



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

Exodus 20:1-17;
Psalms 18;
1 Corinthians 1:22-25;
John 2:13-25

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

This Week: 3rd Mar-10th Mar 2024 (Psalter Week 3)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 3rd March Third Sunday of Lent Year B Second collection for Cathedral Maintenance	8:30 am David Balgarnie 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
Monday 4th March Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Margaret Allen RIP	
Tuesday 5th March Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Elzina Alisha Da'Silva: Birthday (ED)	
Wednesday 6th March Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Holy Mass	10:00am until 6:00pm Adoration 7.00pm Journey in Faith
Thursday 7th March Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Holy Mass	
Friday 8th March Lent Feria	9:15 am Holy Mass	9:00 am Station of the Cross 6.30pm Youth Group
Saturday 9th March Lent Feria	11:00 am Holy Mass	10:15-10:45 am: Confession
Sunday 10th March Fourth Sunday of Lent Year B	8:30 am Deceased members of Dodd Family (LD) 10:30 am People of the Parish. 6.00 pm Maureen Weaver RIP (CL)	After 8:30am Mass : Tea& Coffee in the Hall 10.30 am Children Liturgy 11.30 am Meeting With Parents FHC

"Let us pray together that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive."

Pope Francis via Twitter 27th February 2024

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30am & 10.30am

You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.

6.00pm

More desired than gold.

11AK

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

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 Patrick Sexton who died recently. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. The Requiem Mass for Patrick Sexton will be on Saturday, 23rd March at 1.00 pm here at Sacred Heart. Please keep the family and friends of 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– 6TH MARCH AT 7PM

On this day we will be discussing the topic: Sacraments: Reconciliation and Eucharist.

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 18th March
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:

£265.88

Gift Aid: £125

Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.

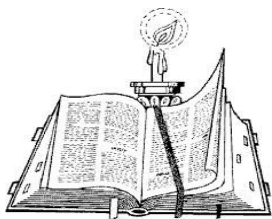
Mass attendance
last Sunday: 241



**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**

2 Chronicles

36:14-16.19-23;

Psalms 136;

Ephesians 2:4-10;

John 3:14-21

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.

Dear friends today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Lent. In the first reading, we come across the Decalogue or the Ten Commandments. The chapter begins with the words "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." This verse is important as it gives us the context in which the commandments are given. The commandments are relational and personal in nature. The law is a gift from a God who has redeemed the people and now speaks to them individually. The commandments are a response that the people give to the redemptive act of God. These commandments which are given to an already elected, redeemed, believing, and worshipping community deal with the affairs of daily life. "You shall have no other gods before me" introduces the commandments and gives shape to all the others with idolatry being the focus. Though it commonly has reference to material images at the same time "other gods" could include any person, place, or thing that we hold to be more important or as important as God. The command is to be loyal to God. While the commandments are personal, the focus of the commandments is to serve the life and health of the community at large. In today's world which promotes individualism, the Ten Commandments remind us that our life and actions also have a social dimension. At the same time how, we think about God will deeply affect how we think about and act towards our neighbours. True joy and happiness are to be found in communion with others and not as individuals. God freed his people out of slavery so that they might obey His commandments, and in this freedom and obedience, they would experience life to the full.

In the second reading taken from St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians Paul highlights the cross and the proclamation of Christ crucified which are the core of Paul's preaching. He mocks the highest educated people in the Greek or Jewish world by telling them that God has made the most educated look foolish by using a method which the intelligent would never think of - God chose to use the foolishness of the Cross. In the gospel taken from John, we are presented with the narrative of Jesus cleansing the Temple. Jesus cleanses the temple set in the context of the Passover, like other pious Jews, Jesus too goes to the Jerusalem temple. The atmosphere in the temple was quite similar to what one would find around churches in today's times during major festivals. With a large number of pilgrims around there was religious as well as economic activity. Jesus was not against the sacrifices but rather the commercial activity of the money changers. For an additional fee, they exchanged the money pilgrims brought from foreign lands for coins that could be used in Jerusalem and the temple. The key phrase is Jesus identifying the temple as "my Father's house" as it signifies his identity and authority as the divine Son and God as his Father. It is this distinctive relationship which gives Jesus the authority to act as he does. In what is unique to the gospel of John, the temple is depicted as a symbol of Jesus himself and Jesus reveals that the destruction and rebuilding of the temple is itself a metaphor for his death and resurrection. The words which caught my attention were "zeal for your house will consume me". We are called to enter into a relationship with God. Only in union with him can we truly worship, in our hearts and in our lives. I pray that we may grow in the awareness of the true implications of the Ten Commandments in our life and through the power of the cross be able to cleanse ourselves during this period of Lent.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ