



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Isaiah 58:6-10;
Psalms 112(111);
1 Corinthians 2:1-5;
Matthew 5:13-16

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

This Week: 8th - 15th Feb 2026 Psalter Week 1	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
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
Monday 9th February Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Mary Dunican (BD)	10.15 am Private Church Tour 7.00pm Journey in Faith
Tuesday 10th February Memorial of St Scholastica, Virgin	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Tim Cree RIP	
Wednesday 11th February Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Rene Johnson & the Lady Judge (K W)	After Mass, Adoration until 6.00pm
Thursday 12th February Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Speedy recovery: Louie, Tommy Garland & Ruth Harkin	
Friday 13th February Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Tinu (T)	After Mass, Novena to the Sacred Heart
Saturday 14th February Feast of St Cyril, Monk, and St Methodius, Bishop, Patrons of Europe	11.00 am Souls in Purgatory (S&A)	10.15-10.45am Confession 12.00-5:00pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall 2.30pm Children's Workshop Tour NLHF
Sunday 15th February Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A Second collection for Life Charity	8:30 am Frank & Joan Patterson (MJ) 10:30 am Deceased members of both sides of family (BW) 6.00 pm John Rayan RIP (DR)	After 8:30am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall 12.00 noon Baptism

"Lay us pray together that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope."

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 5th February 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

St. Joseph's Catholic
Primary School,
Droitwich

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Email:
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com

PRINCIPAL

Mr A Carry

PARISH SECRETARY

Bogusia Koniszewska-
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 A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

6.00 pm The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.

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. The Requiem Mass for Lucy will take place on Thursday 12th February - 11.30am at **Our Lady Queen of Peace, St. John's, Worcester.** 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.

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

The next Journey in Faith will take place on Monday 9th February at 7.00 pm and the topic will be 'Sacraments: Eucharist'.

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.

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.

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.

WALK WITH ME - A JOURNEY OF PRAYER FOR LENT 2026

'Welcome to this special edition of *Walk with Me*. Special, because Lent is a sacred moment in the Church's year; a time of conversion and inner renewal. But special too because with this edition we celebrate *Walk with Me's* Twenty-Fifth Anniversary. During this weeks of Lent we will be drawing on St Paul's Letters, entering more deeply into the wonder of Jesus and living life in the Holy Spirit.' Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham

The *Walk With Me* booklet is available at the back of the church. Please consider taking a copy to home to help prepare for Lent. The *Walk with Me* booklet is free but donation of £1.50 will be appreciated and will be given to the Sacred Heart Mission.

KNITTING FOR REFUGEES.

Please bring your items to church over the next couple of weeks for collection on 23rd February. I can also take clothing, sleeping bags, blankets, toiletries and anything else you feel may be suitable. As ever thank you for your incredible support.

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

MISSIO - RED BOXES

Please remember to collect your emptied boxes which are at the back of the Church.

NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT – PUBLIC TOURS & CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS

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

Saturday 28th February @ 2pm SOLD OUT

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 **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:

£387.98

Gift Aid: £202.00

**Second collection
for Racial Justice**

£82.90

**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 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

Sirach 15:15-20;

Psalm 119(118);

1 Corinthians 2:6-10;

Matthew 5:17-37

Have you heard the saying “He is not worth his salt”? It comes from the ancient world where salt was a precious commodity. It was the Roman practice to give soldiers a salarium (salt allowance), from which the word ‘salary’ comes, and a person who did not do his duty was considered not worth the salt he received. Jesus uses this powerful image in today’s Gospel to explain the role of His disciples in the world and He compares them to three things. “You are the salt of the earth, you are the light of the world and you are a city set on a hill.” In Jesus’s time, way before we had refrigerators, the only way to preserve meat was to soak it in salt. Salt was also used in the ancient world as a means of destruction. For example, if one city conquered another or one nation conquered another, it would burn down the city, break down the walls and would salt the earth to make sure that nothing would grow there. Jesus says, “You are the light of the world”. Light is that by which we see other things. It makes other things visible and brings beautiful things to light. It can also reveal what is imperfect. Now Jesus says, “You are a city set on a hill”. But why did Jesus say a city set on a hill? Long before maps and GPS systems, people would find a landmark like a hill or a city on the mountain to navigate the location. Jesus is saying to us that, like a city set on a hill, we are meant to be a marker for others. Therefore, the primary purpose of our life is not to become holy; that is in a way a means to an end. Jesus says, I’m making you holy and happy that you might become the medium by which others become holy and happy. As Christians, we need to be a beacon of light that illumines the way for others, to be like salt that preserves and enhances others and to be a city set on the hill by which others navigate their lives.

What is the purpose of religion and spirituality? As we saw last week, it is to make one happy. But that is not the final goal. If I am happy, I need now to be a light for others, and to be salt that preserves and enhances what is good and true and beautiful in the world. If I am holy and happy, I need to be the city on the hill by which others guide their lives. Only then do I become a true follower of Christ. Now, the devastating line that follows: what if salt loses its savour? Salt that loses its savour is useless. It neither preserves anything nor destroys what needs to be destroyed. It has lost its quality. A light under a basket makes nothing beautiful around it. It exposes nothing that needs to be exposed. We are meant to shine to enhance. What will happen if we lose our savour as Christians? The world around us will go bad. Things that are meant to be enhanced will not be enhanced. The values that are meant to be preserved will not be preserved and the evil that is meant to be destroyed or challenged will not be destroyed or challenged. There are examples from the modern world which illustrate this. It is a painful truth that the twentieth century was the bloodiest on record. Millions of people were brutally killed by totalitarianism and awful warfare, a disaster worse than in all the previous centuries combined. But here is the thing that I find really disturbing. Where did all this anarchy take place? At the heart, very often, of deeply Christian civilizations and largely in Christian countries. Tens of millions of people was slaughtered in the two World Wars. Where did the Holocaust happen? It was the greatest moral outrage of the twentieth century. How do we explain that?

It is true that Hitler and the Nazi party came to power out of the terrible aftermath of the First World War, the Versailles Treaty and economic collapse in Germany. Why was it that all this havoc happened in the very heart of a supposedly deeply Christian culture? The short answer is that a lot of salt had lost its savour, a lot of lights were placed under baskets. An awful lot of Christians did not care, looked the other way or cooperated with it. What will happen if the salt loses its savour? Nothing. Nothing will re-salt it. What will happen if Christians lose their power to witness, to illumine, to reveal darkness, to salt the earth where it needs to be salted? Why were more Christians not putting salt in the earth of Nazism so that it did not grow? When Christians’ hearts grow cold, nothing but disaster will grow in the world. Let us light a lamp rather than condemn the world to darkness. God bless us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ