



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Genesis

22:1-2.9-13.15-18;

Psalms 115;

Romans 8:31-34;

Mark 9:2-10

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

This Week: 25th Feb-3rd Mar 2024 (Psalter Week 2)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 25th February Second Sunday of Lent Year B Second collection for CAFOD Lent Fast	8:30 am Margaret Harding RIP (MM) 10:30 am George Conway RIP(BC) 6:00 pm Margaret Allen RIP (P&P G)	After 8:30am Mass : Tea& Coffee in the Hall 10.30 am Children Liturgy
Monday 26th February Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Deceased Members of Bourke family. (BB)	12.30 pm Community Meal
Tuesday 27th February Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Communion Services	
Wednesday 28th February Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Matthew RIP (S)	10:00am until 6:00pm Adoration 7.00pm Journey in Faith
Thursday 29th February Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am John Franklin RIP (J&GP)	11.30 am Funeral Service Maureen Weaver
Friday 1st March Feast of St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales	9:15 am Patricia Ceclich RIP (GC)	9:00 am Station of the Cross 6.30pm Youth Group
Saturday 2nd March Feast of St Chad, Bishop	11:00 am Alan Remedios RIP(AK)	10:15-10:45 am: Confession
Sunday 3rd March Third Sunday of Lent Year B Second collection for Cathedral Maintenance	8:30 am David Baggott RIP (LD) 10:30 am Maureen Weaver RIP (CL) 6:00 pm People of the Parish	After 8:30am Mass : Tea& Coffee in the Hall 10.30 am Children Liturgy

"In this season of Lent, let us retreat into the "desert". May we dedicate time to silence to allow the voice of the Lord to speak to our heart and keep it in goodness."

Pope Francis via Twitter 18th February 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

**I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.**

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, Richard Wightman
& Msgr. Graham Wilkinson, Fr. Brian Boyle, Mrs. Roma, Pamela
Wojciechowski

**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 Maureen Weaver and Patrick Sexton who died
recently. May their soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through
the mercy of God rest in peace. The Funeral Service for Maureen Weaver
will be on Thursday, 29th February at 11.30 am here at Sacred Heart and
followed by cremation at Worcester Crematorium. Please keep the family
and friends of Maureen and Patick in your prayers.

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. There will be a meeting with the
parents on **Sunday 10th March after 10.30 Mass** in the parish hall. We
expect all parents whose children are to be prepare for FHC to attend this
meeting. The first session will start on Saturday 16th of March at 9.30 in the
parish hall. This year the First Holy Communion Mass will be on Saturday
15th June at 11.00 am.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On every Friday during Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross at 9.00am
followed by Holy Mass. There will not be Novena to the Sacred Heart on
Fridays during Lent.

HOUSE MASS DURING LENT

As part of Lenten Journey, on every Thursday at 7pm during Lent Fr. George
would like to visit your home and celebrate house Masses. If you would like
to host a house Mass at your home during Lent, please give your names to
Fr. George.

JOURNEY IN FAITH– 28TH FEBRUARY AT 7PM

On this day we will be discussing the topic: Sacraments: Baptism and Confirmation.

GIFT 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.

WALK WITH ME BOOKLET

“A very warm welcome to this Lenten edition of “Walk With Me”. With the Jubilee 2025 on the horizon our focus is very much on prayer and specifically the Our Father. The Our Father is a key theme for the Holy Year preparation this year. The disciples dared to say, ‘Lord, teach us to pray’, and so we dare to pray, ‘Abba, Father.’” Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham. The “Walk With Me” booklet for the Lenten journey are available to collect from the back of the church. Please consider taking a copy home. The booklets are free, but any donation would be much appreciated and will be given to the Sacred Heart Mission.

ONLINE LENTEN RETREAT

This Lent the Ignatian Spirituality Centre (ISC) are again offering a free online Lent Retreat. It is called "Through Lent with Pope Francis". You can join in on the ISC Glasgow website or on www.onlineprayer.net

If you want further details, please contact Cecilia and Max Jourdir on mandcjourdir@gmail.com or 01886812259.

RETRouvaille:A PROGRAMME FOR COUPLE STRUGGLING IN THEIR MARRIAGES

Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about ‘Retrouvaille’ or to register for the next programme commencing with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

REFUGEE KNITTING

Please bring your items to church by March 10th, for shipment at the end of the month. For those new to the Parish, we knit or crochet anything you feel will aid the adults and children of all ages. Donations of wool and related items, to help defray costs, can be placed in the cupboard at the church entrance . Thank you as ever, to those who produce such beautiful items.

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 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th March

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:
£298.51
Gift Aid: £180
Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.

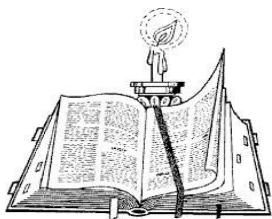
Mass attendance
last Sunday: 256



**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 17th March 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

Exodus 20:1-17;

Psalms 18;

1 Corinthians 1:22-25;

John 2:13-25

Transfiguration of Jesus, which is the subject of the Gospel text for today, is an event narrated by all three Synoptic Gospels. This scene in Luke makes three major points. The first is the revelation of who Jesus is; the second is the foreshadowing of his death, resurrection, and exaltation into heaven; the third is the training of the disciples, and each of us, about the meaning of the whole Christ-event. It is only in Luke that the Transfiguration occurs in the context of Jesus' prayer. The Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain confirms that Jesus was in the presence of God. It also serves to clarify that Jesus is, indeed, God's Son. While Moses and Elijah, who appear with Jesus on the mountain, might represent the Law and the Prophets, they are also mentioned because of the actions they performed.

This time, unlike at the time of the Baptism, the voice from the clouds adds, "Listen to him". This is one such event where God gives complete indication that Jesus is the promised Messiah that the whole humanity needs to listen to him. Therefore, it is an event which encapsulates the whole Christ event. It is here that we see His entire life, ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension unfold. It is a summary of what was, what is, and what will be. Only in the light of the cross and resurrection do we understand the character of God and the significance of Jesus. Though God will seem hidden at the passion and death of Jesus, and though Jesus might seem defeated, things are not as they seem. Rather, God is as present at the passion and death of Jesus as he was at the Transfiguration. The purpose of the Transfiguration was to encourage and strengthen the apostles who were depressed by their master's prediction of His own Passion and Death. Despite seeing Jesus standing before them in snow-white glory and the splendour of His Divinity overflowing from His body, the apostles had not thought of leaving their Transfigured Lord. YET THEY HAD TO GO BACK DOWN THE MOUNTAIN. Like the Apostles we really need and want reassurances from Jesus that our earthly confusion and uncertainties will not last forever, but this joy and consolation will never end. Often in the Bible the mountain is God's place to reveal God's self and his plans. Jesus is accomplishing the coming of His Kingdom, the promise of the Resurrection for us, "And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all to Myself".

The transfiguration teaches us two lessons: Firstly, Jesus calls us to be his disciples to be with him and learn from Him and carry out His work for Him. He never tells us to stay right where we are, but summons us to a journey, to follow Him up an exceedingly high mountain, indeed to the heavenly Jerusalem. The Christian life is a dynamic and demanding adventure with Jesus as our alpine guide. Secondly, He teaches us about the importance of prayer. Jesus took the apostles on that journey precisely so that they might pray. To pray is to contemplate God. It's far more than an exchange of words or ideas, but an exchange of persons, as God comes to abide in us and have us abide in him. This mutual indwelling is summarized by the experience of contemplation. St. John Mary Vianney, the Curé of Ars, who loved to talk about the art of prayer with the words one of his parishioners, the farmer Louis Chaffangeon, who, when his pastor asked him what he was doing as he knelt before the tabernacle in Church, replied, "Je l'avise et il m'avise." "I'm looking at him and he's looking at me." Prayer is an exchange of loving glances as we look at God and he looks at us and the whole process transforms us to look at ourselves, the world and others with the loving eyes of God. God the Father's instruction from the cloud, "This is my beloved Son: listen to Him," reminds us that prayer is ultimately about our allowing Jesus to speak and seeking out of love to align our life to what he asks. Jesus has the words of eternal life and he wants to plant the seed of his word in us as good soil, so that we may bear abundant fruit as branches on the vine and be able to proclaim that saving words to others. Fr. George Mathew SCJ