



SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

208 Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa,
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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 15:1-2;
Psalms 67(66);
Apocalypse 21:10-14;
John 14:23-29

This Week: 25th May-1st Jun 2025 Psalter week 2	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 25th May Sixth Sunday of Easter Year C	8:30 am Christopher Fitzpatrick RIP (AM) 10:30 am For the Children Preparing for FHC 6:00 pm People of the Parish	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall
Monday 26th May Memorial of St Philip Neri, Priest	9.45 am Rosary 10.00 am Iain Martin RIP (MM)	
Tuesday 27th May Feast of St Augustine of Canterbury	8:50 am Rosary 9:15 am Iain Martin RIP (LM)	
Wednesday 28th May Easter Feria	8:50 am Rosary 9:15 am For the sick and terminally ill	After Mass– Adoration till 6.00 pm.
Thursday 29th May Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord	8:50 am Rosary 9:15 am Persecuted Christians 7.00 pm Holy Mass	
Friday 30th May The Solemnity of Dedication	8:50 am Rosary 9:15 am Holy Mass	1.00 pm Wedding
Saturday 31st May Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	10.30 am Rosary 11.00 am For peace in the world	10.15-10.45 am Confessions 12:00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall 2.00 pm Private Church Tour
Sunday 1st June Seventh Sunday of Easter Year C Second collection for Catholic communication	8:30 am Christopher Fitzpatrick RIP (SK) 10.30 am McGinley Family (DM) 12.00 noon Baptism 6.00 pm People of the Parish	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall

“ Every word of the Gospel is like a seed sown in the soil of our lives. This soil is our heart, as well as the world, our community, and the Church. The word of God fertilizes and awakens every reality.”

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 21st May 2025

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

Let the people praise you, o God;

let all the people praise you.

6.00 pm

Cry out with joy to God all the earth.

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for Liam Christopher Kinnally who died recently.
May his soul and the souls of all faithful departed through the mercy of God
rest in peace.

The Requiem Mass for Liam will be on Friday 6th June at 11.00 am. His body
will be brought to the Church on the evening before at 5.30 pm.

Please keep his family and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

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). Raffle tickets are available to buy
from the parish hall after each Mass. Please buy some tickets for yourself
and for your friends and family. In addition, there will be stalls such as cakes,
bric-a-brac, tombola, toiletries, toys and books. Please start bringing items
for these stalls, especially items for tombola and toiletries.

REFUGEE COLLECTION

Thank you once again for the wonderful selection of adult and baby knitted
items, so exquisitely crafted. The care that has gone into producing these
items is so heartwarming.

Also thank you for the miscellaneous items of clothing. A special thank you
once again to the person who packs and labels items so thoughtfully.

Wool and other related items are available in the cupboard at the church
entrance, and donations of the same would be gratefully accepted to help
defray costs. Please continue knitting and I will collect again in a few
months.

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

JOHN & GINA PILLEY— SUPPORTING ST RICHARD’S HOSPICE

John and Gina have signed up to support St Richard’s Hospice by doing a 3-day trek in the Alps 13/17th June 2025. There are leaflets at the back of church giving a QR code should you wish to donate to our Just Giving page. We will also be at the back of church after each Mass on 1st and 8th June should you wish to sponsor us and help St Richard’s Hospice to help those in need. Thank you for your support. John and Gina.

‘MISSIO’ THE POPE’S CHARITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES FOR WORLD MISSION

As you know, every year there is a second collection for ‘Missio’, usually in October. However, some parishioners contribute throughout the year by using a Red Box to save small change, or regular Direct debits to donate to the charity. In 2024 our Parish raised £267.41 through these means. A big Thank-you to all of them! If you would like to contribute through the Red Box scheme or take out a Direct debit please leave your name with Fr.George, Bro.Patrick or the Parish secretary for further information.

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.

NEWMAN ASSOCIATION WORCESTER CIRCLE

The summer outing to Harvington Hall will be on Saturday June 28th and we will be having a guided tour of Harvington Hall starting at 1.30pm. We need to arrive by 1.15. The cost will be £12 per person. Transport can be arranged for those who do not have access to a car. Note that, although the Hall, as a medieval building, has chairs in most rooms, it cannot accommodate walking frames or wheelchairs.

If you are interested, please let John Duddington know by 20th June at the latest by emailing him on 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

Children’s Liturgy will resume after half term.

PARISH YOUTH GROUP

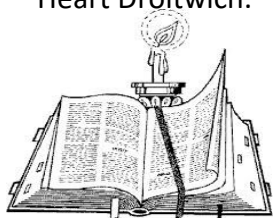
Runs during term time on Friday evenings from 6.30 pm for children aged 9-14 years.

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:**£309.60****Gift Aid: £145.00****Second collection for****Vincentians****£244.00****Gift Aid: £80.00****Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.****Mass attendance
last Sunday: 274****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 **8th June** from 2.30 pm to 4.00 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 7:55-60;**Psalms 97(96);**Apocalypse**22:12-14,16-17,20;**John 17:20-26*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today's readings show us the effects of the abiding presence of God in His Church and of His indwelling in each one of us. The first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, tells us how the Holy Spirit, dwelling in the Church, helped the apostles to solve a major doctrinal problem, which shook the very foundation of the early Church. The Acts of the Apostles describes the Council of Jerusalem, which took place around 49-50 AD. This was the first major council of the early Church, convened to resolve a critical dispute: should Gentile converts to Christianity be required to observe Jewish customs, particularly circumcision? This debate led to a significant discussion with the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. The Council, guided by the Holy Spirit, concluded that Gentiles were not bound by the full yoke of Mosaic Law. Instead, they were asked to observe four key practices: abstaining from food sacrificed to idols, blood, meat of strangled animals, and sexual immorality (Acts 15:29). These guidelines were not burdensome but intended to foster unity and sensitivity between Jewish and Gentile believers. The decision of the Council of Jerusalem marked a pivotal moment in the Church's mission, affirming that salvation is through grace and faith in Jesus Christ, not mere adherence to the Law. This decision also highlights the Church's role in discerning matters of faith and practice through collective wisdom and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Much like how the early Church wrestled with integrating Gentiles and Jews, modern societies struggle to bridge divides rooted in history and identity. For decades, political, religious, and territorial disputes have fuelled conflict, often hindering peace and cooperation between nations and communities. The reading reminds us that true unity is not about erasing differences but embracing diversity under shared principles of peace and mutual respect. The apostles did not force Gentiles to conform entirely to Jewish customs; instead, they sought a path forward that respected both traditions. This passage challenges us to be peacemakers, seeking unity even in the face of long-standing divisions. It calls us to build bridges, not walls, understanding that the grace of Christ transcends borders, cultures and even wars.

What leaps out to me in today's Gospel are the words: Whoever loves me will keep my word; My Father will love whoever loves Me; and We will come to dwell with whoever loves Me. This is the Christian breakthrough! Whoever loves me, that is, whoever puts faith in Jesus Christ, enters into a new intimate relationship not only with Jesus but also with His Father. The story is told that after Helen Keller's teacher, Annie Sullivan, had given her the names of physical objects in sign language, Miss Sullivan attempted to explain God and tapped out the symbols for the name "God." Much to Miss Sullivan's surprise, Helen spelled back, "Thank you for telling me God's Name, Teacher, for He has touched me many times before." How could Helen Keller have known about God? Although she was blind and deaf, Helen Keller knew God, for God had shown Himself to her. That is the "revelation" of an indwelling God about whom today's Scripture readings speak. The mysterious God, from whom the Old Testament prophets hid their eyes, now dwells intimately within the believer. This indwelling is the Holy Spirit, and a gift of this indwelling is peace. The promise of God's abiding presence must have been of great comfort to John's community, who knew that the Temple in Jerusalem, the symbol of God's presence with His people, had been destroyed by the Roman army. The Gospel passage reassures us of God's abiding presence in each one of us. God inhabits our hearts so deeply and intimately that we become the visible dwelling place of God. His living presence is always with us, yet "hidden" in the very things we so often take for granted. Thus, we are invited to look for and encounter —"God-with-us," yet "hidden" — in the person sitting next to us, in the words we speak, and in the songs we sing at the Mass. God bless us.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ