



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

208 Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa,
WR9 8AZ, Tel: 01905 773258
Email: sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk
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

Isaiah 2:1-5;

Psalms 122(121);

Romans 13:11-14a;

Matthew 23:37-44

This Week: 30th Nov-7th Dec 2025 Psalter Week 1	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 30th November First Sunday of Advent Year A	8:30 am Deceased Members of the Baldry family (MB) 10:30 am Cathy and Greg (GP) 6.00 pm Jack Meehan RIP (MC)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am Mass
Monday 1st December Feast of St Edmund Campion, Priest, Martyr	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Private Intention (A&J)	5.30pm Confirmation Rehearsal
Tuesday 2nd December Advent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Communion Service	
Wednesday 3rd December Memorial of St Francis Xavier, Priest	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Private Intention (A&J) 7.00 pm Confirmation Mass	Adoration after Mass till 6.00pm 1.15 pm School Church Tour
Thursday 4th December Advent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Gladys Remedios RIP(AK)	11.30 am Church Tour
Friday 5th December Feast of St Birinus, Bishop	<u>6.00 pm Iain Martin RIP (MM)</u>	Novena to the Sacred Heart after Mass 7.00 pm Thank You Evening
Saturday 6th December Advent 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 3.30-5.30 pm Christmas family Tour and Workshop
Sunday 7th December Second Sunday of Advent Year A Second collection for Poor Parishes	8:30 am Nora O'Leary RIP (AM) 10:30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Holy Mass	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am Mass

***"God, in revealing Himself, established a bridge between heaven and earth.
He did so in order that our hearts might change, becoming like His."***

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 27th November 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 Let us rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

6.00 pm

I rejoiced when I heard them say:

Let us follow the path to the house of 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 and Michael McCorry.



*Congratulations to all our young people
who will receive the Sacrament of
Confirmation on Wednesday.*

DROITWICH SPA FOODBANK ADVENT CALENDAR

Droitwich Spa Foodbank Reverse Advent Calendar poster is on the noticeboard.



CHRISTMA FAIR

Thank you to all those who supported Christmas Fair, either by making cakes, advertising the event, helping set up the stalls, being a stall holder, selling raffle tickets, providing refreshments, clearing afterwards, donating items, attending on the day and supporting the event. The total money raised for the parish will be announced in due course.

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

The next Journey in Faith will take place on 8th December at 7.00 pm and the topic will be 'Word become flesh: Meaning of Christmas'.

VOLUNTEER IN LOURDES

Could you be a Healthcare Volunteer in Lourdes? Are you a doctor, nurse or carer? Would you consider donating your time and expertise on next year's Lourdes Pilgrimage? Every year sick pilgrims are able to make the journey to Lourdes thanks to the support of a dedicated Healthcare Team. Without their expertise many pilgrims would not be able to go. If you are a healthcare professional and would like to try something new, please consider joining us. You will make a real difference. For more information, and to access the Volunteer Pilgrimage Pack and an application form, please visit <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage>

ADVENT JOURNEY/PARISH DIARIES

The "Walk With Me" booklet and calendar for the Advent Journey are available at the back of the church. The booklet is to help focus on our relationship with God and with people during Advent. Please consider taking a copy home to help prepare for Christmas. Also 2026 Parish Diaries have arrived and are available to collect from the Narthex. The diaries, "Walk with me" booklet and calendar are free but any donation would be appreciated and will be given to the Sacred Heart Mission.

GIVING TO OTHERS THIS CHRISTMAS

Christmas Giving Tree: SVP will be putting up a Christmas Giving Tree for parishioners to donate gifts for children. Fr Hudson Care have asked that donated gifts change this year, according to the ages of the children: **11- 15 yrs: Amazon Gift vouchers.** These should be put in an envelope with the amount written IN PENCIL on the front. The envelopes can be decorated. **7-10 Yrs:** gifts as usual but placed in **GIFT BAGS not wrapped**, with ages written on the angel tags. **0-6 yrs:** Gifts for this age group **are not needed** as another Parish and a corporate are taking care of this age group. The Tree will be ready on **30th November** for you to take an Angel tag, an envelope, or both. Please put the age range on the tag. Gifts can be left under the tree. Please leave your gift bags and envelopes under the tree on Sundays. They will be put in a safe place after each Mass. Fr Hudson Care will be collecting the gifts on **December 15th.**

Christmas Cards for Prisoners Christmas Cards for Prisoners in Long Larten will be available at all Masses on 23rd and 30th November. If you wish to write a card, DO NOT put any money in the card and DO NOT add your name. "From Sacred Heart Parish" is acceptable. Leave the envelope open as all mail has to be checked at the Prison. Leave your card in the appropriate box at the back of the Church. A 50p donation towards the cost of the card would be appreciated.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Christmas card will be available to buy from the Parish Hall. A pack of 8 cards costs you only £5. Please consider buying some cards for this Christmas.

SAVE THE DATE - 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.

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

Christmas Carol Concert Saturday 13th December at 3:00 p.m. followed by seasonal refreshments in the church hall approximately 4:15 to 5:00 p.m.

Following last year's popular and delightful concert, Quinborne Choir will be returning to sing carols old and new in our stunning church. Come and get the Festive Season off to a great start! Tickets £10, under 18s free, available from Jenny Leonard 07874 323260 and after all Masses on 23rd November. Please see the poster on the notice board.

NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT – PUBLIC TOURS & CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS

There is a flyer included in this week's newsletter giving further information regarding the mosaics project. 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**. The monthly public church tours (with a café) will resume in January and take place on: **Saturday 24th January @ 2pm & Saturday 28th February @ 2pm**. The monthly public children's workshops (mini church tour & mosaic-making session) will also resume in 2026 and take place on: **Saturday 11th January @ 2:30pm & Saturday 14th February @ 2:30p**. All of these events can be booked on Eventbrite, links can be found on the parish website. Or by contacting the Hall Booking Secretary.

SAVE THE DATE

Thank you Evening

5th December

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am mass on **30th November and on 7th, 14th December.**

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:

£276.30

Gift Aid: £209.50

**Second collection
for Catholic Youth
Service: £58.83**

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 291**

**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

December 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**

Isaiah 11:1-10;

Psalms 72(71);

Romans 15:4-9;

Matthew 3:1-12

Life is a recurrent foreground of expectations. It is often impossible to live without some forms of expectations. Today the Church enters her annual season of expectation, namely, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ not just at Christmas but into our lives as we also prepare for his second coming: the Parousia. The Advent period opens with the message of future hope beyond the many challenges and unfortunate moments of the past and the present. Hope is a central theme to the season of Advent and is apparent throughout the next four weeks. It is a foundation for our belief that Jesus is coming into our hearts and the world. This first week prepares us to be people of hope and believe that darkness will not prevail but that the light of the world will overcome it.

The community to whom Jeremiah speaks in today's first reading was living in a time of uncertainty and political traumas. The Babylonian army inflicted a catastrophic defeat on Jerusalem. Several people were deported from their homeland, others were enslaved in their own land and Jeremiah was in prison. It was a time of turmoil and chaos, and it is in this time of darkness that Jeremiah speaks words of hope and restoration. The most devastating consequence of the Babylonian Exile was the end of the Davidic dynasty as they destroyed David's city, burned Solomon's temple, and took David's heirs into exile. The promises of God seemed to have come to an end. All seemed lost, but God was still faithful and He promised that 'A branch will sprout'. Historically, of course, the Davidic line did not return to the throne, and hence these passages were in time interpreted to be speaking about the coming of the Messiah.

This Season of Advent invites us to adopt three simple attitudes in our daily life. Hopefulness, Openness to being surprised by God and Living in joy. 1) Hopefulness: Christian hopefulness is not mere wishful thinking, but a confident and joyful expectation of God's promises. The foundation of this hope is God himself and His actions, both historically (like the resurrection of Jesus) and through the Holy Spirit. This hope is a focus on eternity which looks forward to ultimate deliverance from sin, a future with Christ and eternal life. This confident expectation helps Christians to endure suffering, avoid fear and live a life of joyful anticipation and good works, as their labour is seen as "not in vain". 2) Openness: Openness to being surprised by God. Anyone who is a man or a woman of hope – the great hope which faith gives us – knows that even in the midst of difficulties God acts and He surprises us. God always surprises us: like the new wine at the wedding at Cana, God always saves the best for us. But He asks us to let ourselves be surprised by His love, to accept His surprises. Let us trust God! Cut off from Him, the wine of joy, the wine of hope, runs out. If we draw near to Him, if we stay with Him, what seems to be cold water - difficulty or sin - is changed into the new wine of friendship with him. 3) Living in joy: if we walk in hope, allowing ourselves to be surprised by the new wine which Jesus offers us, we have joy in our hearts and we cannot fail to be witnesses of this joy. Christians are called to be joyful; we are never gloomy. God is at our side. We have a Mother who always intercedes for the life of her children. Jesus has shown us that the face of God is that of a loving Father. Sin and death have been defeated. Christians cannot be pessimists! We do not look like people in constant mourning. If we are truly in love with Christ and if we sense how much He loves us, our heart will "light up" with a joy that spreads to everyone around us. Advent invites us to imagine a different kind of hope, rooted in the unchanging nature of God and His promise to restore every part of His creation. Advent hope does not minimize pain or difficulty, nor does it assume things will soon get better. Instead, it faces the darkness with courage and chooses to trust that God's promises will come to pass, guaranteed by His long-proven, faithful character.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ