



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



Today's Mass Readings

Proverbs 9:1-6;

Psalms 33;

Ephesians 5:15-20;

John 6:51-58

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

This Week: 18th-25th Aug 2024 Psalter Week 4	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 18th August Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B	8:30 am Bernadette Violet Duffy RIP (PD) 10:30 am Peter & Franciszek Gruszka RIP (BS) 6:00 pm People of the Parish	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall 2.30 pm SVP Afternoon
Monday 19th August Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Ruby & John Martin, Molly & Frank Quingley RIP (MM)	12.30pm Community Meal
Tuesday 20th August Memorial of St Bernard, Abbot, Doctor of the Church	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Iain Martin RIP (CT)	
Wednesday 21st August Memorial of St Maximilian Mary Kolbe, Priest, Martyr	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Mary Mason RIP (MC)	10:00 am until 6:00 pm Adoration
Thursday 22nd August Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Eleen McGovern (GM)	1.00 pm The Requiem Mass for Philip Anthony Watts
Friday 23rd August Feast of St John Wall, Priest, Martyr	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Ron Hancock RIP (AM)	After Mass– Novena to the Sacred Heart
Saturday 24th August Feast of St Bartholomew, Apostle	11.00 am Chris Larkin- speedy recovery	10.15 am –10.45 am Confessions
Sunday 25th August Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B	8:30 am Stephen Marshall RIP 10:30 am Bernadette Violet Duffy RIP (PD) 6:00 pm People of the Parish	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall

“The Lord made us for the joy of Heaven. Our life is not a meaningless journey, but a project of love. Life is a pilgrimage that leads us, day by day, to the encounter with Him and to endless joy that He has prepared for us.”

Pope Francis via Twitter 15th August 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

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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 Philip Anthony Watts who died recently. May his souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Please keep the family and friends of Philip in your prayers. The Requiem Mass for Philip Anthony Watts will take place on Thursday 22nd August at 1pm.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY- PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The Children's Liturgy will resume from September. If your child is 4 years old and above they can join the Children's Liturgy. Parents/Guardians/Carers are very welcome to accompany their children to the Children's Liturgy for their first few sessions to ensure that they have happily settled in. After that, it is preferable if the parents don't attend unless necessary as it can be overwhelming for the leaders and distracting for the children if there are too many people present. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter. The group is always looking for new helpers so please consider if this is something you could do.

SPONSORED WALK

The Sacred Heart sponsored walk will be on Saturday 28th September. The money we raise through the walk will be used for the formation of young Seminarians for the Priesthood. Your generous support would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to sponsor the walk please write your name on the clipboard at the back of the Church. If you would like to make a donation through Gift Aid, envelopes are available at the back of the Church. If you would like to join the walk you are most welcome to join the Sacred Heart Fathers & Brothers at Olton Friary Church at 1pm.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the latest Parish Council Meeting are available at the back of the Church on the notice board.

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.

GUILD OF SAINT STEPHEN

The annual Altar Server Mass of Thanksgiving will be offered at St. Chad's Cathedral on Saturday 5th October at 12.00 noon. All servers are encouraged to attend; families are welcome to accompany them and refreshments are provided after Mass. If you would like to attend please let Fr. George or Kevin know before 16th September.

SAVE THE DATE

The work of the SVP is needed now more than ever and thanks to your help and support we have been able to help even more families this year. As a thank you to you all you are invited to an afternoon tea on Saturday 31st August between 2.30 and 4.00pm. So please come along and enjoy a cuppa and a piece of cake while finding out what we have been up to. If you are interested in coming along please put your name on the list at the back of the church. Thanks

"UNDERSTANDING THE MASS—A PERSONAL JOURNEY"

"Understanding the Mass -a Personal Journey" organised by the Droitwich & District Catenians will be held on Wednesday 16th October in the Sacred Heart Church, Droitwich at 7pm to 8.30 pm, and is open to all Parishioners in the Deanery

MARCH FOR LIFE UK

March for Life UK is happening in London on Saturday 7th September. The theme for this year is "Abortion isn't Healthcare". Join thousands at this family-friendly event. There is a coach leaving from St George's Church, 1 Sansome Pl. Worcester WR1 1UG at 8am (departs London at 5pm). Cost is £25 per seat, payable in advance. To book a seat contact Isabel on 07773501721. Find out more about the day at marchforlife.co.uk. Seats are still available in the coach.

JOURNEY IN FAITH

Are you looking to explore the Catholic Faith? Are you wondering about your relationship with God and not sure where to start? Join us on a journey and see if the Catholic Church can help your relationship grow. This may be the right path for you. It may even help you take the next steps towards coming into the Church. The parish will be organising a Journey in Faith programme from September onwards. If you are already a Catholic and would like to explore more about your faith, or if you want to become a Catholic, now is the time to start exploring your faith. The first session of Journey in Faith will start on Wednesday 18th September at 7pm in the Elgar Room. Access is via the side door.

COMMUNITY MEAL

Monday **19th August**
at 12.30 pm in the
Parish Hall.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy
will resume in
September.

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.sacredheart.droitwich@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.

Thank you for supporting your Parish.

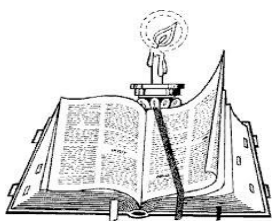
Mass attendance last Sunday: 252



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 18th August 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

Joshua 24:1-2;

Psalms 33;

Ephesians 5:21-32;

John 6:60-69

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.

The first reading taken from the book of Proverbs is primarily an invitation to seek wisdom where we are presented with two contrasting pictures – the wise woman and the foolish woman. In Jewish thought, Wisdom is the Torah. Each person must make a choice between wisdom and foolishness. But as frail and weak humans, we tend to easily be misguided by the evil one and choose folly who stands for mere fleeting of pleasures and joys of the world. The true wisdom is to know God and it calls out for us to come to the great feast and dine with the Lord through the scriptures and experiential knowledge. Which choice would you make? In the second reading we once again hear about wisdom. The city of Ephesus was heavily influenced by Greek culture and the Greeks valued wisdom as an incredibly high virtue. Paul calls the Ephesian Christians to live wisely and he urged them to use their time well so that they would make the most of their opportunities to be witnesses for Christ until He comes again. Paul emphasises the need for discernment to know the will of God for one's life and to fill one's life with the spirit of God instead of being intoxicated by the momentary pleasures of the world.

The gospel taken from John, focus today on Jesus' insistence on the absolute need to eat His flesh and drink His blood to have eternal life. In His Priestly Prayer, Jesus defines eternal life in terms of the relationship of the believer to the Father and the Son: "And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." (Jn 17:3). As I was reflecting on the gospel text, I was reminded of many people, young and old alike who doesn't bother about going to the church anymore. Why should one participate in mass? What happens if one does not? Does it make any difference at all? When churches were closed for the public worship during the pandemic, people got used to online Masses. After pandemic when churches were fully opened, some people did not bother to get back to the church even though they could. Their argument was that last two years they did not go to church, yet nothing happened. So, why bother, we can pray at home. But the question is that how one can live his/her Christian life fully, without the sacraments especially the Eucharist. In the Gospel Jesus tells us that "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them." (Jn 6:56) What is the meaning and effect of this abiding? The apostle Paul tells us that when we drink from the cup of blessing and eat from the shared bread, we are "sharing" in the body and blood of Christ that is, we acknowledge that spiritually we are becoming one with God through Christ. Most of us spend a fair amount of time, energy, and prayer trying to create and possess the life we want. In spite of our best efforts, sometimes we live less than fully alive. We end up asking ourselves, "What am I doing with my life?" We despair at what is and what we think will be. Is there a way out? St. Ignatius of Antioch mentions that the flesh and blood of Christ are the medicine that saves; he called them "the medicine of immortality." One dose, however, is not good enough. We need a steady diet of this sacred medicine, this holy food. Not attending the Eucharist and receiving communion, works like slow poison on our soul. The effects don't show immediately but over time it impacts us since the Eucharist is the best form of deliverance from the attacks of the devil on our body and soul. It brings us closer and makes us one with Jesus. In the eating and drinking of Christ's flesh and blood in the Eucharist, He lives in us, and we live in Him. We consume His life, love, mercy, forgiveness, His way of being. By feeding on this medicine, we too will be strengthened to face our own trials

Fr. George Mathew SCJ