



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Web: www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk



**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

Wisdom 9:13-18

Psalms 90(89);

Philemon 9b-10,12-17

Luke 14:25-33

This Week: 7th-14th Sep 2025 Psalter Week 3	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 7th September Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C	8:30 am Mary & James McDonnell RIP (B&N) 10.30 am Liam Kinnally RIP 6.00 pm People of the Parish	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am Mass
Monday 8th September Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am <u>Communion Services</u>	
Tuesday 9th September Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Kathleen Burns RIP (BB)	
Wednesday 10th September Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Breda Wightman RIP (RW)	After Mass— Adoration till 6.00 pm.
Thursday 11th September Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Norah O'Leary RIP (BB)	After Mass—Church cleaning 2.00 pm Private Church Tour
Friday 12th September Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Gladys Remedios RIP(AK)	Sacred Heart Novena after 9:15am Mass 12.00 noon Private Church Tour
Saturday 13th September Memorial of St John Chrysostom, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	No Mass, Deanery Pilgrimage	12:00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall 12.30-3.00 pm Children Church Tour & Workshop
Sunday 14th September Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Year C Second collection for Catholic Education	8:30 am Holy Mass 10.30 am Holy Mass 6.00 pm People of the Parish	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am Mass 2.30 pm SVP Afternoon

"A joy the world cannot know is born in fraternity, in the simple life, in the art of asking without shame, and in offering without ulterior motives. This joy restores us to the original truth of our being: we are creatures made to give and receive love."

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 4th September 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,
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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, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.

6.00 pm

Abba Father, you are always our refuge and our joy.

So we thank you and we worship, we worship you in song

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 Kathleen Burns who died recently. May her soul
and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in
peace. Please keep her families and friends in your kind thoughts and
prayers.

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.

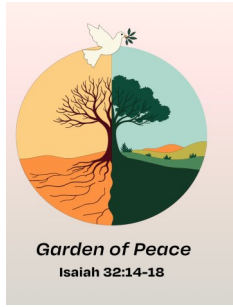
DEANERY PILGRIMAGE TO EVESHAM:

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.

GUILD OF SAINT STEPHEN

The annual Altar Server Mass of Thanksgiving will be offered at St. Chad's
Cathedral on Saturday 4th October at 12.00 noon. All servers are encourage
to attend; families are welcome to accompany them and refreshments are
provided after Mass. If you would like to attend, please let Fr. George or
Kevin know by 12th September.

THE SYMBOL FOR 2025 IS THE GARDEN OF PEACE.



The symbol is characterized by a dove carrying an olive branch bringing life to the Garden of Peace. In the Biblical story of the flood, the dove plays the role of the blessed messenger: The dove sent out by Noah returns to the ark with a fresh olive branch in its beak, signalling that the flood is receding. As the flood story begins with a situation where “the earth is filled with violence” (Genesis 6:13), the return of the dove with the olive branch came to be known as a sign of new peace.

RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF CREATION

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

GIFT AID

Thank you to all parishioners who gift aid their donations. The parish has just received a tax rebate of £11,191.84. Your support is greatly appreciated.



CANONISATION BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

This Sunday, 7 September, Blessed Carlo Acutis will be the first Millennial Saint to be canonised. He will be canonised alongside Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. Carlo was just 15 when he died. But in his short life he was renowned for his charity work and his constant pursuit of holiness. The Word of God and the Holy Eucharist were the centre of his life. His legacy lives on, and he is a worldwide source of inspiration to many, especially young people. You can Join EWTN Canonization Special Sunday, September 7th at 3AM ET Sunday, September 7th at 6PM ET.

DEMENTIA AWARENESS TRAINING SESSION

Age Uk Wyvern are delivering an engaging, interactive session on dementia awareness friendly community on Wednesday 24th September 2025 at 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm in The Old Library Centre. For more information, please see the poster at the back of the church

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

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 or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Main Collection:

£366.24

Gift Aid: £222.50

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

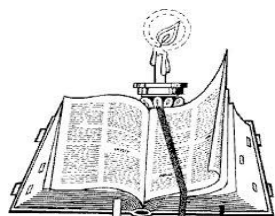
**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 286**



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

Numbers 21:4b-9

Psalms 78(77);

Philippians 2:6-11

John 3:13-17

On this Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time the church celebrates the spirit of commitment and self-sacrifice of Christ. Do you notice the paradox of Christian discipleship as presented to us in today's Gospel? Here is Jesus, who exhorted His disciples to "Love one another" (John 13:34), now suggesting that they hate everything they are supposed to love. Now the scene is where Jesus is surrounded by a huge crowd of people. They are full of enthusiasm and expectation, a sense of relief that at last they have the Messiah. But Jesus very quickly pulls them up short. He tells them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:26). How can we "hate" those we are supposed to love? And, more importantly, why? Of course, it is not 'hate' in the literal sense of the word. The word "hate" is a powerful word. In the language Jesus spoke, the word "hate" was a Semitic expression that we should not take literally. We should think of it as telling us that loving God is more important than anything else. Jesus is asking for first place in our hearts. He's not asking us to abandon our families ties and friendship. After all in the society in which Jesus lived people's whole lives centred on their families. Our lives should be also. Jesus used extreme language so that people would not forget what He is asking for, namely our wholehearted and uncompromising commitment to follow in His way, live in His truth, and share life with Him. There is no room for compromise when it comes to authentic Christian discipleship and such a life can also be a painful experience. There can be occasions when we would have to reject family, friends, colleagues at work because they stand in our way of following Christ perfectly. Sometimes we have to challenge the wishes and expectations of those around us—not to pay a bribe to get things done, to decide on a career of service rather than one that wins prestige and money, refusing to condemn injustice in our surroundings. Today, much more than persons, it's possessions that act as obstacles in our journey. That is why Jesus concludes today's Gospel with these words: "So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions" (v. 33).

Our lives are not to be determined and manipulated by attachments, desires, ambitions or fears and anxieties, which can become part of ourselves. Any aspect of our life that blocks our freedom to follow Christ and love Him completely is to be "hated". Of course, it's not easy. So the Book of Wisdom instructs us to ask for the gifts of discernment and strength from the Holy Spirit, so that we may do the will of God as His true children. To be a disciple of Jesus means being absolutely free. To be free to love Jesus and walk in His ways requires that we say "no" to a whole lot of other things. I am reminded of St. Francis of Assisi leaving his family and taking off all his rich and fancy clothes only to clothe himself in a beggar's rags. He was then filled with a tremendous sense of joy and freedom. Do I want to be a disciple of Jesus? To what extent? Am I ready to pay the price He asks? A complete change in priorities is required of anyone who decides to follow. No part-time disciples are accepted. No seasonal Christians are welcomed. No partial commitments are allowed. Since the demands are tough, Jesus does not lure His listeners into unconsidered commitments with false promises. He makes it explicitly clear that following Him will not be easy and it requires the involvement of the whole person and a full-time commitment. He does not force anybody to follow Him. He simply extends an open invitation to everybody without looking for any qualification. Are we prepared to respond to this invitation?

Fr. George Mathew SCJ