



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Isaiah 35:1-6a,10;
Psalms 146(145);
James 5:7-10;
Matthew 11:2-11

**Welcome to this House
of God:
Talk to God before Mass
Listen to God during Mass
Talk to others after Mass**

This Week: 14th-21st Dec 2025 Psalter Week 3	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 14th December Third Sunday of Advent Year A	8:30 am Baby Ottley Siobhan and Kieron (CH) 10:30 am Frank Fallon RIP (HD) 6.00 pm Betty Parry & Sheila Manion RIP (AP)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am Mass 2.30 pm SVP Afternoon
Monday 15th December Advent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Deceased members of the Mason Family (MC)	
Tuesday 16th December Advent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Brenda O'Keeffe (JCH)	
Wednesday 17th December Advent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Private Intention (A&J)	Adoration after Mass till 6.00pm
Thursday 18th December Advent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Anthony Gilroy RIP (SG)	After Mass- church cleaning 6.30 pm School Carol Service
Friday 19th December Advent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Brian Solloway RIP (GF)	Novena to the Sacred Heart after Mass
Saturday 20th December Advent Feria	11.00 am Hannah Heaney RIP(ML) 11.00 am Anointing Mass	10.15-10.45 am Confession 12.00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall
Sunday 21st December Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A Second collection for Christmas Flowers	8:30 am Michael Sheridan (MM) 10:30 am Michael & Peggy RIP (GF) 6.00 pm Peter, Carmel & Neil Duffy RIP (JD)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall

"Every human being and every religion is called to promote fraternity. In our time marked by growing conflict and division, we need authentic testimonies of human kindness and charity to remind us that we are all brothers and sisters. Words are not enough. Our love and deepest convictions need to be continually cultivated, and we do so through concrete actions."

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 11th December 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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Diocesan Trustees:
Registered Charity
Number 234216.*

PARISH SCHOOL

St. Joseph's Catholic
Primary School,
Droitwich

Tel: 01905 773572

Email:

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com

PRINCIPAL

Mr A Carry

PARISH SECRETARY

Bogusia Koniszewska-
Fijolek

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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

Come, Lord, and save us.

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 and Michael McCorry.

SCHOOL CAROL CONCERT

St. Joseph's School Carol Service is on Thursday 18th December at 6.30pm in the Church. We would love the Parish Community to join us in this special celebration.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS SECOND COLLECTION

Second collection for Christmas Flowers will be on 21st December.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Thank you to all those who supported the Christmas Fair, 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 was £1819.29.

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

The next Journey in Faith will take place on 5th January at 7.00 pm and the topic will be 'Faith & Science'.

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.

RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF CREATION

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

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.

SERVICES AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve:

5.00 pm Family Mass of
Christmas

7.30pm Christmas Carols

8.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass.



Christmas Day:

9.30am Christmas Mass
during the day.

26th December:

10.00am Mass

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE TUESDAY 23RD DECEMBER AT 7PM

The beautiful task of Advent is to awaken memories of goodness and open doors of hope. Need a fresh start? Our Advent Penance Service offers grace and new beginnings. Join us for our Advent Penitential Service and individual confession on Tuesday 23rd December at 7pm. There also Penitential Service at St. George's Worcester, on Monday 22nd at 7pm. Catholics are obliged to go to confession at least once a year and Advent is a beautiful time to seek the Lord's mercy.

ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM DIRECTORY 2026

If you would like to purchase a copy of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Directory 2026, these are available at a cost £3.50. Please speak to Fr. George or contact the Parish Office if you would like one.

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>

***SAVE THE DATE* - Saturday 31st January 2026 The SVP Family Fun Quiz**

This is a FREE event for everyone in our parish. It will take place early evening on Sat 31st January and teams will be made of no more than six people. There will be a variety of questions including special ones for children, and the Mini Vinnies will be there. This has now become an annual fixture, and we are sure it will be just as much fun as the previous ones.

PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY AND LOOK FORWARD TO A GREAT NIGHT OUT.

NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT – PUBLIC TOURS & CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS

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.

CHILDREN'S

LITURGY

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

£265.11

Gift Aid: £242.00

**Second collection
for Poor Parishes:**

£80.79

Gift Aid: £83.00

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 297**

**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 7:10-14;

Psalms 24(23);

Romans 1:1-7;

Matthew 1:18-24

Today is "Gaudete" Sunday, the Sunday of Joy. The church reminds us to be aware of the coming of Christ we will commemorate at Christmas. The theme of this Sunday's liturgy is 'Joy', the "dancing" Lord and the joy found in God's promises (His incarnation, resurrection and Eucharist - His real presence among us) as remedies for sadness. The first reading was written in a time when the Israelites were living through great pain and uncertainty. It was most likely addressed to the people of Judah either during or after the Babylonian Exile. Everything around them felt like a dry, lifeless desert. Into this bleak and lifeless community the prophet Isaiah brings a powerful promise: God will make the desert bloom. The wilderness, symbol of pain, loss and emptiness, will burst into flowers and joy. Eight hundred years later this prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus, which we see in today's Gospel.

In his apostolic exultation *EVANGELII GAUDIUM* (the Joy of the Gospel) Pope Francis begins the document with these words "The Joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew". A young musician once dreamed of becoming the lead performer in a famous orchestra. He imagined the spotlight, applause and recognition. But when he finally joined the orchestra, he was assigned to play a supporting instrument - small, barely noticed. At first, he felt disappointed. But over time he realised something beautiful: when he played his part faithfully, even if it was just a few quiet notes, the whole orchestra sounded melodious with pure harmony of music. Without his small contribution the grand performance would have felt incomplete. In today's Gospel, taken from Matthew, we see John the Baptist sitting in a dark prison cell. He begins to wonder if Jesus is truly the Messiah. John expected a fiery, theatrical figure, a Messiah who would overthrow evil with force. Instead, Jesus was healing, teaching gently, eating with sinners and showing mercy. John sends his disciples to ask, "Are you the one?". In him we see a human moment full of doubts, questions, and longing for clarity. Jesus responds with reassurance. He tells John's disciples to look at the signs: the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the poor receive good news. These actions reveal the heart of God's kingdom - one built not on spectacle but on compassion and healing. Like John the Baptist, we too are called to prepare the way of the Lord. This does not always mean doing extraordinary things. Sometimes preparing the way of the Lord looks like forgiving someone in the family, being patient with a struggling child or elderly parent. Sometimes it means choosing kindness instead of reacting in anger or accepting the role of a supporting actor - helping others grow, pointing people to Jesus and serving quietly but faithfully.

The great danger in today's world is pervasive relativism and consumerism, born of a complacent yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of dizzy pleasures and a blunted conscience. Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others. God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of His love is no longer felt and the desire to do good fades. This is real danger, even for believers. The readings invite us to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting Him encounter us. Let us not think that this invitation is not meant for me, since "no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord". Now is the time to say to Jesus: "Lord, I need You". With a tenderness which never disappoints, but is always capable of restoring our joy, He makes it possible for us to lift up our heads and to start anew. May God fill us with His true Joy.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ