



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Zephaniah 2:3;3:12-13;

Psalms 146(145);

1 Corinthians 1:26-31;

Matthew 5:1-12a

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

This Week: 1st - 8th Feb 2026 Psalter Week 4	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 1st February Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A Second collection for Racial Justice	8:30 am Margaret Allen RIP (DA) 10:30 am Private Intention (CI) 6.00 pm Marion Ahern RIP (JD)	After 8:30am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall During 10:30am Mass - Children's Liturgy in the Parish Hall 12.00 noon Baptism
Monday 2nd February Feast of the Presentation of the Lord	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Rene Johnson (KW)	1.00 nm Private Church Tour 7.00pm Journey in Faith
Tuesday 3rd February Memorial of St Blaise, Bishop, Martyr	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Sergey and the people of Moscow. (S)	
Wednesday 4th February Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am John Hartley (A&LH)	After Mass, Adoration until 6.00pm
Thursday 5th February Memorial of St Agatha, Virgin, Martyr	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Patrick Donohue (sick) (MF)	After Mass, Church cleaning
Friday 6th February Memorial of St Paul Miki, and Companions, Martyrs	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Anne Russell RIP (BB)	After Mass, Novena to the Sacred Heart 10.30 am Private Church Tour
Saturday 7th February Feria	11.00 am Alan Remedios RIP(AK)	10.15-10.45am Confession 12.00-5:00pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall
Sunday 8th February Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A	8:30 am Chris Denis RIP (AM) 10:30 am Pat Whaley (AP) 6.00 pm Kelly-Hulbert Family (TK)	After 8:30am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall During 10:30am Mass - Children's Liturgy in the Parish Hall 12.00 noon Baptism 2.30pm SVP Afternoon

***"May the Holy Spirit find in us a mind docile to proclaiming the faith
with one voice to the men and women of our time!"***

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 25th January 2026

**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

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Primary School,
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PRINCIPAL

Mr A Carry

PARISH SECRETARY

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Fijolek

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**PARISH HALL
BOOKINGS**

Please contact Sally at
volunteers.

sacredheart.droitwich
@rcaob.org.uk or
07891144870

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am and 10.30 am

**Blessed are the poor in spirit;
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

6.00 pm

**Come Lord and save us X2,
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, 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

Tim Cree, who was a parishioner for many years, died recently. In your charity, please keep him and his family in your prayer. The funeral arrangements of Tim Cree will be announced in due course.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Lucy Dodd who died recently. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Please keep her families and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2026

If your child is Year 3 or above and doesn't go to a Catholic school and you wish your child to be prepared to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion this summer, please would you contact Fr. George SCJ or the Parish office before Sunday 1st of March. The First Holy Communion Sessions will begin on Saturday 7th of March at 9.30 am in the parish hall. There will be a meeting with the parents on Sunday 1st of March after 10.30 Mass.

The First Holy Communion Mass will be on Saturday 13th June at 11.00 am with the Commitment Mass on Sunday 3rd May at 10.30 am.

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

The next Journey in Faith will take place on Monday 2nd February at 7.00 pm and the topic will be 'Sacraments: Baptism, gateway to Christian life'.

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.

GIFT AID

If you are a UK taxpayer, the Church can receive the 25% of tax back on your donation. This is a very important part of the funding of the Parish, so please consider signing a Gift Aid Form (blanks are at the back of the Church) and bring back to the parish office.

RACIAL JUSTICE

1 February 2026

The theme for Racial Justice Sunday is: "Whoever loves God must also love his brother" (1 John 4:21): Promoting Racial Justice in our Parishes.

Where racial justice is concerned, we must never tire of repeating what has been said before, though we always seek new ways to convey our message. Racial Justice Sunday 2026 is devoted to the promotion of racial justice in our Catholic parishes across England and Wales and society and an encouragement to be conscious of the need for justice in all its forms.

In an increasingly tense climate, it is imperative that we listen to, and learn from, the experiences, challenges and opportunities encountered in the mission of promoting racial justice in Catholic parishes today. Our parishes should be places where we can all truly grow in ever-deeper knowledge and love of each other, ourselves and God.

KNITTING FOR REFUGEES

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

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 take place on:

Saturday 28th February @ 2pm

21st March @2pm.

The monthly public children's workshops (mini church tour & mosaic-making session) will take place on:

Saturday 14th February @ 2:30pm

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 **1st,8th February** and on **1st, 8th,15th, 22nd March.**

PARISH YOUTH GROUP

Hopefully this will resume as soon as possible 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:

£403.99

Gift Aid: £175.00

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 301**



**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 **8th February** 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 58:6-10;

Psalm 112(111);

1 Corinthians 2:1-5;

Matthew 5:13-16

Dear brothers and sisters, why did Jesus choose the mountain to be the site of His first sermon? St. Matthew clarifies this throughout the course of his Gospel account. St. Matthew portrays Jesus as the New Moses. Both the mountain setting and the act of Jesus sitting to teach His disciples reflect this. One reason for portraying Jesus as the New Moses is that unlike other synoptic Gospels, Matthew's Gospel account was written for Christian converts from Judaism. For the Jews Moses was 'the prophet without peer'. Similarly, St. Matthew portrays Jesus as someone without peer but God alone. Therefore Jesus chose the mountain, a familiar setting, as God's dwelling place for the Jews to inaugurate His first sermon. Through the Beatitudes we can see the teachings of Jesus - the Kingdom Values - in their entirety. The world teaches us one set of values that are based on passing happiness or wellbeing, whereas, on the contrary, Jesus teaches us the kingdom values, the actions and the attitudes required of a person to become truly happy, truly blessed, truly holy. What is meant by beatitude? The Greek word makarios 'μακαριος' means 'the blissful one' or 'the happy one' who walks the path of true happiness.

Let us reflect on each beatitude. Blessed are the poor in spirit, theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Who are the poor in spirit? In the biblical language, the word ptochos Πτωχος means 'beggar'. Not just somebody in the state of temporal poverty, but God's beggar. Somebody who is depending and relying on God (Anawim of Yahweh). In the book of Genesis, Abraham prepares to sacrifice Isaac. Isaac asks Abraham, "we have the wood and the fire, but where is the lamb for sacrifice?" Abraham answered in his pain, "God will provide". This is what relying on God means. Blessed are those who mourn, they will be comforted. Mourning doesn't mean crying or weeping in grief. It means being sorrowful for one's own sins. When we show grief over the brokenness of humanity and the wounded world, God will show us solace and He will comfort us. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Meekness doesn't mean somebody who is weak, submissive, passive or frightened. Meekness is opposed to aggression and anger. Jesus says, "Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden...take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble of heart" (Matthew 11:28-29). Meekness is all about gentleness and humility before God and before others. It is easy to get angry, but it is very difficult to be angry with the right person at the right time in the right place and also in the right proportion. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, they shall be satisfied. Righteousness is not self-righteousness, claiming I am right. But Righteousness is being in right relationship with God, with one another and with oneself.

Blessed are the merciful, they shall receive mercy: Mercy is one of the distinctive qualities of God. Therefore, mercy involves compassion, kindness, forgiveness, empathy, understanding towards others. In the Hebrew tradition, mercy means rahim, it means mother's tender feeling towards her baby. How does a mother treat her baby? With tender love and care: that is mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, they shall see God. The psalmist says, "Who can climb the mountain of God, who can be in His holy place"? It is only the one with clean hands and a pure heart who will climb the mountain of the Lord... in His holy place. So, purity of heart is important to see God. If our hearts and our intentions are pure, then we can see God. Purity of heart means being without deception, without hypocrisy, without duplicity - someone with purity of intention, purity of mind. Blessed are the peacemakers; they shall be called children of God. Peace is not just the absence of war or problems. Biblical understanding of peace is Shalom, a harmonious living, harmony between body, mind and soul, harmony between me and my brothers and sisters. Today Jesus asks us not just to experience peace. He is asking us to become peacemakers. Blessed are those who are persecuted; they shall inherit the kingdom of God. When we are trying to do good, we are persecuted. When we become whistleblowers, stand for truth and justice, we are ridiculed. Those moments Jesus promises something beautiful: Beatitude. True happiness comes from standing for something greater - Gospel values, holiness, blessedness. There is a saying, "The valuable that we possess may impress others but the values that we carry inspire others". Let us inspire others by being a blissful person.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ