



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Email: sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk  
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### Today's Mass Readings

*Exodus 17:3-7;*

*Psalms 95(94);*

*Romans 5:1-2,5-8 ;*

*John 4:5-42*

**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 Mar 2026 Psalter Week 3	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
<b>Sunday 8th March</b> <b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>  <b>Second collection for Cathedral Maintenance</b>	8:30 am Breda Wightman RIP (RW) 10:30 am Tim Cree RIP (M&LR) 6:00 pm Nora O'Leary RIP(AL)	After 8:30am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall Children's Liturgy during 10:30am Mass 2:30pm SVP Afternoon
<b>Monday 9th March</b> Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer <u>9:15 am Communion Service</u>	11:30am Private Church Tour 7:00pm Journey in Faith
<b>Tuesday 10th March</b> Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Patrick Donohue (Sick) (MF) 11:00 am Requiem Mass of Tim Cree	
<b>Wednesday 11th March</b> Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am David Veale RIP (MD)	After Mass, Adoration until 6.00pm
<b>Thursday 12th March</b> Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Alan Remedios RIP (KA)	
<b>Friday 13th March</b> Lent Feria	No morning Prayer 9:00 am Stations of the Cross 9:30 am Kevin Murphy RIP (RB)	10:00am Private Church Tour
<b>Saturday 14th March</b> Lent Feria	11:00 am For the intentions of Elizabeth Larkin (KL)	9:30am FHC Session in the Hall 10:15-10:45am Confessions 12:00-5:00pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall 2:30pm Children's Workshop Tour NLHF
<b>Sunday 15th March</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>	8:30 am Tim Cree RIP (MT) 10:30 am Rene Johnson (KW) 6:00 pm Pat Whaley (AP)	After 8:30am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall 10:30am Mass led by St Joseph's School (Mother's Day)

**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**

**8:30am, 10:30am and 6:00pm**

**O that today you would listen to His voice!**

**'Harden not your hearts.'**

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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**

In your charity, please pray for Tim Cree, Neville Howard and Judith Cussen who have all recently died. Please also keep their families in your prayers. The Requiem Mass of Tim will take place on Tuesday 10th March at 11:00 am. The dates for the Funeral Service of Neville and the Requiem Mass of Judith will be advised shortly. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)**

The next Journey in Faith session will take place on Monday 9th March at 7pm. The topic will be 'Sacraments: Holy Orders and Matrimony'.

**THANK YOU**

After five years of selfless service as President of the Sacred Heart SVP, Gina Pilley has stepped down. The position has been taken up by Angela and Cath, jointly. We thank Gina for her able leadership during which the Droitwich SVP has gone from strength to strength. We wish Angela and Cath success in their new roles.

**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.

**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.

## 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.

## RECOLLECTION FOR READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTER

A day of recollection for the Readers and Eucharistic Ministers will be on Saturday 28th March from 11:00 am to 4:00pm. Lunch time refreshment will be provided. Please, all Readers and Eucharistic Ministers mark this in your diary.

## EASTER CHOCOLATES COMPETITION

How many Easter Chocolates are there? During Lent you are invited to guess how many Chocolates are in the container. The chocolates weigh approx 5lbs (2.2kg), so this prize is very good value and you can make as many guesses as you want. Each guess will cost £1. The winner will be the person who accurately estimates the number of chocolates. In the event of a tie the prize will be split between the winners, and if there is no outright winner the prize will be given to the nearest number, higher or lower. The money raised will be donated to the Youth section of the Parish, meaning that with every guess you make you will be helping fund this important part of our Parish. Go on - Make a Guess!

## 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](mailto:info@marchforlife.co.uk) or go to <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/commissioned-pro-life-mens-conference/>

## 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.

## NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT – PUBLIC TOURS & CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS

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

**Saturday 21st March @2pm & 3:30pm and Saturday 25th April @ 2pm & 3:30pm**  
*The 2pm tours are fully booked so extra tours have been added.*

The next 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

There will be Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am mass on **8th and 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](mailto:sg.sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.

**Main Collection:**

**£361.46**

**Gift Aid: £232.00**

**Second collection  
for CAFOD:**

**£571.61**

**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**

1 Samuel  
16:1b,6-7,10-13a;  
*Psalms* 23(22);  
*Ephesians* 5:8-14 ;  
*John* 9:1-41

In the reading taken from St. Paul's letter to the Romans, he reminds the early Christian community what God has done for them through Jesus Christ. Paul is writing to a community of believers who are facing struggles, misunderstandings and suffering. He wants them to understand that faith in Christ has changed their relationship with God, forever. Paul begins by saying that we are justified by faith. This means that we are made right with God not because we are perfect, but because we trust in Jesus. Through Christ, we now have peace with God. This peace is not simply the absence of problems; it is the deep assurance that God is on our side, even when life is difficult. Paul then acknowledges a painful truth: life includes suffering even though it does not have the final word. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Even in hardship, God is present within us, giving strength, hope and endurance.

As human beings, we all long to be fully known and loved and at the same time we fear being rejected. We all want someone to understand us fully, but we do not want to be judged. The encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman shows us that such a meeting is possible with God Himself. This Gospel is not just about a woman at a well; it is about how God meets human brokenness with mercy. Jesus chooses to pass through Samaria, a place avoided by others. He seeks out those who are ignored, misunderstood, pushed aside to the peripheries of the society or written off. The woman comes to the well carrying more than a water jar, she carries a heavy burden of her past, unspoken shame, and unanswered questions about God. When Jesus speaks of "living water", He is addressing her deepest thirst, not her physical one. This thirst is for dignity, meaning, love and acceptance. Like the Samaritan woman, a good number of people in our society often try to satisfy this thirst with material things that bring momentary satisfaction and pleasure but never truly last. The turning point of the encounter comes when Jesus reveals that He knows everything she has done. Yet He still speaks to her, listens to her and offers her living water. God's knowledge of our weakness and sins does not push us away from Him; rather, it draws us closer to Him. For the Samaritan woman, being fully known does not lead to rejection but to freedom. For the first time, her human condition is articulated in love and respect and dignity by someone. This is why she left the jar and ran to the town and said, "*Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?*" What once might have been a source of guilt and shame becomes the foundation of her witness. It is worth noting that she left the 'Water Jar' at the well; because she found in Jesus the true living water. She no longer needed this jar to satisfy her thirst anymore. Sometimes we cling on to our own little water jars, put our heads down in shame and not let ourselves be encountered by Jesus. The moment she encountered Jesus; the Samaritan woman was not ashamed to acknowledge who she was and her past.

A lot of Christians today live with guilt and the shame of their past sins, not seeking the mercy of God and the sacrament of reconciliation. They rather give-in to despair and denial; their hearts grow cold and they even hate themselves and find false solace in drug abuse, unhealthy relationships and carnal sins which eventually consume them like a cancer. Today's readings remind us that God desires honest hearts, not perfect ones. On this Third Sunday of Lent, the Church invites us to ask: what are we thirsty for? Are we afraid to let Jesus see the truth of our lives? This Gospel assures us that Jesus already knows us and still loves us. In humility when we allow Jesus to see the truth of our lives, we discover that His knowing gaze is not one of judgment, but of love. Like the Samaritan woman, we no longer need our 'little water jars' and we are sent forth no longer hiding but living as witnesses to the living water that truly satisfies. This week we are invited to stop hiding, to sit with Jesus at the well, and to trust that His gaze is always one of love and mercy. May God bless us all.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ