



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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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
Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23;
Psalms 90(89);
Colossians 3:1-5; 9-11;
Luke 12:13-21

This Week: 3rd—10th Aug 2025 Psalter Week 2	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 3rd August Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C	8:30 am Mrs. Maggie Collins RIP (BC) 10.30 am Eddie Hand RIP (BS) 12.00 noon Baptism 6.00 pm Private intention (JD)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall
Monday 4th August Memorial of St John Mary Vianney	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Mr. & Mrs. Harry & Pat Marsh RIP (GS)	
Tuesday 5th August Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Mrs. Dulsie Merchant (GS)	
Wednesday 6th August Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Ruby Martin RIP (MM)	After Mass— Adoration till 6.00 pm.
Thursday 7th August Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Holy Mass	
Friday 8th August Memorial of St Dominic	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Holy Mass	Sacred Heart Novena after Mass
Saturday 9th August Feast of St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin, Martyr, Patron of Europe	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 12:30-4:00 pm Children's Mosaic Workshop in Main Hall
Sunday 10th August Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C	8:30 am People of the Parish 10.30 am Andrew Hine RIP (CL) 12.00 noon Baptism 6.00 pm Br. Patrick SCJ (FG)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall

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

O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for Peter Leo Starkey and Father Antony Rohan
(Parish Priest of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Redditch) who both died
recently. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through
the mercy of God, rest in peace. Please keep their families and friends in
your kind thoughts and prayers.

Peter Leo Starkey's funeral will be on Monday 11th August at 1:30 pm.

The reception of Fr. Tony's body will be on Monday 18th August at 6pm
at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Beoley Road West, Redditch B98 8LT,
followed by Holy Mass, at which Bishop Timothy Menezes will preside. The
Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 19th August at 12pm at
which Bishop David Evans will preside.

SPONSORED WALK—MARCH FOR LIFE

I will be doing a sponsored walk to raise funds for March for Life UK. It is
approx' 192 miles from St Bees on the West coast to Robin Hood's Bay on
the East coast. I will start on Monday 18th August. If you would like to
sponsor me please make a donation to March for Life via their website. If
you can, please put "Sponsored Walk" as the reference. Any amount is
welcome. Kind regards, Peter Hartley.

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.

SACRED HEART SUMMER FAIR

There are still some outstanding raffle prizes to collect. These can be
claimed from the presbytery.

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 4pm. 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.

MARRIAGE HELP

Summer and Christmas holidays are peak times for stress for marriages. Most couples say they found out about help for their marriage through parish communications. Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next date: 17th-19th Oct. www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 0788 7296983

NEW VOTIVE CANDLE STAND

This is the last week of the trial of the proposed new votive candle stand. We look forward to your feedback.

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.

HERITAGE OPEN DAY

In September we are participating in the national Heritage Open Days programme, instead of running the monthly church tours and children's workshop. Therefore on 13th September from 12-5pm, there will be a church 'open-day' where we hope to have tour guides stationed in the church to welcome visitors and a café. The visitor centre will be open and we will also have a taster of the children's mosaic workshops. Anyone who would like to help on the day, or to join the volunteers at any of the community engagement activities, will be most welcome. Our commitment to the project currently extends to the end of 2026. This is the parish's contribution to the restoration of the mosaics in the church, made possible by the players of the National Lottery, through a very generous grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

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.



**Cash offerings last
Sunday**

**Main Collection:
£262.62**

Gift Aid: £220.00

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

**Next Sunday's Mass
Readings**

Wisdom 18:6-9;

Psalms 32;

Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19;

Luke 12:32-48

My dear friends in Christ Jesus, the liturgical readings today make us reflect on some of the fundamental questions deep within every human person: Who am I? What is the meaning of our life and what truly gives life meaning? People over the centuries have asked these questions. We live in a world that chases wealth, success, and security but deep down we know these don't last forever. Today's readings teach us to let go of greed and things that don't last and live as people of faith, gratitude and love. This is the same deep question that disturbed the author of Ecclesiastes who identified himself as a teacher, written at a time when the Jewish people lived under foreign rulers and life was hard. The writer looks at the toil and struggle of human life and declares: "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity." The Hebrew word for "vanity" is (הבל)hevel and literally means vapour or breath: something fleeting, impossible to grasp, here one moment and gone the next. In the first reading the teacher speaks about a person who works hard all his life with wisdom and skill. But when he dies, all his work and his achievements through sleepless nights are left to someone else and it all feels meaningless. This was a big question for people at that time, too. They saw people build great cities and temples, but after a while everything fell apart. Even good, hard-working people died, just like everyone else. The reading implores us to see that we are not in control, and life "under the sun" is short and uncertain. If we make our whole life about success or possessions, we will end up disappointed. Instead, we can choose to enjoy each day as a gift from God, to do our best without being anxious about the future. That doesn't mean that we shouldn't have plans for our life, of course we should. Life is short, like a breath, therefore it is a gift to be received, not a project to be controlled.

In the Gospel (Luke 12:13-21) Jesus teaches us what is true possession. To be in this world and not of it, to collect the necessary goods of this world by honest labour and yet remain detached from them, to possess but not be possessed by worldly riches, is an ideal to which our weak human nature responds very reluctantly. A large percentage of Christians, however, do respond to the challenge mundanely and loyally. They earn and use the goods of this world wisely, while at the same time they keep God's laws and earn wealth for heaven; they never let their temporal possessions come between them and their God. To do this is not easy, but God's helping grace is always available to the willing heart. There are also those who resemble the foolish man described in the parable, who are ensnared in their desire to accumulate good things for their earthly life, that they forget that at any moment they may have to leave this earth and all they possess in it. They may not have large barns or grain-bins bursting at the seams with the fruits of their fields or their market dealings, but they have allowed their possessions, large or small, to become the prison-houses of their hearts and thoughts. In their rush for earthly treasure they give themselves no time to stop and think of the really important thing in life, namely, that soon they must leave this world and all it holds dear to them. But it is not the departure from this world that is to be feared. Rather, it is the arrival at another, for which they have made no preparation. No man will be excluded from heaven because he lawfully possessed some of this world's wealth. But a man will exclude himself from eternal happiness if he lets this world's wealth possess him to the exclusion of God. The fate of the rich man in the parable need not, and should not, be mine. I still have time to stop building larger grain-bins and barns, and to turn my attention instead to collecting some treasure for heaven. What we are is a gift from God and what we become is our Gift to God. So let us make our life 'The Best Gift' for God. God bless us all.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ