



## 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

*Isaiah 66:18-21*

*Psalms 117(116);*

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

*Luke 13:22-30*

This Week: 24th-31st Aug 2025 Psalter Week 1	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
<b>Sunday 24th August</b> <b>Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C</b>	8:30 am Ron Hancock RIP (AM)) 10.30 am Pam & Mike Jennings RIP (BB) 6.00 pm Thomas Mathai (DD)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall
<b>Monday 25th August</b> Feria	<b>10.00am</b> Mary & Finn Fielding RIP (BB)	
<b>Tuesday 26th August</b> Feast of Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God, Priest, Religious	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Fr. Tony Rohan RIP	
<b>Wednesday 27th August</b> Memorial of St Monica	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Williams & Family (DG)	After Mass— Adoration till 6.00 pm.
<b>Thursday 28th August</b> Memorial of St Augustine, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Tony Mason RIP (AM)	After Mass—Church cleaning
<b>Friday 29th August</b> Memorial of the Passion of Saint John the Baptist, Martyr	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Harry Remedios RIP(AK)	Sacred Heart Novena after 9:15am Mass
<b>Saturday 30th August</b> Feria	10.30 am Rosary 11.00 am Dinu & Agnus (DD)	10.15-10.45 am Confessions 12:00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall
<b>Sunday 31st August</b> <b>Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C</b>	8:30 am Mark Smallwood RIP (RM) 10.30 am For the Children's Liturgy 6.00 pm People of the Parish	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall

**"Let us pray that efforts to bring wars to an end and to promote peace may bear fruit,  
and that in negotiations the common good of peoples may always be placed first."**

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 17th 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**

**Go into all the world and proclaim the good news.**

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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, Kathleen Burns and Fr. Paul  
Johnson 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.

## **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.

## **DEANERY PILGRIMAGE TO EVESHAM:**

On Saturday 13th September, we will have the opportunity to join other  
pilgrims from our Deanery at Immaculate Conception & St. Egwin Catholic  
Church, High Street, Evesham, WR11 4EJ. We will be coming together for  
12 noon Mass. As it is a Deanery Pilgrimage, we encourage everybody to  
join us for the Mass at Evesham. There will not be any Mass here at the  
Sacred Heart on that day. We will travel in our own cars and so it will be  
good to arrange car shares to take other parishioners who wish to be there  
with us. If anyone need a transportation, please let us know. There will be  
a light refreshment after the Mass.

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

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

## **ANNUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO HARVINGTON HALL AND THE SHRINE OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS:**

The annual pilgrimage to Harvington Hall will be On Sunday 7th September 2025. There will be MASS at 3.00pm. Archbishop Bernard Longley will be the Principal Celebrant . All are welcome. (See Poster on the notice board at the back of church for more details).

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **GLOBAL AID NETWORK UK — 10 YEARS OF GAIN UK 2025**

In the UK, GAIN started in 2015 and so far has been involved in sending staff, volunteers and aid to Syria, Iraq, Haiti, Romania, Greece, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, Bulgaria and Ukraine. They are dedicated to bringing hope and tangible help to people living in poverty and crisis. They believe that every life counts and deserves to receive unconditional love and help when they need it most. They are driven to pursue change in their own lives. Their desire is to be increasingly generous as we respond with humility to the challenges of disasters and ingrained poverty. In 2025 they are celebrating ten years of GAIN UK! Please visit their website where they want to take you on the journey of GAIN over the last decade, sharing stories and highlights from each year: <https://globalaidnetwork.org.uk/10-years-of-gain/>

### **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

There will be Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am mass on

**7th, 14th, 21st, 28th  
September  
and on  
5th, 12th October.**

### **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 if you have any concerns.

**Main Collection:**

**£364.10**

**Gift Aid: £194.46**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

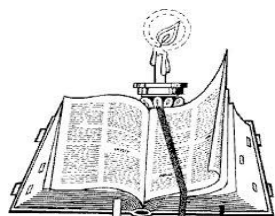
**Mass attendance  
last Sunday: 281**



**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**

**Sirach 3:17-18,20,28-29**

***Psalm 68(67);***

***Hebrews 12:18-19,22-24a;***

***Luke 14:1,7-14***

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Inspired by the beauty of a spring morning, Robert Browning wrote, "The lark's on the wing, the snail's on the thorn; God's in his heaven, all's right with the world". While the thought is beautiful, the poem suggests a misleading concept of God. "God's in his heaven, all's right with the world." How often we imagine God as "away up there, somewhere", while the world goes its separate way, with the events of every day independent of God. In contrast to this common idea of modern society, the liturgical readings of today show God in the person of Jesus Christ intervening in human affairs. Some people interpret the intervention of God in human affairs as a way to discipline us.

In the second reading, taken from the letter to the Hebrews, the term "discipline" does not mean punishment but the whole process of training, much like how a loving parent corrects and guides a child for their growth. The trials and hardships faced by the Christian community are projected as evidence of God's fatherly care. Endurance in such moments shows that we are His true children. Though discipline is painful now, over time it produces "a harvest of righteousness and peace" in those who are trained by it. The author was writing this letter at a time when the Hebrews were weary from persecution and tempted to give up. Therefore, the author reframes their suffering not as abandonment by God but as His loving preparation, shaping them to be more like Christ. This passage challenges our instinct to see hardship only as misfortune. God's discipline is not rejection but a sign of belonging. Like a skilled coach pushing an athlete beyond his comfort zone, God works through trials to build our spiritual endurance, integrity and peace. When we face struggles, be it illness, injustice or personal failure, it can be tempting to lose heart. But the author invites us to view these as part of God's training plan, not meaningless pain. If we submit to His guidance, our suffering can bear fruit, making us steadier, kinder and stronger in faith.

Imagine you are all excited about a new film that has just been released in the cinema. You meet up with your friends and go to the cinema and there you see the sign HOUSE FULL!. We hear about something similar in today's gospel reading, taken from Luke. As Jesus was travelling from town to town teaching, someone asked Him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" Jesus doesn't answer his question directly. What's important isn't knowing exactly how many will be saved. What's decisive is living with a clear and responsible attitude to welcome salvation from that good God. Jesus reminds them all: "Try your hardest to enter by the narrow door". In this way Jesus undercuts the reaction of those who understand His message as an invitation to laxity. Salvation isn't something one receives irresponsibly from a permissive God. It also isn't the privilege of an elect few. It isn't sufficient to have known the Messiah, to have heard and seen Him. One needs also to follow Him. The invitation to "enter by the narrow door" can be read in light of another saying of Jesus: "I am the door; the one who enters through me, will be saved" (John 10:9). Entering by the narrow door is "following Jesus", learning to live as He did. In following Him not everything counts, not everything is equal; we need to respond to the Father's love faithfully. What Jesus asks isn't legalistic religious rigorism, but a radical love for God and neighbour. That's why His call is a source of demand, but not of anxiety. Jesus Christ is a door that is always open. No one can close it, only we ourselves if we close ourselves to his forgiveness. It is personal and it is the daily choice to love God above all and to love our neighbour without excuse. The narrow door is open today. Tomorrow is not guaranteed. Step through it now before the sign reads, "House Full". May God bless us all.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ