



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

Exodus 17:8-13

Psalms 121(120);

2 Timothy 3:14-4:2

Luke 18:1-8

This Week: 19th-26th Oct 2025 Psalter Week 1	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 19th October Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C Second collection for Missio	8:30 am Arthur Blizzard RIP (RB) 10.30 am Jacob & Teresa (TS) 6.00 pm People of the Parish	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall
Monday 20th October Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Slawek and friends	
Tuesday 21st October Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Kevin Down (AK)	10.30 am Private Church Tour
Wednesday 22nd October Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Holy Mass	Adoration after Mass till 6.00pm.
Thursday 23rd October Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Holy Mass	Church cleaning after Mass
Friday 24th October Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Holy Mass	Novena to the Sacred Heart after Mass
Saturday 25th October Feria	11.00 am Harry Remedios RIP(AK)	10.15-10.45 Confession 12:00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall 2.00 pm Public Church Tour
Sunday 26th October Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C	8:30 am Margaret, John & Paul Har- ding RIP(MM) 10.30 am Private intention (C&PI) 6.00 pm People of the Parish	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall

**"Christ's Resurrection pours forth the hope that gives us a foretaste of deep and joyful calm,
despite the fatigue of daily life. Only Christ can give us this everlasting peace."**

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 15th October 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

8.30 am and 10.30 am **Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

6.00 pm

**I lift up mine eyes, O I lift up mine eyes, I lift up mine eyes to the Lord.
From whence shall come my help? From whence shall come my help?
I lift up mine eyes to the Lord.**

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 Michele Russo who died recently. May his soul
and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in
peace. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

The next Journey in Faith will take place on 27th October at 7.00 pm and the
topic will be 'Getting to know God: The Creed 2'.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Soon it will be Christmas: This year we are planning to make some Christmas
Cards with the picture of the Mosaic which we aim to make available for you
to buy from November. So, if you have plans to buy Christmas Cards from
the town, please wait. We will have beautiful Christmas cards for you.

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 2.00pm. Please keep this date in your diary. There is a
clipboard at the back of the church. If you would like to sponsor a Raffle
Prize, please write down your name and the prize you would like to
sponsor.

REFUGEE KNITTING

There is a vast collection of wool in the cupboards in the church porch,
please help yourselves to defray your costs. Thank you for the items left last
week. If you want to read more about where the items go please look at
the GAIN website ...<https://globalaidnetwork.org.uk>

Please bring any articles you have to church by Sunday November 2nd for
despatch to GAIN. I can also take any articles of clothing, toiletries and small
soft toys (no batteries). Thank you as ever for your continual support.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 2025

Today is World Mission Sunday when every Catholic parish throughout the world is invited to support the Pope's charity for world mission - MISSIO. We stand united as God's global family in prayer, solidarity and action. We are called to be 'Missionaries of Hope Among All Peoples' as everyone deserves to hear that God loves them and to be strengthened by God's Spirit.

Please pray for missionaries and give what you can to this vital collection, bringing God's compassion, peace and justice to those in need.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes will begin on Saturday 25th of October at 9.30am in the Romero Room in the parish hall. The children should be accompanied by a parent.

MESSAGE FROM FATHER TOM

Thank you, Parishioners, for your prayers, best wishes and congratulations you offered on Sunday; you have also been very generous to me. All of this I greatly appreciated.

CHRISTMAS MOSAIC WREATH WORKSHOP

Join us for a friendly afternoon of mosaic inspired crafts. Expert mosaic artist Anne Tyson of Flowerpot Mosaics will teach you the basics of mosaic — making. You will make your own Christmas wreath to take home. When: Saturday 15th November 2-5pm. Where: Church Hall. Cost: £40 (£36 for project volunteers) The ticket price includes unlimited hot drinks and mince pies. Spaces are limited to 15 people. Few tickets are still available. Pre-booking and payment prior to the event are essential. To book your place email the church office: sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk

RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF CREATION

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

THANK YOU EVENING FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER

To thank all of you and the parish volunteers who are involved in different areas of parish life both spiritual and temporal, this year the Thank You Evening will be on Friday 5th December. The Evening will start with Holy Mass at 6pm followed by a meal and entertainment in the parish hall. Please keep this date in your diary. Please help the catering team by letting us know if you would like to join the meal and social in the parish hall after Mass.

NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT – PUBLIC TOURS & CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS

The next public church tours (with a café) will take place on:

Saturday 25th October @ 2pm & Saturday 22nd November @ 2pm

The next public children's workshops (mini church tour & mosaic-making session) will take place on: Saturday 8th November @ 12:30 & 2:30pm

In December (due to other bookings for the church & parish hall) there will be one, family-oriented event to include a church tour aimed at children, carol singing, a mini mosaic-making session (for the children) and free festive refreshments (tea, coffee, hot chocolate, mince pies...). This will take place on Saturday 6th December @ 3:30pm. All of these events can be booked on Eventbrite, links can be found on the parish website. Or by contacting the Hall Booking Secretary.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will resume after half term.

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:**£285.85****Gift Aid: £198.00****Second Collection****For SVP £295.07****Late donation for
CAFOD £20.00****Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.****Mass attendance
last Sunday: 271****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

9th November 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**

Sirach 35:15b-17,
20-22b

Psalms 34(33);

*2 Timothy 4:6-8,
16-18*

Luke 18:9-14

Today's readings invite us to reflect on perseverance in faith and prayer, holding on to God even when the journey is long, the answers seem delayed, and the battle feels uphill. In the first reading we heard Moses telling Joshua to lead the men into battle against the Amalekites, while he goes up a hill with Aaron and Hur, carrying God's staff. As long as Moses keeps his hands raised the Israelites prevail, but, when he lowers them, they begin to lose. When Moses grows tired, Aaron and Hur support his hands until sunset and, with their help, the Israelites win the battle. The purpose of narrating this historic event of a battle between the Israelites and the Amalekites is not about winning or losing a battle between two nations. But it talks about God's providential care towards people who pray in community. This passage teaches us that a Christian's spiritual life is not a solitary journey, that we all need others to support us and the success of the spiritual battle depends on constant reliance on God and that faith often requires endurance. The battle was won only when the sun set, it was not instant.

With this note, let us go a bit deeper into the theme of prayer. What is prayer? The Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 2564, tells us, "Christian prayer is a covenant relationship between God and His people in Christ. It is the action of God and of man, springing forth from both the Holy Spirit and us, wholly directed to the Father, in union with Jesus. Thus the life of prayer is the habit of being in the presence of, and in communion with, God". St. Teresa of Avila, one of the Church's greatest spiritual masters says, "Prayer is a matter of coming into living contact with Jesus; it is not just recitation and repetition. Simply going through the motions doesn't deserve the noble title of "prayer", and it won't lead to the union of our souls with Jesus". She spent more than eighteen years struggling in her prayer, pulled between conversing with God and being caught up in the activities of the world. But eventually she recognized the need to focus on whom we are praying to with our minds, not just our lips. In Interior Castle she wrote, "If a person does not think [of] Whom he is addressing, and what he is asking for, and who it is that is asking and of Whom he is asking it, I do not consider that he is praying at all even though he be constantly moving his lips". Teresa also compares a person's relationship to Jesus with a woman's relationship to her husband. A good wife knows her husband. She understands him, cares for him, and is attentive to him. When he speaks to her, she listens. And when she speaks to him, she knows the person she's talking to. Because of their personal knowledge, their conversations have the potential to be more than just empty exchanges of words. Similarly, if a person knows Jesus, understands Him and is attentive to Him, prayer can be truly meaningful. At the root of prayer is a relationship of love, faith and trust. However, this doesn't imply that prayer will always be easy. St. Teresa refers to the four stages of prayer in terms of "the four methods of watering". A person's effort to unite with Jesus in prayer is sometimes like drawing water from a well: it involves a lot of muscle power and labour. At other times, by God's grace, the efforts are less difficult, like collecting water from a water wheel. Occasionally a soul will be able to simply draw water from a "river". And, if God sees fit, He can even send a heavenly spiritual rain that requires no action from the soul. Since God's wisdom and timing in bringing the heavenly showers are not in our power, we are simply to focus on that which is in our power. We draw water from the "well" by staying dedicated to our prayer-time and keeping our attention focused until God should lead us. St. Teresa's prayer-life did culminate in the "spiritual rain" of mystical union with Christ. She sometimes interrupted everything to converse with Jesus in the eloquent language of prayer. Yet she remained remarkably down-to-earth for a woman who experienced divine rapture on a regular basis. At her more advanced stages of spiritual life Teresa's union with Jesus was so profound that she was aware of His presence in her soul every minute. This is why she thought nothing of pausing to speak with Him every now and again. By sharing these intimate moments in her writings, St. Teresa has left us a beautiful testimony to the fruits of loving Jesus with the whole soul, and prayer is the tool for achieving that loving relation with Jesus.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ