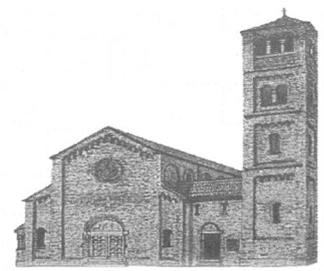




Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## 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



### Today's Mass Readings

*Sirach 15:15-20;*

*Psalms 119(118);*

*1 Corinthians 2:6-10;*

*Matthew 5:17-37*

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

This Week: 15th - 22nd Feb 2026 Psalter Week 2	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
<b>Sunday 15th February</b> <b>Sixth Sunday</b> <b>in Ordinary Time, Year A</b>  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
<b>Monday 16th February</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Colum & Maree MacCourt RIP (LM)	
<b>Tuesday 17th February</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer <b>9:15 am Communion Service</b>	
<b>Wednesday 18th February</b> Ash Wednesday	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Bob RIP (C&PI) 7: 00 pm Ken RIP (BB)	After Mass, Adoration until 6.00pm
<b>Thursday 19th February</b> Thursday after Ash Wednesday	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am All Family (DD+AMJ)	After Mass, Church cleaning 12:00 noon Private Church Tour
<b>Friday 20th February</b> Friday after Ash Wednesday	No morning Prayer 9:00 am Station of the Cross 9:15 am For the forthcoming Awakening Convention '26 (S & A)	
<b>Saturday 21st February</b> Saturday after Ash Wednesday	11.00 am All Family (DD+AMJ) 11:00 am Anointing Mass	10.15-10.45am Confession 12.00-5:00pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall
<b>Sunday 22nd February</b> <b>First Sunday of Lent, Year A</b>	8:30 am Thanks Giving (MM) 10:30 am Tim Cree RIP (LC) 6.00 pm Rene Johnson (K W)	After 8:30am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall

***“We lived surrounded by so many words, but how many of these are empty! At times we even listen to wise words, which do not however affect our ultimate destiny. On the contrary, the Word of God responds to our thirst for meaning, for the truth about our life. It is the only Word that is always new: revealing the mystery of God to us, it is inexhaustible, it never ceases to offer its riches.”***

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 11th 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  
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 Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord!**

**6.00 pm**

**They are happy who follow God's law.**

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**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.

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**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 Requiem Mass of Tim will take place on Tuesday 10th March at 11:00 am.

**STATION OF THE CROSS**

On every Fridays during the Lent, there will be Station of the Cross at 9.00 am followed by Holy Mass. There not will be Novena to the Sacred Heart on Friday during Lent.

**JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)**

The next Journey in Faith will take place on Monday 23rd February at 7.00 pm and the topic will be 'Sacraments: The Commandments and Reconciliation'.

**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.

**MUSICIANS/SINGERS WANTED**

We are very grateful for the faithful service of our musicians and choir members over many years. As we look to the future, we would love to welcome new volunteers to help with music and singing at Mass — especially younger parishioners who might like to share their gifts. If you are interested, please speak to Fr George or contact the Church office.

**MISSIO - RED BOXES**

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

## 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.

### 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.

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY 6TH MARCH

Churches Together in Droitwich are coming together for the World Day of Prayer, at the Salvation Army, Union Lane Droitwich 10.30 am. Friday 6th March. There will be refreshments afterwards. This is a Worldwide annual event, bringing people together in prayer. EVERYONE IS WELCOME

### JEWELLERY FOUND IN THE CHURCH

A ring was found in the church during the Christmas season. In addition, a bracelet have recently been found too. If you believe one of these items may belong to you or a member of your family, please contact the Church office or speak to Fr. George.

### 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 SOLD OUT & 21st March @ 2pm.**

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

**Saturday 14th March @ 2.30 pm & Saturday 11th April @ 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

Children's Liturgy will resume after half term time on **1st 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](mailto:sg.sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/[safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.

**Main Collection:**  
**£315.85**

**Gift Aid: £192.00**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**



**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 March**  
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**

Genesis 2:7-9;3:1-7;  
*Psalms 51(50);*  
1 Romans 5:12-19;  
*Matthew 4:1-11*

From the very beginning, human society and its value systems were grounded in two kinds of laws: Divine Law or Natural Law and Man-made Law or Civil Law. As civilizations evolved, the civil law also has changed and evolved over the centuries. But at the same time, it is interesting to notice that the fundamental principles of the natural law or the divine law remain intact, unaffected by the changing social order. It is not uncommon for a country to make amendments to its constitution.

As we read in today's Gospel according to St. Matthew, in which Jesus says several times, 'You have heard...; but I say to you...', our first impression may be that Jesus is simply making a few amendments to the Constitution of Israel or revising the Old Testament. However, if we study Jesus's words carefully, we realize that he is demanding a much more radical change from his listeners. It is not a change in the law but *in the relationship to the law* - a change that requires a conversion of the heart and not of the law. Jesus does not establish a new legalism more demanding than that of the Pharisees or establish a new and more rigorous justice system. He teaches the law of love, which replaces the demands of legalism and goes far beyond with much greater demands than the strict justice system can achieve. Therefore, He says, "For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the Scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven". Jesus insists that he has not come with a liberalistic mindset to allow u break the rules freely. No, the law is necessary, but He maintains that we must understand the fundamental reasons behind the law and be able to turn them into principles of life that show our deepest convictions.

Our justice system consists in respecting various rights, as established by the conventions of a particular society. Thus, for example, in a capitalist society justice consists in respecting the balance established between the rights of the capitalists and those of the workers who make that capital profitable through their labour. In a socialist society justice consists in respecting the balance between the rights of the state and those of the individuals who are its members. Both systems are not perfect. In each case, it is easy to end up with permanent forms of oppression, even when no legal rights have been violated. Jesus does not attempt to specify any of these rights. Instead he tells us: do not remain at this level. That means, if justice demands that you give your coat, give your shirt as well. If justice gives you the right to demand an eye for an eye or a tooth for a tooth, simply forgive the one who has offended or harmed you. If the moral code of conduct forbids you from doing certain things, such as taking your neighbour's goods, I ask you to watch even the desires of your heart. This new teaching of Jesus concerning the law resonates a great insecurity. Indeed, if being a good Christian consists in not stealing, not killing, not demanding more than an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, not missing Mass on Sunday... I easily feel secure, because I can periodically check whether I am good or not. And if I have sinned, I know exactly when, where and how. This gives me a great sense of security. It is the security of the Pharisees. Yet Jesus said, "*Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven*". When Jesus speaks about adultery, He says that sin does not begin with actions, but with thoughts. He invites us to practise modesty of the eyes and purity of heart, respecting others not as objects but as persons. Jesus speaks about Integrity. On divorce, Jesus reminds us that marriage is sacred and not meant to be broken when things become difficult. Of course, Love demands faithfulness and commitment. Jesus also speaks about oaths. A truthful person does not need to swear. A simple "yes" or "no" should be enough. An honest life speaks louder than words. We often get lost in rules and forget the spirit behind them. A simple question can guide us: does this affect my relationship with God, with others, or with myself? If it does, then it is sin. Jesus invites us to clean not only the outside, but the inside — to live with love, honesty, forgiveness, and integrity. As we gather around this Altar of Love today, let us ask one honest question: what inside me needs cleaning? May God bless us all.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ