletes hederæ on our site. Just for interest.

### **PILGRIMAGE TO WESTPORT, KNOCK & CO.MAYO**

Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 14th April 2024. £899.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights' in 4\* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com). Please see the notice at the back of church for more information.

### **FOODBANK**

There is a new wish list of items that is on the noticeboard and the parish website. If you would like to support the Foodbank then items can be left in the box at the back of church and would be gratefully received.

### **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.

### **COMMUNITY MEAL**

Monday 26th February at 12.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

### **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

There will be Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am mass on 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](mailto:sg.sacredheartdroitwich@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/[safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.

**Main collection:**

**£250.14**

**Gift Aid: £166**

**Second collection for  
Pax Christi**

**£43.06**

**Gift Aid: £81.30**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

**Mass attendance  
last Sunday: 258**

**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 11th February 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**

*Job 7:1-4.6-7;*

*Psalms 146;*

*1 Corinthians*

*9:16-19.22-23;*

*Mark 1:29-39*

*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's readings remind us of our baptism and the mission entrusted to us at the Baptism. Every baptised Christian, by virtue of his or her baptism, is called to be a prophet, one of the threefold mission of Christ—Priest, Prophet and King. In this twenty-first century, the prophet is not just a large, dramatic figure such as Moses. Nor is it limited to the mystic past, as in ancient Israel. Each one of us is called to be a prophet in the midst of our ordinary life. But what is our prophetic mission? At Baptism we hear the threefold description in our call to holiness. After the Baptism comes the anointing with sacred chrism oil, wherein the priest or deacon prays these words: "As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life". This anointing is a stirring reminder of the sublime dignity conferred on us. This is a call to embrace these shared offices of Christ as priest, prophet, and king. In the ministerial priesthood, these are fulfilled by preaching and teaching and in governance of the Church. How might the laity live these prophetic offices? Vatican II described the lay vocation this way: "It belongs to the laity to seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God's will ... so to illuminate and order all temporal things with which they are closely associated that these may always be effected and grow according to Christ and may be to the glory of the Creator and Redeemer" (CCC, 898).

With faith and the grace of the sacraments, we must bring Christ to our families, societies, and the wider culture. The faithful are sent out from Mass to go and serve Christ wherever life takes them. This is a prophetic mission. They are very much in the front lines for Christianity, to consecrate the world, to make it holy. This understanding was expressed by Pope Pius XII and later echoed by St. John Paul II: "Lay believers are in the front line of Church life; for them the Church is the animating principle of human society. Therefore, they in particular ought to have an ever-clearer consciousness not only of belonging to the Church, but of being the Church" (CCC, 899). The laity act prophetically when they speak the truth, and live the Gospel by example before their families, neighbours, and co-workers. Their mission is "accomplished in the ordinary circumstances of the world" (CCC, 905). This is a noble and sublime responsibility that we are entrusted with. In a single word, the prophet calls God's People to integrity. The prophet sets before God's People the truth that their lives today must reflect the promises they made to God in the past so that they can enjoy God's Presence in the future. In the Gospel reading we see this reflected in the mission of Jesus, that He taught with authority. Having never expected anything like this, most people had no idea how to respond. Some were frightened, others threatened. But to those who would follow him, Jesus offered an amazing new take on life. He rooted his message in their traditions, yet, rather than close the book saying, "That's all folks!" Jesus spurred them to hope that all the promises of old would come true — in ways so new that they would continually be astounded. Our prophetic mission leads us to hope that we share the mission of Christ and thus we become an extension of Christ's mission on earth. God bless you all.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ