



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Isaiah 42:1-4;
Psalms 29(28);
Acts 10:34-38;
Matthew 3:13-17

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

This Week: 11th - 18th Jan 2026 Psalter Week From the Feast	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 11th January Feast of the Baptism of The Lord	8:30 am Raymond Clancy RIP (P&AC) 10:30 am Aley Mathew (MM) 6.00 pm Marykutty RIP (C)	After 8:30am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall During 10:30am Mass - Children's Liturgy in the Parish Hall 2:30pm SVP afternoon in the Parish Hall
Monday 12th January Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Deceased members of the Mason Family (M)	
Tuesday 13th January Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Lillian Haden RIP (DH)	
Wednesday 14th January Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Bridget Mary Beddall RIP (RB)	After Mass Adoration until 6.00pm
Thursday 15th January Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Mary & Noel Darcy (L&MR)	
Friday 16th January Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Jennifer Gorton RIP (KL)	After Mass, Novena to the Sacred Heart 12.30pm Private Church Tour 2.00pm Requiem Mass of Michael Denis Doolin
Saturday 17th January Memorial of St Anthony, Abbot	11.00 am For the Sick and the Housebound 11.00 am Anointing Mass	10.15-10.45am Confession 12.00-5:00pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall 2.00pm Church tour for parishioners
Sunday 18th January Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A Second collection for Pax Christi	8:30 am Raymond Clancy RIP (M&RM) 10:30 am Barry RIP (BB) 6.00 pm Iain Martin RIP (MM)	After 8:30am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall During 10:30am Mass - Children's Liturgy in the Parish Hall

**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 The Lord will bless His people with peace.

6.00 pm Show to us Your love and mercy.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for all our parishioners, and/or their friends and relatives, who are unwell: Beryl Hill, 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, Denise Grant and Michael McCorry.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Patrick Mulligan and Michael Denis Doolin who died recently. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Please keep their families and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

The Requiem Mass of Michael Denis Doolin will take place on Friday 16th January at 2.00pm

Patrick's funeral will take place on Friday 23rd January at 12.30pm. The reception of Mr Mulligan's body will be on Thursday 22nd January at 5.00pm.

WEDNESDAY ADORATION

Adoration will resume on Wednesday 14th January.

THANK YOU, ONE AND ALL

Fr. George and the Sacred Heart Community wish to thank all parishioners for your love and support, expressed through volunteer help, greeting cards and Christmas presents. May you have a blessed season of Christmas and a hope filled New Year 2026.

MOSAICS TOUR FOR THE PARISH

We have been offering guided tours of the mosaics for the visiting public for the whole of 2025. We would like to invite all parishioners to a tour, for you only, on Saturday, January 17th at 2pm. If you want to know why the shepherds have a dog, where the artist has signed his work and much, much more, please come and join us. A phone call to the parish office on 01905 773258 to book a place would help us manage numbers. Seen it all in the last 20 years? We guarantee things you have not noticed!

KNITTING FOR REFUGEES

Please visit the website <https://globalaidnetwork.org.uk/> to see information about the group that all the refugee items go to.

PARISH DIARIES

2026 Parish Diaries are available to collect from the Narthex. The diaries are free but any donation would be appreciated and will be given to the Sacred Heart Mission.

PAX CHRISTI

Peace Sunday will be held on Sunday 18th January. The Bishops' Conference encourages us all to use the day to reflect on the Pope's message for the World Day of Peace on the 1st January.

Pope Leo has said that the theme for his message which will be 'Peace be with you all: towards an 'unarmed and disarming' peace'.

On Peace Sunday, we will be taking a collection to support Pax Christi's work which includes promoting

Non - violence as a way of resolving conflict, advocacy and campaigning for peace and peace education in schools. If you are unable to give on the day then you can also donate via their website

www.paxchristi.org.uk/product-category/peace-sunday-appeal/

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

The next Journey in Faith will take place on Monday 26th January at 7.00 pm and the topic will be 'Prayer: Getting to know God'.

SVP ANNUAL FAMILY QUIZ

Saturday 31st January 2026 at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Bring your own drinks, snacks and crockery etc Teams of no more than 6. Don't worry if you are on your own you can join with others to make a team. THIS IS A FREE FUN EVENT FOR EVERYONE.

You can reserve by contacting 07772 927535 preferably by text, alternatively you can email: droitwichreferrals@svp.org.uk giving your name and how many in your team.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Christmas cards were a great success this year—we sold 242 packs, of 250 ordered.

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.

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 take place on: **Saturday 14th February @ 2:30pm & on Saturday 14th March @ 2.30 pm**. 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 **11th, 18th, 25th January, 1st, 8th February and on 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd March**.

PARISH YOUTH GROUP

Hopefully this will resume in January and run 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:

£335.07

Gift Aid: £190.00

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 312**



**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 11th January
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 49:3,5-6;

Psalm 40(39);

1 Corinthians 1:1-3 ;

John 1:29-34

If you have been to the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican, you would not miss Michelangelo's 'Creation' where God's outstretched hand, emanating with life, reaches towards Adam, who in turn yearns to touch his creator. Yet a deliberate gap exists, a mere inch of space separating them. This is not merely a work of art, but it tells a tale of profound philosophical and theological symbolism. It seems that, when Michelangelo unveiled his 'creation' to the scrutiny of the cardinals, they insisted that God's finger must always strive to its utmost extent, an eternal reach towards humanity. However, Adam's finger should curl back slightly, representing the essence of human free will. For in the pursuit of the divine it is the individual's choice – the conscious extension of one's spirit that defines the journey toward enlightenment.

By contrast, in the much more deeply Christian mediaeval portrayals of the Baptism of Jesus, that gap between the Father and Jesus, the Second Adam, is, as it were, bridged: a Dove, the Holy Spirit, is there between them – not an empty space. As we have just heard in today's Gospel, 'After His Baptism, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on Him, in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased"'. Between Adam and God there was a space – an unbridgeable gap. But with the coming of Jesus, the New Adam, there is made possible the closest, most intimate, loving bond, the bond of sonship between God and humankind: between God and our human nature, which Jesus assumed.

The very outset of the baptism of the Lord was embarrassing, and indeed it was for the first Christians trying to figure this out. Why would the Lord, the Son of God, get down into the muddy waters of the Jordan, shoulder to shoulder with sinners. Why would Jesus need baptism? He is the Lamb of God. John the Baptist, pointing to Jesus, said, "Here comes the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world". For Jews, when the lamb was brought to the temple, the priest would slaughter the lamb and the sprinkle the blood upon the altar; then the body of the Lamb would be burned in sacrifice. The person offering the lamb was symbolically placing his sins upon that innocent lamb and saying, 'what's happening to this Lamb by rights should be happening to me'. The lamb was a kind of substitute sacrifice, a symbolic representation of the sins of the person. At the beginning of Jesus's public ministry John announces him as the 'Lamb of God'. What happens to the climax of his life? Jesus' blood is poured out of his body on the cross, offered as a sacrifice. The night before he dies, he takes the bread and he says, 'This is my body given for you' and then over the wine, 'This is the chalice of my blood that will be shed for you'. What He was saying was that His whole life was about being the sacrifice for our sins. Now we see why He stands embarrassingly shoulder-to-shoulder with sinners at his baptism! Jesus takes upon himself willingly the sin of the world even if that means in a kind of embarrassing way. His baptism is the door through which we all enter the fullness of life and the lens through which we properly understand the purpose of our lives. What we see at the Mass is the recapitulation of Jesus's great sacrifice by which he took away the sins of you and me. How wonderful that every year we celebrate the baptism of the Lord, we recall at this strange and rather embarrassing event, because it's by that act that Jesus saves me from my sins and connects the gap between me and my God. My God went through the most embarrassing event, so that I can escape the great embarrassment on the last day of my life.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ