



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

Genesis 18:1-10;

Psalms 15(14);

Colossians 1:24-28;

Luke 10:38-42

This Week: 20th– 27th July 2025 Psalter Week 4	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 20th July Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C Gift collection for Br. Patrick	8:30 am Arthur Leason RIP (MB) 10.30 am People of the Parish 12.00 noon Baptism 6.00 pm Mary Bell RIP(P&PG)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall
Monday 21st July Feria	<u>6.00 pm Br. Patrick's Jubilee Mass</u>	
Tuesday 22nd July Feast of St Mary Magdalene	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Robert & Margaret Eeckelaers	
Wednesday 23rd July Feast of St Bridget, Religious, Patron of Europe	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Frances & Catherine (GS)	After Mass– Adoration till 6.00 pm.
Thursday 24th July Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Wedding Anniversary of Jacob and Treasa Smith (TS)	
Friday 25th July Feast of St James, Apostle	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Br. Patrick SCJ (LM)	Sacred Heart Novena after Mass
Saturday 26th July Memorial of Ss Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary	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 2.00 pm Public Church Tour NLHF
Sunday 27th July Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C	8:30 am Holy Mass 10.30 am People of the Parish 12.00 noon Baptism 6.00 pm John and Mary Ryan (DR)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall

**“ In order to live eternally, we do not need to cheat death,
but to serve life, by caring for others in this, our time together.”**

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 13th July 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
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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

O Lord, who may abide in Your tent?

6.00 pm

**Let the Lord enter in, he is the king of glory.
Let the Lord enter, let the Lord enter, enter into your heart.**

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.

SACRED HEART SUMMER FAIR

Thank you to all those who supported the Summer Fair, either by making
cakes, advertising the event, helping set up the stalls, being a stall holder,
selling raffle tickets, helping with the games, providing refreshments,
clearing up afterwards, donating items, attending on the day and supporting
the event. The total raised for the parish will be announced in due course.
The Summer Fair this year was a great success. A big Thank You to all of you
for your participation and support.

FAREWELL TO THE PARISH

After 32 years attending the Sacred Heart Church the time has come to say a
fond goodbye, as I move to Sheringham, Norfolk to be with my daughter
and her family. I have been privileged to have served throughout this time
as a Eucharistic Minister, to have spent 20 years on the Parish Finance Com-
mittee, to have served for an extended period as Chair of Governors at
St. Joseph's and after retirement about 10 years as an educational volunteer
at the school. Zita and I made so many friends within the Parish over the
years and it is with some sadness that I now move on. It will be strange
starting again in a new Parish, knowing nobody! Tim McConnell

NEW VOTIVE CANDLE STAND

As we have almost reached the final stage of the cleaning and restoration of
the mosaics, it is important that we preserve its beauty and elegance for
another fifty years from dust and dirt. One of the recommendations
suggested by the Mosaic Restoration Company is that we use smokeless
votive candles. So, for the next four weeks we will be trialling the St Killians
Votive Burning System, which claims to be the safest, cleanest, most
environmentally friendly votive burning system in the world. The candles in
the system are completely smoke free, which will help preserve our newly
cleaned mosaics. Their system is endorsed for its safety by the largest
insurer to the Catholic Church in the world. The system does not use any
plastic or aluminium. All the candle wax from the system is recycled. The
system is a lot cleaner than our current votive system, and wax spillage on
the floors, stands and surrounding areas will be greatly reduced. We also
hope the beauty of the system enhances your experience of lighting votive
candles. We look forward to your feedback .

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 30th 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. There will be SVP raffle tickets on sale, the proceeds of which go to Droitwich SVP Conference and SVP Head Office. We look forward to seeing you there.

CASH4COINS

Thank you for your continuing donations of foreign and out of date cash for SVP funds. We recently dispatched the coins and notes that have been collected, the value of which has been confirmed as £289.13. This will be split between SVP Head Office and Sacred Heart Droitwich Conference. THANK YOU!! The collection box will continue to be available at the back of Church.

CHURCH MARBLE CLEANING

We have almost finished the cleaning and restoration work of the Mosaics. Now, it is our chance to get our hands dirty. We need to clean the marble in the church. So, if you could give an hour of your time this Thursday the 24th after the morning Mass that will be a great help. Unlike the mosaic restoration work, you don't have to be professionally trained to do this job. So please give a hand if you can.

PUBLIC NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND CHURCH TOUR AND POPUP CAFE

The next National Lottery Heritage Fund church tour is on Saturday 26th July. The Popup cafe will be running from 1pm to 5 pm. This is open to all and will be serving hot and cold drinks and a selection of homemade cakes. All proceeds go towards the parish hall. Do come along and support us. Please note- cash only. For more details, please visit our Facebook page Friends of Sacred Heart Droitwich Spa

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. More updates about the programme to follow.

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 Summer.

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.

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

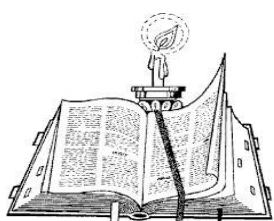
**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 231**



**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 14th

September 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**

Genesis 18:20-32;
Psalms 38(137);
Colossians 2:12-14;
Luke 11:1-13

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus. "Mary has chosen the better part, and it will not be taken from her". These words of Jesus resonate with the whole theme of today's liturgy. Jesus is inviting all of us to choose the better part: listen to Him and don't get so caught up in doing everything else! Be mindful of hospitality, presence and being personally attentive. The Gospel account of Martha and Mary along with the Old Testament account of Abraham meeting God in his three guests give us an opportunity to examine the notion of personal presence to others, and to God in Jesus Christ. As we have just heard from the first reading, Abraham felt that God was absent from him. He had every reason to feel that, because he was going through a bad time, especially the fact that God did not bless them with a child. The remarkable thing about Abraham was the fact that, in spite of all the sufferings they had endured, Abraham was still actively searching for the presence of God in his life, which led him to experience the blessing of God.

Martha and Mary rejoiced at each visit of Jesus to their home. They were glad to provide him with a place of rest in his journeys, a refuge in his struggle with the Jewish leaders. The fact that Martha appears as the head of the household is noteworthy. Women often played key roles in early Christian communities (Acts 16:14). Mary's position, sitting at Jesus's feet, was the posture of a disciple traditionally reserved for male students of rabbis, but here that has changed. Martha is busy preparing, serving and making sure everything is in order. For Jews, hospitality was part of their tradition, and she wants to honour Jesus with her hospitality. While making sure that Jesus is comfortable in her home, Martha becomes distracted, anxious and even frustrated with her sister. Martha finally speaks up. "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself?" Can't we all relate? We've all been there, overwhelmed, unappreciated, wanting help. But Jesus answers with great tenderness. "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. Only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the better part, and it will not be taken from her". Mary's choice is not a rejection of service but a prioritization. Listening to Jesus is the foundation of discipleship. "Better part" implies a portion that is eternal, not subject to loss or anxiety. This echoes Deuteronomy 8:3. "Man does not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God". Jesus doesn't criticize Martha's work. But he lovingly invites her to see what truly matters, being present to Him. So, what lessons can we draw from these readings for our lives today?

First, prioritize relationships over tasks. Martha was consumed with her work, but Mary chose to spend time with Jesus. Martha's worry and distraction resonate with many of us in our fast-paced world. We often find ourselves caught in the whirlwind of responsibilities, losing sight of what is truly important, our relationship with God and our ability to listen to His voice. Secondly, there is listening. Mary's choice to sit at Jesus's feet teaches us the value of stillness and attentiveness. In a world filled with noise and distractions it can be challenging to prioritize spiritual nourishment. Mary's action invites us to reflect on our lives. Thirdly, choose the better part. The story highlights the fact that spiritual growth and connection with God are priorities that should not be overlooked. While serving others and fulfilling responsibilities are important, they should not overshadow our call to nurture our relationship with God. Fourthly, recognize the importance of serving with a right heart. While serving is essential, it is important to ensure that our service comes from a place of love and joy rather than obligation. Serving should enrich our spiritual life. Fifthly, embrace the need for rest and renewal. Mary's choice to rest at Jesus's feet highlights the necessity of taking time for renewal. In our busy lives we must remember that taking time to recharge spiritually and emotionally is crucial for sustained growth. Recollections and retreats help us to recharge our spiritual self. So let us pray: Lord, help me to choose the better part, to listen to your word, to rest in your presence, and to serve with love, not anxiety. Fill me with your peace and guide my steps that I may live each day as a faithful witness of your good news. Amen.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ