



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7;

Psalms 51(50);

1 Romans 5:12-19;

Matthew 4:1-11

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

This Week: 22nd Feb—1st Mar 2026 Psalter Week 1	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 22nd February First Sunday of Lent	8:30 am Thanksgiving (MM) 10:30 am Tim Cree RIP (LC) 6:00 pm Rene Johnson (KW)	After 8:30am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall
Monday 23rd February Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Thomas Fahy RIP (GF)	7:00pm Journey in Faith in the Parish Hall
Tuesday 24th February Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Patricia Fahy (GF)	
Wednesday 25th February Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am For the forthcoming Awakening Convention '26 (S&A)	After Mass, Adoration until 6.00pm
Thursday 26th February Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Bernadette McCormack RIP (GF)	
Friday 27th February Lent Feria LENT FAMILY FAST DAY	No morning Prayer 9:00 am Stations of the Cross 9:30 am For the forthcoming Awakening Convention '26 (S&A)	
Saturday 28th February Memorial of St Oswald, Bishop of Worcester	11:00 am Mr&Mrs Mathew RIP (S&A)	10:15-10:45am Confessions 12:00-5:00pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall 2:00pm Public Church Tour & cafe
Sunday 1st March Second Sunday of Lent Second collection for CAFOD	8:30 am Noel O'Toole RIP (CH) 10:30 am Fenil Joseph (FJ) 6:00 pm Patricia Ceclich RIP (GC)	After 8:30am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall Children's Liturgy during 10:30am Mass

**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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PRINCIPAL

Mr A Carry

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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

8:30am & 10:30am Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

6:00pm A pure heart create for me O my God: a spirit of love
within me (x2)

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 prayers. The Requiem Mass of Tim will take place on Tuesday 10th March at 11:00 am. Your prayers are also asked for Neville Howard who died recently. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On every Friday during Lent there will be Stations of the Cross at 9:00am. There will not be a Novena to the Sacred Heart on Fridays during Lent.

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

The next Journey in Faith session will take place on Monday 23rd February at 7pm. The topic will be 'Sacraments: The Commandments & Reconciliation'.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2026

If your child is in Year 3 or above and does not 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 March. The First Holy Communion Sessions will begin on Saturday 7th March at 9.30am in the Parish Hall. There will be a meeting with parents on Sunday 1st March after 10:30 Mass. The First Holy Communion Mass will be on Saturday 13th June at 11:00am with the Commitment Mass on Sunday 3rd May at 10:30am.

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 Parish Office.

CAFOD LENT FAMILY FAST DAY

This Friday, 27th February, is the Lenten Family Fast Day and there will be a second collection for CAFOD on Sunday 1st March. Envelopes are available at the back of church this Sunday.

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 these 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 take a copy home for yourself or for your family and friends. A suggested donation of £1.50 would be appreciated.

KNITTING FOR REFUGEES

Thank you for the wonderful variety of useful items donated so far. This Sunday (22nd) will be the final collection date for a couple of months, but please keep knitting and store the items at home until then. There is a vast quantity of wool, patterns and needles in the cupboard at the back of church, so please help yourselves to defray your costs. Donations of the same would also be most appreciated. As ever thank you so much for your continual support.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY 6TH MARCH

Churches Together in Droitwich are meeting for the World Day of Prayer at the Salvation Army, Union Lane Droitwich 10:30am Friday 6th March. There will be refreshments afterwards. This is a worldwide annual event, bringing people together in prayer. EVERYONE IS WELCOME

EASTER CHOCOLATES COMPETITION

During the Sunday Masses of Lent there will be a jar of chocolates at the back of church together with a notebook. You are invited to record your guess of how many chocolates are in the jar for £1. All monies raised will be donated to the Parish youth group. The chocolates weigh approx 5lbs (2.2kg), so this prize is very good value and you can make as many guesses as you want.

MARCH FOR LIFE

Calling men of all ages and states of life: book your place at 'Commissioned', the National Men's Pro-life Conference, on April 18th at Birmingham Christian College. Through compelling talks on fatherhood, marriage, post-abortion healing, spiritual welfare and sexual responsibility learn to live out your vocation with humility, courage and integrity. For more info including speakers or to book your place contact info@marchforlife.co.uk or go to

<https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/commissioned-pro-life-mens-conference/>

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. ALSO NOW SOLD OUT!

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 or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Main Collection:
£356.00

Gift Aid: £135.00

**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 12:1-4a;

Psalm 33(32);

2 Timothy 1:8b-10;

Matthew 17:1-9

On Ash Wednesday we began the season of Lent. On this First Sunday of Lent the readings invite us to look honestly at three things that we encounter every day: Temptation, Sin and Grace. We are reminded that while human weakness is real, God's mercy and faithfulness are even greater. The first reading brings the scene of the first fall of Adam and Eve. The Genesis creation narratives were written for the people of Israel to explain who God is, who human beings are, and why the world is both beautiful and broken. These stories were shaped in a time when Israel lived among pagan cultures that believed humans were slaves of the gods. Genesis offers a very different picture of the God who forms the human person from the dust of the ground and breathes life into him, and desires a relationship with humanity. This tells us two important truths about us. We come from the earth, and so, just like the earth, we are fragile, limited, and dependent. Yet we carry God's image and likeness and His breath within us. Therefore, we are precious, loved and filled with divine life. Our human dignity comes not from power or achievement but from God's loving touch. God gives freedom but also sets limits, not to control us, but to protect life and teach us trust. The serpent does not deny God. Instead it manipulates God's word and creates doubt. The real temptation of Adam and Eve was not about eating fruit but about being independent, wanting to decide for themselves what is good and evil, without God and His Commandments. They distrust God's goodness and benevolence and believe that God is holding something back from them. When they ate the fruit, their eyes were opened, but not in the way they expected. Instead of becoming like God, they become aware of their nakedness and feel ashamed. The tragedy of Eden was not disobedience alone, but the loss of trust and relationship with God and each other. This is our story too. We still struggle between trusting God and choosing our own way. Lent invites us to return to the Garden of Eden; not to a perfect past, but to a renewed relationship where we remember that we are dust, yet deeply loved, and that true life comes from trusting God's breath within us.

In the Gospel we read about the temptations of Jesus. By reflecting on the temptation of Jesus, we learn how to face our own temptations. The temptation of Jesus is fundamentally the same as of Adam and Eve: to become one's own god. The evangelist Matthew tells us that, while the presence of the Spirit was with Him for the forty days of fasting to strengthen Him, the physical fast will have made Jesus hungry. The first temptation is addressed directly to this aspect; it has deeper implications. By asking Jesus to turn "stones" into bread, the temptation is not merely about alleviating Jesus's hunger, but also about conforming to popular expectations of the Messiah as one who would provide for the material needs of the people. Jesus tells us that true nourishment comes not merely from physical bread but from obedience to God's Word. The second temptation of Jesus was to test God. But He refuses to demand signs from His Father. Today we too are tempted to say, 'God, if you love me, prove it'. When life is hard, our faith can become weak. So, Jesus teaches us to trust God even in difficult times. The third temptation was a challenge to accept the ways of the world to dominate rather than to serve.

Oscar Wilde is believed to have said, "The best way to overcome temptation is to yield to it." While we might smile at the humour, we also realise that this was exactly what our first parents did. The overcoming of the temptations by Jesus stands in stark contrast to the first human beings capitulating to the guiles of Satan, as narrated in the first reading. Through his overcoming sin and therefore death, Jesus has attained for all humans, for all time, the grace of God. He is the one who justifies us. No one can now condemn us. Unlike the first human beings who disobeyed God and, in their pride, tried to define for themselves what was good and evil, Jesus continued to remain obedient. His kingdom will come through service, selflessness, helplessness and through the cross. So, as we begin this season of Lent, I invite you to spend some time in quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament or at home and ask God to show what he wants you to change in your life. May God bless us all.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ