



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

Acts 9:26-31;
Psalm 21;
1 John 3:18-24;
John 15:1-8

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

This Week: 28th April – 5th May 2024 Psalter Week 1	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 28th April Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B	8:30 am Bill Drury (sick) (LD) 10:30 am Michael William Hopley RIP (JH) 6:00 pm People of the Parish	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am Mass
Monday 29th April Feast of St Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Patricia Ceclich RIP (GC)	12.30 pm Community Meal
Tuesday 30th April Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Thresiamma RIP	
Wednesday 1st May Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am For the labourers	10:00am until 6:00pm Adoration
Thursday 2nd May Memorial of St Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Holy Mass	
Friday 3rd May Feast of Ss Philip and James, Apostles	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Pray for the victims of war	After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart 6.30 pm Youth Group
Saturday 4th May Feast of the English Martyrs	11.00 am Holy Mass	9:30 am FHC Meeting in the Hall 10:15 am-10:45 am Confession
Sunday 5th May Sixth Sunday of Easter Year B Second collection for CAFOD Urgent Sudan Crisis Appeal 2024	8:30 am Holy Mass 10:30 am Holy Mass 6:00 pm People of the Parish	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am Mass

“If we open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, He will revive the theological virtues within us. If we have lost trust, God will reopen us to faith. If we are discouraged, God will reawaken hope within us. If our heart is hardened, God will soften it with His love.”

Pope Francis via Twitter 24th April 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 & 6.00 pm

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for all our parishioners, and/or their friends and relatives, who
are unwell:

Barbara Conway, Finbarr Cronin, 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 Rex Langford who died recently. May his soul
and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in
peace. Please keep the family and friends of Rex Langford in your prayers.

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING MASS FOR MARRIAGE

An invitation is extended to married couples, those celebrating a milestone
anniversary and those preparing to marry this year, to our annual Mass for
Marriage at St Chad's Cathedral on Saturday 4th May at 12 Noon, followed
by light refreshments. Please visit www.vocations.org.uk/marriage-mass.

JOURNEY IN FAITH

Journey in Faith will resume in September again.

DROITWICH COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

Droitwich CVS invited you to Droitwich Community Showcase on Saturday
11th May 2024 10am – 2pm Droitwich Baptist Church, Ombersley Street
East, WR9 8QS, Free entry

Please see poster at the back of the Church

RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF CREATION APRIL 2024

Please see poster at the back of the Church

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.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES

Gift Aid envelopes for 2024-2025 are available for collection from the back of church.

PARISH NOTICE BOARD

The notice boards at the back of the church and the narthex are the traditional way of communicating information about the parish and the life in the community. So, there should be enough room for such information to be displayed. For this reason, please do not put any leaflets or notice on the notice board or at the back without the consent of the parish office. We always appreciate your good intention. So, if you want to leave a leaflet or a notice on the noticeboard or at the back of the church please send them to the parish office.

SACRED HEART SUMMER FAIR 29TH JUNE 2024

We are hoping and praying for delightful sunny weather for our Summer Fair! We are also hoping to have a BBQ, Indian Food Stall, Beer or Wine Tasting, Games organised by the Youth Group and much more. We just need you!! Could you please offer to organise one of these attractions or a different event just for this one occasion? Get together with a couple of friends or family to help us out! Please see Fr George to share your talents and skills.

To add colour to its social aspect, we have Summer Raffle. If you would like to sponsor a raffle prize, please give your name to Terry Poulton as soon as possible or write your name on the clipboard in the narthex.

NEWSLETTERS

We have been trying to reduce the number of newsletters we print each week. Please could you consider taking only one newsletter per family group, returning newsletter after Mass if you do not need it and/or, if possible, joining the distribution list to receive the newsletter via email. To be added to this email distribution list, please contact the parish office. The newsletter can also be found at <http://www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk/>

Thank you for your understanding and support.

CHURCH CLEANING

As you are all aware that we have beautiful church which is a gem in the town and in the country people of all faith and no faith admire its atmosphere of prayer and beauty. To preserve this richness of our church, we invite any parishioners of any age, skill, or level of mobility, with a little time to spare, to volunteer to join the Church cleaning group. Thanks to all those who came last time to clean the church. We need a few more hands. Would you like to help? That will be great appreciated. Next cleaning day is Thursday 9th May soon after morning Mass.

COMMUNITY MEAL

Monday 29th April at
12.30 pm in the
Parish Hall.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be
Children's Liturgy
during 10.30 am mass
on 28 April, 5th, 12th
& 19th May

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

£311.47

Gift Aid: £159.50

Second collection for
Clergy Training
Fund

£137.15

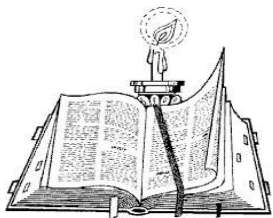
Gift Aid: £95.50

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 297**

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 12th May 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

Acts

10:25-26.34-35.44-48;

Psalms 97;

1 John 4:7-10

John 15:9-17

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 fifth Sunday in Easter time the readings speak about producing fruits. The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we have the life journey of St Paul after his dramatic conversion on way to Damascus and after his encounter with the risen Lord, how he was transformed from Saul the persecutor, to Paul the preacher of the Good News. Indeed, so fearsome was Paul's reputation that when he came to Jerusalem the disciples were afraid to meet him. Yet despite all this we know how Paul went on to do mighty deeds for Jesus and his Church. He truly bore much fruit and he could do so because he remained in Christ and in the Spirit. He bore good fruits because he was a "deeply crafted and rooted branch" in Christ, the true vine. Our lives may not be as dramatic as Paul, yet we are called to produce the fruits for the Lord.

The Gospel passage for today is part of the last discourse of Jesus delivered to the disciples at the Last Supper- was a form of farewell address delivered on the eve of his death. It describes the intimate union that must exist between Jesus and his followers, with the image of vine and its branches. In Biblical language, vine is well-known biblical symbol of God's people- the psalmist pictures God as vine grower: "A vine from Egypt you transplanted; you drove away the nations and planted it." (Ps 80:8) Israel was pictured as the vineyard of the Lord and the people as the branches of God's vine. The passage is a call to strengthen our relationship with Christ in order to continue to live in Him. No branch can have life or bear fruit on its own, unless it is firmly attached to a tree. Likewise, in our spiritual life and journey as Christians, we cannot do without being firmly attached to Christ the vine, in whose name we were baptized and initiated in the sacraments.

The first part of the passage stresses the necessity of abiding in Jesus. The Lord invites us to abide in him, and he will do so again several times during his discourse. He will not abide in us unless we first abide in him. Jesus says: "As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me." Therefore, it is necessary for the disciples to abide in Jesus. The second part of the passage emphasizes what happens to those who abide in Jesus as well as those who do not. The goal of this discipleship is not just simple relationship in itself. The real goal is the fruit that such a relationship produces. For a disciple to bear fruit, there must be mutual abiding between Jesus and the disciple. Those who do not abide in Jesus, disconnect themselves off from their source of life and as a result, the life and nutrients will not flow to them; consequently, branches withers and die eventually. At the same time, it is not enough to be an ordinary branch on the tree lovely and green. It also must produce the desired fruit. It is not just enough to be a Christian and fulfil one's religious duties etc.. but bare many fruits so that others also follow the same path. The First reading from Saint John shows us why we need pruning and transformation: to love one another just as Jesus commanded us and to become a fruit bearing branch. My sisters and brothers, let us ask for this grace to abiding with Lord the true vine and allow the Lord to prune and transform us every day.