



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



**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

Acts 13:14,43-52;

Psalms 100(99);

Apocalypse 7:9,14-17;

John 10:27-30

This Week: 11th-18th May 2025 Psalter week 4	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 11th May Fourth Sunday of Easter Year C Second collection for Minnie Vinnies SVP	8:30 am Mathew Devasiya RIP 10:30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Eric Whaley (AP)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall 10.30 am Mass Children Liturgy 2.30 pm SVP Afternoon
Monday 12th May Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Anna Maria (TS)	10.15-1.15 pm School Church Tour
Tuesday 13th May Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Communion Services	
Wednesday 14th May Feast of St Matthias, apostle	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Andrew Grant (DG)	After Mass– Adoration till 6.00 pm.
Thursday 15th May Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Peace in war-torn countries	
Friday 16th May Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Harry Remedios RIP (AK)	6.30-8.00 pm Youth Group
Saturday 17th May Easter Feria	11.00 am Sick & housebound of the parish 11.00 am Anointing Mass	10.15-10.45 am Confessions 12:00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall 12.00-3.00pm Children Tours and Workshops
Sunday 18th May Fifth Sunday of Easter Year C Second collection for Vincentians	8:30 am Br. Steven Rodriguez SCJ 10:30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Holy Mass	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall 10.30 am Mass Children Liturgy

SACRED HEART COMMUNITY

Fr. George Mathew SCJ
(Parish Priest)

fr.george.mathew@
rcaob.org.uk

**In an emergency, please
contact: 07448 042484**

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:
jod_office@emmausmac.
com

PRINCIPAL

Mr A Carry

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

8.30 am & 10.30 am We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

6.00 pm We are his people the sheep of his flock,
his people the sheep of his flock.

He made us we belong to him, his people the sheep of his flock.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS

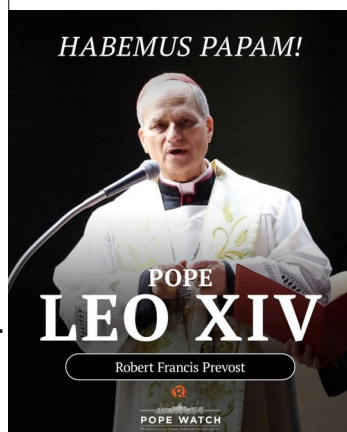
Please pray for all our parishioners, and/or their friends and relatives, who
are unwell:

Beryl Hill, Alan Hurst, John Jennings, Andrew McDermott, Michael Sheridan,
Jacky Smith, Paul Smith, Margaret Steward, Richard Wightman, Mrs. Roma,
Judy Lynam Pyper, Peggy Garvey and Josephine Gylee.

SACRED HEART SUMMER FAIR 19TH JULY 2025

The Parish Summer Fair will be on Saturday 19th July. As part of the Summer
Fair we will be organizing a Raffle. If you would like to sponsor a raffle prize,
please give your name to Terry Poulten as soon as possible (or write your
name on the clipboard in the Narthex).

NEW HOLY FATHER



"I welcome the wonderful news of the election of
Cardinal Robert Prevost as our new Holy Father,
Pope Leo XIV. As he prepared to give us his first
blessing as Pope in St Peter's Square he also gave
us a message of joyful encouragement, calling us
to be bridge-builders who are the light of Christ in
the world. As the first Pope from the United
States of America, he also remembered the
people of Chiclayo in Peru where he had served as
bishop until 2023. I have just spent the last few
days at Buckfast Abbey with all the Bishops of
England and Wales as we prayed for the Cardinals

in Conclave and as we waited to hear whom the Holy Spirit would identify
as the Successor of Peter. It will be a great joy to serve the Church's mission
inspired by the guidance of Pope Leo. All the lay faithful, the Religious and
clergy of our Archdiocese are praying for our new Holy Father that he may
serve the Church for many years and be richly blessed in his apostolate. Let
us pray for our new Holy Father. Habemus Papam: We have a Pope!"
Archbishop Bernard Longley.

For a biography of our new Pope, please visit:

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/News/welcome-to-our-new-pope-leo-xiv>

NEW KEYHOLDERS

Are you free one morning or afternoon to open and close the Parish Hall? If
you are working during the day, would you be free one evening?

Opening and closing the Parish Hall is a simple routine that doesn't require
much of your time. If you are able to help, please contact the parish
secretary 01905773258 or email to sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk

MINNIE VINNIES– ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Our Minnie Vinnies will be appealing for your help after each Mass on May 11th. They will tell you about the activities they have been doing since they were formed last autumn and their hopes for the future. Please support them in prayer and the second collection.

VINCENTIANS– ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL 18TH MAY

Our name is “Congregation of the Mission”. The name shows our vocation: we are missionaries. In the Common Rules XI, 10, we read, “The name Missionaries, or Priests of the Mission, clearly indicates that the work of the missions is the first and most important of all ministries to the people.” St. Vincent de Paul was convinced that the Society is called, in the depths of its being, to continue the mission of Jesus. Christ, the Evangelizer of the poor, was for him the foundation of who we are, of what we do and how we do it. The words of the Lord: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me ... to bring glad tidings to the poor ... He has sent me” (Lk 4, 18), were repeatedly on Vincent’s lips: “So, are we not very fortunate to belong to the Mission for the same purpose that caused God to become man? And if someone were to question a Missioner, wouldn’t it be a great honour for him to be able to say with Our Lord, Misit me evangelizare pauperibus? I’m here to catechize, instruct, hear confessions, and assist persons who are poor.” CCD 11, 98-99.

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME AND ASSISI

Kidderminster and Worcester Deanery are organising a Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi, including the tomb of Bl. Carlo Acutis, who may be a Saint by then. The Pilgrimage is from 22nd - 27th November 2025. This is an opportunity to see the new Pope Leo XIV. The total cost of the ticket, including travel, food and lodging, is £850 for adults and children over 9 years and £805 for children below 9 years old. If you are interested, please contact Fr. George or Parish office for more information.

RETROUVAILLE

Alone or bored in your marriage? Considering separation or are already divorced? If you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. We have helped thousands of couples get back on track. Call to find out more
www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443

WORCESTER CIRCLE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION

The talk scheduled for 21st May on the Council of Nicaea has had to be postponed as the speaker is now not able to make it. However, we do have a summer outing planned for Saturday June 28th to Harvington Hall. If you are interested please get in touch with John Duddington at duddingtonjohn@gmail.com

PUBLIC CHURCH TOUR

As part of our National Lottery Heritage Fund project we continue to run activities for the local community. Church tours will be conducted on one Saturday each month. To book, visit the website:

<http://www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk/the-church/church-tours/>

One Saturday a month children’s mosaic workshops and mini tours will run. To book, visit the website:

<http://www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk/news-and-events/upcoming-events/>

Thanks to all our volunteers who continue to make this work possible.

CHILDREN’S LITURGY

There will be Children’s Liturgy during 10.30 am mass on **11th & 18th May.**

PARISH YOUTH GROUP

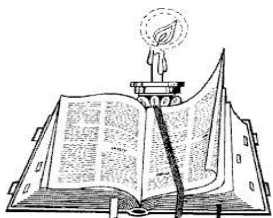
Runs during term time on Friday evenings from 6.30 pm for children aged 9-14 years.

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 Clare Tomlinson, Carla Tucker and Bogusia Koniszewska-Fijolek. They can be contacted by 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.

Main Collection:**£367.01****Gift Aid: £200.00****Second collection for****Clergy Training:****£103.50****Gift Aid: £5.00****Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.****Mass attendance
last Sunday: 334****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 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 14:21-27;**Psalms 145(144);**Apocalypse 21:1-5;**John 13:31-35*

Dear Brothers and Sisters, today is the Fourth Sunday of Easter, which we traditionally celebrate as Good Shepherd or Vocations Sunday. The Gospel reading for this Sunday is the parable of the Good Shepherd, which emphasizes Jesus's role as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. The day also serves as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, a time to pray for those called to the priesthood, religious life and other forms of service in the Church. Today's first reading narrates how the apostles continued to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, including to the gentiles, who accepted it with joyful hearts. This shows that Christ came for the salvation of all His flock. As the good shepherd of all nations, He offers us salvation and protection through the good news. Although God in Christ manifested Himself first to the Jews, it was also His plan to save all nations. Unfortunately, due to ignorance, pride and hardness in their hearts, the Jews rejected Him. However, this became a blessing for the gentiles who are now God's elect. Like the Jews of Christ's time, today many people, due to ignorance, pride and hardness in their hearts, reject Jesus and His message.

In our second reading, through the vision of John, God assures us that Christ, our Good Shepherd, is willing to welcome and save all His children. Hence John tells us: "I, John, saw a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb..." Through His son Jesus Christ, God is ready to lead us to the spring of eternal salvation. His mercy, love and salvation do not discriminate, and His kingdom is open to all His flock—this is especially to all who humbly and cheerfully embrace Him. God's salvation is like a free — flowing spring. However, only those who are faithful to Him and have cleansed themselves in the blood of the Lamb could draw life from this spring of life.

Today's Gospel, taken from John, describes the relationship between Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and us, His flock. He says, "The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, and they follow me." The imagery of sheep and shepherd conveys deep truths about our spiritual journey. Sheep are known for their vulnerability and dependence, which mirror our own spiritual condition. Without the guidance of the shepherd we are prone to wander, to fall into danger and to lose our way. This simple, yet powerful, image reminds us that to belong to Jesus is to know His voice, to be recognized by Him and to follow where He leads. In a world full of uncertainty Jesus offers a firm foundation. He not only knows us, but he holds us securely in his hand. This becomes even more meaningful in our daily lives, where we are surrounded by many voices, fears, doubt, temptations and distractions. Amidst this noise it can be difficult to know which voice to follow. Jesus tells us, 'His sheep recognize His voice'. We have to learn to listen to the one voice that leads to life and truth. We had a dog named Brownny. As he grew old, Brownny began to lose his sight. When he heard the sound of people, he would bark and even rush towards them, but stop the moment we called his name. Even in the dark with limited vision, he recognized our voices. Brownny's trust in the familiar voice that guided him mirrors our need to listen for Christ's voice amidst the noise of the world. Just as Brownny responded to the call he knew, we too must train our hearts to hear and follow the voice of our shepherd. How do we do that? The best way to familiarise His Voice is to spend time in personal prayer. At least 15 minutes a day is a good start. Don't read anything or say anything; just sit and look at Jesus. Simple prayer methods like this can help us to tune out the distractions and focus on the shepherd who leads us. His voice never changes; it remains constant, gentle, firm and full of love. Ultimately this passage invites us to reflect on our relationship with Jesus. Are we truly listening to His voice? Do we trust in the security He offers? May the Almighty God grant us the wisdom and grace to continue to respond obediently to Christ, our Good Shepherd.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ