



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

Amos 6:1a,4-7

Psalms 145(146);

1 Timothy 6:11b-16

Luke 16:19-31

This Week: 28th Sep –5th Oct 2025 Psalter Week 2	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 28th September Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C Second collection for Fr Hudson's Caritas	8:30 am Neil Duffy RIP (JD) 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Pauline Owen- speedy recovery (GS)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am Mass
Monday 29th September Feast of St Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am James Regan RIP (BB)	7.00 pm Journey in Faith
Tuesday 30th September Memorial of St Jerome, Priest, Doctor of the Church	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am K.D. Varki RIP	11.00 am Private Church Tour
Wednesday 1st October Memorial of St Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin, Doctor of the Church	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Gillian Myatt RIP (RS)	After Mass– Adoration till 6.00 pm.
Thursday 2nd October Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Holy Mass	
Friday 3rd October Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am For peace in the Holy Land	Sacred Heart Novena after 9:15am Mass
Saturday 4th October Memorial of St Francis of Assisi	11.00 am Eric Whaley (AP)	10.15-10.45 Confession 12:00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall
Sunday 5th October Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C Second collection for CAFOD Harvest Day	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

"In a world where the most vulnerable are the first to suffer the devastating effects of climate change, deforestation, and pollution, care for creation becomes an expression of our faith and humanity."

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 25th 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
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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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Email:
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

My soul, give praise to the Lord.

6.00 pm

**Come Lord and save us, come Lord and save us,
Maranatha! Come into our world!**

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.

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

The next Journey in Faith will take place on 29th September at 7.00 pm and
the topic will be 'Who do people say I am: Who is Jesus for me?'

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2025

Children who are in Year 6 or above in September and are not at St.
Joseph's Catholic Primary School can be prepared to receive the Sacrament
of Confirmation on 3rd December at 7.00 pm. If you would like your child to
be part of the parish preparation group please could you contact Fr. George
or the parish office by the end of September. Confirmation sessions will
start on 11th October at 9.30am in the Hall.

CHRISTMAS FAIR 29TH NOVEMBER

The Parish Fair is a time when we can all come together as a Parish Family,
apart from liturgical services, to meet and greet our fellow parishioners,
twice a year. Although small, it is one way of raising some additional funds
for the parish to cope with the massive increases in energy costs during last
three years, though this winter is likely to be better than the last couple of
winters. The Christmas Fair this year will be on Saturday 29th November
from 11.00am till 2pm. Please keep this date in your diary.

SPONSORED WALK

The Sacred Heart Sponsored Walk was successful. A big thank you to all
those who contributed to the success of the Walk by sponsoring and all
those who offered spiritual support for the walk. The money we raised will
be sent for the formation of Seminarians in two SCJ Seminaries in India.



SUNDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER— FATHER HUDSON'S CARITAS

On this Sunday the second collection
will be for Fr. Hudson's Caritas to
support their mission of supporting
vulnerable people throughout the
Archdiocese of Birmingham.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL THIS HARVEST

Every Family Fast Day we highlight a particular story that illustrates the depth of our long term work. This Harvest we talk about Waré, a young mum in Borana, southern Ethiopia, who walked over six hours daily to fetch water for her family as droughts became more severe through climate change. Funds raised at Fast Day enabled the building of water tanks that collect precious water closer to home, bringing relief, restoring dignity and opportunities for earning a living. Waré and her community's resilience, the expertise of our local partner and the donations from your parish all combine to be signs of hope in this Jubilee Year.

In the Holy Land, our partner Caritas Jerusalem operates medical points across Gaza. Working conditions are near unimaginable - with clinics moving constantly so that care can be provided safely. Other local partners provide food, shelter and emergency cash for displaced families despite the real and growing challenges to find adequate food and places of safety.

In Sudan, our Church partners are helping community kitchen teams where displaced people are organising themselves to share what little they have, so that no one goes without.

In Ukraine, the rise in attacks is of deep concern but our partners, Caritas and DePaul Ukraine, continue to distribute food, water, fuel, hot meals, medical support and hygiene kits to women, children, older people and those with special needs.

You may have seen the news of the recent earthquake in Afghanistan. Our local partners are one of the few organisations based where the earthquake hit. They have been able to respond quickly. We have released £50,000 to partners to provide food, shelter and other vital supplies. This immediate help is only possible because of donations we receive through Fast Days, from people making monthly gifts and from gifts in wills, all enabled by your parish's support.

Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection to share God's abundant gifts with our global neighbours as they find lasting solutions to poverty and climate challenges. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 03033033030. Your generosity offers "signs of hope" in this Jubilee Year.

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

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

£319.34

Gift Aid: £259.00

Second Collection

For Catholic

Evangelisation

£88.47

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 277**

**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 12th

October 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 DroitwichReferral
s@svp.org.uk or on
07772 927535 or on
Facebook, SVP
Sacred Heart
Droitwich.



**Next Sunday's
Mass Readings**

Habakkuk 1:2-3;2:2-4

Psalms 95(94);

2 Timothy 1:6-8,13-14

Luke 17:5-10

Welcome to everyone at Mass today, especially if you are new to our church or haven't been to Mass for some time. If you are of another Christian denomination or non-Christian you are warmly invited to approach the priest or minister and ask or signify your wish for a blessing.

To some people the story in today's Gospel may seem quite unfair. A hard-working successful man, indicated by the prosperity of his surroundings, is buried in Hell. A snivelling beggar, who may have never done a day's work in his life, ends up in Abraham's bosom. Is this Christian teaching? To understand this story properly may involve a radical change in the way we - and the society we belong to - normally think. And, importantly for those who wish to be truly Christian, it will involve learning some of the values of Jesus and of the Gospel. In the second reading, taken from St. Paul's first letter to Timothy, Paul addresses Timothy as man of God, a title of honour that recalls the prophets of old. St. Paul urges us to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. These virtues stand in sharp contrast to greed and false teaching.

In the time of the French Revolution in the late 1700s, when France faced severe famine, Queen Marie Antoniette is said to have responded to the people's cries for bread by saying, "Let them eat cake". Though historians debate whether she really said it, the phrase reflects her ignorance and insensitivity to the financial status of the peasants and a blind heart to the suffering of others. In today's Gospel from Luke Jesus tells us a similar parable. The story contrasts a rich man who dressed in purple and feasted every day, while a poor beggar named Lazarus lay at his gate covered in sores and longing for scraps of food. After their deaths their situations reversed. Lazarus is comforted in the bosom of Abraham, while the rich man suffers torment. For us Christians our way of living and faith can be very individualistic and self-centred. The emphasis is on personal salvation ('saving my soul'), and that is achieved by being a morally good person, avoiding actions which are ethically wrong. As long as I am not aware of doing any of these things, or at least not doing them in a serious way ('mortal' sin), then I am a 'good' person. However, this is not really the picture that the Gospel today describes. If we were to base our judgements on the above image of the 'good Catholic', then there was really nothing much wrong with the rich man. All he did was to enjoy his wealth and his good food, his big house, his fashionable and expensive clothes, which must have been the fruits of his hard labour. He did not seem to do any harm to the poor man. He did not drive him away or torture him. The rich man is not condemned for being wealthy, but for what he failed to do. He saw Lazarus daily and chose to ignore him. This is the sin of omission: not the evil we commit, but the good we refuse to do. The rich man's failure to help poor Lazarus is a lesson for us all.

As in the second reading, St. Paul reminds us that the Christian life is not merely about avoiding sin but actively seeking what pleases God. Faith is not passive but lived in action. It requires effort, vigilance, sensitivity to the needs of the other. Today's readings remind us not only to notice the Lazarus at our gates, but to move towards him with love and help him to come out of his misery. This week choose one small way to fight the good fight. Perhaps by sharing a meal with the needy, paying a visit to a lonely person or simply listening with compassion. This Friday, the 3rd of October, we observe CAFOD Harvest Fast Day. So, if you are able, please do fast on that day or any day convenient to you or skip at least a meal and give that money to the work of CAFOD, who will use that money to help the needy Lazarus. Heaven on earth begins when we build longer dining tables, not high fences. May God bless us all.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ