



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

*Jeremiah 38:4-6; 8-10*

*Psalms 40(39);*

*Hebrews 12:1-4;*

*Luke 12:49-53*

This Week: 17th-24th Aug 2025 Psalter Week 4	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
<b>Sunday 17th August</b> <b>Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary</b> <b>Time, Year C</b>	8:30 am Andrew Lockington RIP 10.30 am Teresa Shaw RIP (GF) 12.00 noon Baptism 6.00 pm Jeril Mathew (MM)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall
<b>Monday 18th August</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Franciszek Gruszka RIP (BS)	
<b>Tuesday 19th August</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Maria Murphy RIP (MS)	
<b>Wednesday 20th August</b> Memorial of St Bernard, Abbot, Doctor of the Church	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Andrew Lockington RIP	After Mass– Adoration till 6.00 pm.
<b>Thursday 21st August</b> Memorial of St Pius X, Pope	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Mary Mason RIP (MM)	
<b>Friday 22nd August</b> Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Phillip Ross RIP (P&AC)	Sacred Heart Novena after 9:15am Mass
<b>Saturday 23rd August</b> Feast of St John Wall, Priest, Martyr	10.30 am Rosary 11.00 am Private Intention (D&A)	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
<b>Sunday 24th August</b> <b>Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary</b> <b>Time, Year C</b>	8:30 am Holy Mass 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Holy Mass	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall

**“Wherever we are, let us try not to miss any opportunity to love. This is the vigilance that Jesus asks of us: to get used to being attentive, available, and sensitive to one another, as He is with us at every moment.”**

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 10th August 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**

**Lord, make haste to help me!**

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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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## **RECENTLY DECEASED**

Your prayers are asked for Andrew Lockington, Fr. Paul Johnson and Father  
Antony Rohan (Parish Priest of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Redditch) who  
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.

Andrew Lockington studied here at the Sacred Heart College in the late 70's.  
His funeral arrangements will be advised at a later date.

Fr. Paul Johnson used to be the parish priest at St. Joseph's Warndon.

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.

## **SCJ SPONSORED WALK 2025**

The Sacred Heart sponsored walk will be on Saturday 27th September. Your  
generous support would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to sponsor  
the walk please write your name on the clipboard at the back of church. If  
you would like to join the walk you are most welcome to join the Sacred  
Heart Fathers and Brothers. The walk will be held in Nottingham -the place  
and time will be announced in due course.

## **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 first session will be on Monday 22nd September in the  
Parish Hall at 7pm. 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.

## **SACRED HEART SUMMER FAIR**

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

## **RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF CREATION**

August's Responding to the Call of Creation Newsletter is on the notice  
board.

## **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](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) Tel: 0788 7296983

## **NEW VOTIVE CANDLE STAND**

After the trial, it has been decided to keep the new votive candle stand. It has a lighter which should be used to light the candle once it has been placed in the glass cup. Please do not light candles from each other or before placing in the cup.

## **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.

## **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. There is also a clipboard at the back of church. Any amount is welcome. Kind regards, Peter Hartley.

## **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](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:**

**£247.91**

**Gift Aid: £186.00**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

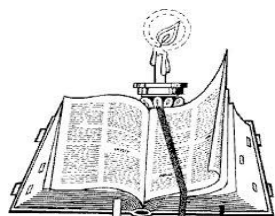
**Mass attendance  
last Sunday: 280**



**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**

Isaiah 66:18-21

*Psalms 117(116);*

*Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13;*

*Luke 13:22-30*

The words of Jesus in the Gospel reading of today (Luke 12:49-53) must have seemed very antithetical for his disciples. How is it that Jesus, who speaks of peace and love, began to say these hard and very scandalous words? "I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already... do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division." Irrespective of how hard these words may seem, Jesus knew that not everybody would accept His message of love and peace. He's speaking to the people of his time, but He's also speaking to all of us here and now.

Today's Gospel reminds us of some events in the Old Testament where fire came into play. God used fire and brimstone to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen 19:24). God used fire and hailstorm to punish the Egyptians for their stubbornness (Ex 9:3). The prophet Elijah called down fire from heaven to consume fifty soldiers (2 Kings 1:9-17) and his sacrifice (1Kg 18, 38). Does Jesus want to destroy us with this same fire? No, the fire that Jesus brings is different. It is the fire of the Holy Spirit, which purifies our souls from evil and saves us. Hence St. Cyril of Alexandria writes, "The fire which Christ brings is for men's salvation ...The fire here is the saving message of the Gospel and the power of its commandments". This fire is the fire of love, the fire of truth and the fire that can divide but also purify and heal when it addresses an injustice. There's a good example of this fire at work in Tim Robbins's movie "Dead Man Walking". It's based on the true story of Sister Helen Prejean who accompanies one convicted murderer to his execution. She chooses to walk with him, not to excuse his crimes but to help him face the truth and to encounter the possibility of mercy. This causes great division. The victims' families and even some Church members are outraged that she gave him any support at all. 'How can you comfort someone like him?' they ask. 'Aren't you on the wrong side?'

"Some divisions are necessary and some are holy." Can you think of a time when standing for what is right created an inevitable division in your life, your family or your community? Sister Helen faced outrage from the victims' families, who felt she was "on the wrong side". Was she choosing a side? Or, as the reflection suggests, was she "choosing Christ"? What's the difference? When can "keeping the peace" be a bad thing? When does it become a "false peace" that allows injustice to continue? We are destined in this life to be divided from at least some people, and today's readings urge us to be divided for the right reasons. Prejudice continues to raise walls between people, and the conflict between the culture of life and the culture of death is largely a problem of prejudice against the unborn, the elderly and the disabled. None of the reasons offered for abortion would be tolerated as reasons to kill the born; it is only because the victims are unborn that they become victims. Similarly, none of the reasons for killing the less functional people would be tolerated as reasons to kill the functioning; hence again, prejudice is revealed as the real problem. As Christians we need to stand against that prejudice. However, we get treated like Jeremiah in the first reading. He was accused of "demoralizing the soldiers" because he was saying that the Babylonians, who were about to attack Jerusalem, could not be stopped because they were being used by God to punish His people. The problem was not military or political, Jeremiah said, but rather moral. In our day, when we point out the moral problems that stand at the foundation of so many other societal ills, we too will be rejected and mocked. When the fundamental principles of a moral society are compromised, divisions and conflicts are inevitable. Let us strive to fill the gaps that divide our family and our society by exercising genuine love for God and our neighbour.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ