



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

208 Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa,  
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**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 12:1-11*

*Psalms 34(33);*

*2 Timothy 4:6-8,17-18;*

*Matthew 16:13-19*

This Week: 29th Jun-6th July 2025 Psalter Week 1	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
<b>Sunday 29th June</b> <b>Solemnity of the</b> <b>SS Peter &amp; Paul, Apostles</b> <b>Year C</b> Second collection for Peter's Pence	8:30 am Nora O'Leary RIP (SK) 10.30 am Vibha Thomas (MM) 12.00 noon Baptism 6.00 pm David Taylor RIP (JD)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall 10.30 am Children's Liturgy
<b>Monday 30th June</b> Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Peter Gruszka, Katherine & Michael Sekovski RIP (BS)	
<b>Tuesday 1st July</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Stanislawa Fraczek RIP(BKF)	
<b>Wednesday 2nd July</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Iain Martin RIP (MM)	After Mass– Adoration till 6.00 pm. 1.30 pm Private Church Tour
<b>Thursday 3rd July</b> Feast of St Thomas, Apostle	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Holy Mass	Church cleaning after Mass
<b>Friday 4th July</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am John & Ruby Martin RIP (MM)	Sacred Heart Novena after Mass 6.30 pm Youth Group
<b>Saturday 5th July</b> Feria	10.30 am Rosary 11.00 am Holy Mass	10.15-10.45 am Confessions 12:00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall
<b>Sunday 6th July</b> <b>Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C</b> Second collection for Red Box	8:30 am People of the Parish 10.30 am Mariyakutty Francis RIP (MF) 12.00 noon Baptism 6.00 pm Elke Schmitt RIP (P&JL)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall 10.30 am Children's Liturgy

**“ Every time we perform an act of faith addressed to Jesus, we grow in our connection with Him, and His grace is bestowed immediately. At times we are unaware of it, but, in a secret and real way, His grace reaches us and gradually transforms our life from within.”**

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 25th June 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**

**From all my terrors the Lord set me free.**

**6.00 pm**

**I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips.**

**In the Lord my soul shall make its boast; the humble shall hear and be glad.**

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**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, Josephine Gylee & Michael James.

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**SACRED HEART SUMMER FAIR 19TH JULY 2025**

**FROM 11.00AM to 2.00PM**

The Parish Summer Fair will be on Saturday 19th July. We are hoping and  
praying for delightful sunny weather for our Summer Fair. We are also  
hoping to have a BBQ, International food stalls, games organized by Youth  
Group and much more.

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.

**RED BOX APPEAL**

Next week we will welcome Fr Joseph Thangaraj Balaswamy MHM to give a  
Red Box appeal. Missio is the Pope's charity for world Mission and through  
the Red Box we support the Church around the World where it is young and  
in need. Please consider supporting this important cause by taking a Red Box  
or signing up to give Direct Debit.

**NET (NATIONAL EVANGELISATION TEAMS) MINISTRIES**

NET (National Evangelisation Teams) Ministries USA is a Catholic Missionary  
Organisation in America whose mission is to serve young people and help  
them encounter Christ in a personal way and help them grow in their faith.  
They do this by conducting retreats in schools throughout the US. I, Vibha  
Thomas, an 18 year old parishioner, will be serving as a missionary with them  
for the 2025 - 2026 Mission year, starting in August and ending in May. To  
do this year of mission, I'll need to fundraise seven thousand pounds, which  
will fund my expenses while there. Your support and prayers would  
be greatly appreciated! Here is the link to support my  
mission. [give.netusa.org/vibhathomas](https://give.netusa.org/vibhathomas). If you'd like to support me via bank  
transfer instead, please contact me! My contact info:  
[vibha.thomas@netusa.org](mailto:vibha.thomas@netusa.org), 07872929457

## **GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF FR. ANTON SCJ**

The Fathers and Brothers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Betharram cordially invite you all for the Golden Jubilee of the Priesthood of Fr. Anton Madej SCJ on Friday the 4th July, 2025, 7pm at Corpus Christi church, Southchurch Drive, Clifton, Nottingham NG11 9BP. Jubilee Mass followed by buffet.

RSVP [goldenjube50scj@gmail.com](mailto:goldenjube50scj@gmail.com) or write St. Werburgh Church, Seabridge Lane, Newcastle under Lyme, ST5 4AG.

## **CHURCH CLEANING**

Since the cleaning and renovation of the mosaics work began we have been cleaning the church every Friday in the afternoon, instead of Thursday every 14 days after mass. As these works are getting closer to the end and the main body of the church doesn't need much attention, we have decided to come back to the old way. So the next cleaning will be on **3rd July** 2025 after mass in the morning, and the following date will be on 17th July 2025 after mass in the morning.

## **SACRED HEART LADIES' GROUP**

For very many years we had a successful and popular ladies group in the parish, which met regularly in the parish hall and enjoyed interesting talks and companionship. We think that many of the ladies in the parish would welcome the companionship of such a group, and would enjoy sharing news and advice and perhaps meeting socially from time to time. However, times have changed, and maybe a WhatsApp group would be a good starting point for such a group. If you think this could be for you, please get in touch with Bogusia at [sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk) and invite some of your friends in the parish to join with you, and we'll see what happens!

## **BECOME A FOUNDATION GOVERNOR OR DIRECTOR AT ONE OF OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

The Diocesan Education Service has launched a new promotional video to support recruitment. In the video Archbishop Bernard Longley, school leaders, and current governors and directors discuss the role and how rewarding it can be. Opportunities are available across the Archdiocese, and all skills and backgrounds are welcome. Visit the diocesan website for more information:

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/>

## **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

**29th June and 6th, 13th July.**

## **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](mailto:sg.sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/[safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.

**Main Collection:**  
**£317.48**  
**Gift Aid: £222.00**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

**Mass attendance  
last Sunday: 273**



**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 **13th July** 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](mailto:DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk) or on 07772 927535 or on Facebook, SVP Sacred Heart Droitwich.



**Next Sunday's Mass  
Readings**

Isaiah 66:10-14  
Psalm 66(65);  
Galatians 6:14-18 ;  
Luke 10:1-12,17-20

*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.*

My dear friends, today we celebrate the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, two pillars of our church, two very different men united by one mission and one Lord. It is said that, on the day of his ordination, the priest loses his identity only to find it again in Christ. He becomes personally identified with Christ as he is made an 'alter Christus'. This is not a resemblance born of simple familiarity, but a conformity of identity with the God who is Love. If we look at the personal stories of Saints Peter and Paul, we find questions of identity everywhere. When Peter first met Jesus, the Lord gave him a new identity: "You, Simon, shall be called Peter, Rock". But before Jesus solemnly gave him that new name and title, Simon first had to confess the identity of Jesus: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." In confessing Christ's identity, Peter confessed his own.

In my 12 years of my Priesthood I have administered all the sacraments (except ordination) and other sacramentals a great number of times. Among all those sacraments and sacramentals my experience of funerals was entirely different. In a funeral I found two kinds of people. Some stand silently at the back of the church, distant observers who perhaps came out of duty or respect. Others are right in front, weeping, praying, mourning; they are family members and people who knew the one who died deeply and personally. The difference is clear; some knew about the person, others loved the person. This is the same contrast the Gospel of Matthew presents to us today. Jesus begins by asking "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" The disciples respond with popular opinions: John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah. These are impressive titles, but they reflect only what others think. Then Jesus turns to them and asks the deep personal question: "But who do you say that I am?". It's no longer about what others believe, it's about a personal relationship with Him. Peter's bold confession is "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God". He doesn't speak from hearsay or popular opinion poll but from conviction, born of encounter with Jesus.

As we celebrate the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, this passage holds deep meaning for us. Peter represents the faith of the church founded on Christ, while Paul symbolizes the Church's mission to the world. Both were very different men, Peter impulsive and Paul intellectual, but both had a personal transformative encounter with Jesus that shaped everything they did. The feast reminds us that faith is not a test of doctrinal knowledge or cultural identity or our past life, nor is it about being in the crowd with opinions about Jesus. It's about standing close like Peter and Paul, shaped by a living relationship with Jesus. The lives of Peter and Paul are a classic example of a Christian whose past might have been different, yet that doesn't affect the relationship with Jesus after encountering Him personally. So let us not be afraid of encountering Jesus, despite what our past life might have been, because every saint was once a sinner before encountering Christ. For me Jesus is not what I've read in books or heard in sermons or watched in documentaries, but what I believe deep down in me. When I'm alone, afraid or in need, like Peter can I say, "you are the Christ", not just with my lips but with my life? Like Paul, do I let that encounter change the direction of my life? Today's feast invites us not only to admire Peter and Paul but to follow their example to draw near to Jesus to know Him truly and to proclaim Him boldly, not as strangers but as friends.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ