



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

*Acts 2:14,22-33;*  
*Psalms 16(15);*  
*1 Peter 1:17-21;*  
*Luke 24:13-35*

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

This Week: 19th– 26th Apr 2026 Psalter Week 3	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
<b>Sunday 19th April</b> Third Sunday of Easter Year A	8:30 am Alisha O'Grady RIP (P&AC) 10:30 am Sean Glynn RIP (BD) 6:00 pm Special Intention (C&MK)	After 8:30am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall Children's Liturgy during 10.30am Mass
<b>Monday 20th April</b> Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Iain Martin RIP(MM)	
<b>Tuesday 21st April</b> Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Special Intention (GS)	2.15pm Private Church Tour
<b>Wednesday 22nd April</b> Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Mr. Christopher Henry (GS)	After Mass, Adoration till 6pm
<b>Thursday 23rd April</b> Solemnity of St George, Martyr Patron of England	8:55 am Morning Prayer <b>9:15 am Communion Service</b>	12.00 noon Private Church Tour
<b>Friday 24th April</b> Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Denise Grant RIP	After Mass, Sacred Heart Novena 2.00 pm Private Church Tour
<b>Saturday 25th April</b> Feast of St Mark, Evangelist	11:00 am Harry Remedios RIP (KA)	10:15-10:45am Confessions 12:00-5:00pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall 2.00pm Public Church Tour NLHF 3.30pm Public Church Tour NLHF
<b>Sunday 26th April</b> Fourth Sunday of Easter Year A Second collection for Clergy Training Found	8:30 am Richard Hook RIP(MJ) 10:30 am Holy Mass 12.00 noon Baptism 6:00 pm Tim Cree RIP(J&GP)	After 8:30am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall Children's Liturgy during 10.30am Mass

***"We are all our brother's and sister's keeper. In God's great family, no one is ever a stranger or forgotten, no matter how little they may be."***

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 16th April 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**

**8:30am & 10:30 am**

**O Lord, you will show me the path of life.**

**6:00pm**

**Keep me safe O God I take refuge in you.**

---

**PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS**

Please pray for all our parishioners, and/or their friends and relatives, who are unwell: 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, Francis Varney, Ernst Vonzatovski and Michael McCorry.

---

**RECENTLY DECEASED**

In your charity, please pray for Denise Grant who have recently died. Please also keep her families in your prayers. The funeral service of Denise will take place on Friday 24th April at 11am at St. Mary's Harvington. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**WEDNESDAY ADORATION**

Wednesday Adorations will resume after Easter on Wednesday 22nd of April.

**JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)**

The next Journey in Faith session will take place on Monday 27th April at 7pm. The topic will be 'Saints our Companions: Living with the Saints'.

**INVITATION TO JOIN THE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM**

Fr Philip Griffin, Pilgrimage Organiser, has written to parishes across the Archdiocese inviting them to take part in this year's day pilgrimage to Walsingham, Norfolk. For more information please see the poster in the back of the Church.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the latest Parish Council Meeting are available at the back of the Church on the notice board.

## MISSIO/RED BOX COLLECTIONS

In 2025 the people in England and Wales gave over £2 million through the Red box and individual donations (via Direct debits, cheques and online) to support the Pope's charity of **Missio**. In the Archdiocese of Birmingham almost £200,000 was raised, whilst our Parish contributed £1,471.51p of that sum through the Red boxes and individuals giving directly. Thank you so much for your ongoing support for this charity that enables the worldwide network of missionaries to help empower those in need by assisting them to grow and develop locally, and to flourish as resourceful community's.

### MARRIAGE SUPPORT:

From relationships that are 'Just in a Rut', needing some refreshment or more serious issues - If you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. We have helped thousands of couples get their relationship back on track as they rediscovered hope and trust in the marriage. To find out more:

[www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) +44 797 338 0443

### YOUNG DISCERNERS GROUP

Are you a young man in School Years 9 - 13, who wants to explore a vocation to the Catholic priesthood? Come to St. Mary's College, Oscott in Birmingham on Saturday 9th May 2026, 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Spend time with others who are thinking about a vocation to the priesthood and meet Fr. Craig Szmids (Diocesan Director of Vocations). There will be time for discussion and prayer, a tour of Oscott and an opportunity to speak with seminarians, joining them for the celebration of Holy Mass and lunch.

To find out more, or to book (by 26th April) contact Deacon Owen Gresty 0121 321 5135 or [deacon.owen@vocations.org.uk](mailto:deacon.owen@vocations.org.uk) FREE OF CHARGE - BUT BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

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

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

**Saturday 25th April @ 2pm & 3.30pm** (*The 2pm tours are fully booked so extra tour have been added*)

**Saturday 23rd May @ 2pm.**

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

**Saturday 9th May @ 2.30 pm**

**Saturday 6th June @ 2:30pm.**

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 **19th , 26th April, 3rd, 10th, 17th May, 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th June 5th and 12th July.**

### 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:**  
**£345.54**

**Gif Aid: £172.00**

**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 **10th May**  
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**

Acts 2:14a,36-41;  
*Psalm 23(22);*  
1 Peter 2:20b-25;  
*John 10:1-10*

A powerful story is told about Leo Tolstoy, one of the greatest novelists and thinkers. In the 1870s, at the height of his fame, Tolstoy felt his life collapsing into meaningless despair, despite having wealth, a family and literary success. He felt that death would destroy everything he did and he realized that science, philosophy and his own intellectual pursuits could not answer the fundamental question: "What will come of my life?". One day he observed a poor peasant who did not possess wealth, education or status and yet he lived with a deep sense of meaning rooted in faith. Tolstoy later realized that, while he had been searching for truth in intellectual brilliance and worldly achievements, he had overlooked the simple living faith that was right before him. This insight beautifully connects with today's Gospel. The story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Like Tolstoy, they were questioning and struggling to make sense of their shattered hopes. They had walked with Jesus, listened to Him and believed in Him. Yet now, after the crucifixion, they could not recognize that the risen Lord was walking right beside them.

The Gospel of Luke explicitly names only one of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, Cleopas. The identity of the other disciple is left unnamed and this has invited rich reflection from a theological point of view. Tradition says that it could be Mary, the wife of Cleopas. Or it could be another follower from the wider circle of disciples. Yet a very meaningful theological interpretation is that the unnamed disciple is intentionally left unidentified, so that every reader can place himself or herself in that position. In this sense, the other disciple is you or me. We are invited to walk with Cleopas to share the confusion, to listen to the word and to recognize Christ in the breaking of the bread. The story on the road to Emmaus becomes not just an event of the past but a living experience for every believer. Whether it was a spouse, a fellow disciple or a symbolic representation of every believer, the message remains the same. The risen Christ walks with His people in their confusion, opens the scripture to them and reveals Himself in the breaking of the bread. Perhaps the most important question is not who the other disciple was. Yet am I willing to recognize myself in that place and allow Christ to walk with me? The striking truth in this passage is that the risen Christ walks with them even when they are moving in the wrong direction. Jesus does not wait for them to come back. He meets them where they are. He joins their conversation, their doubts and their pain.

This is an insightful message for our own lives. Often, we think that God is absent when things go wrong, when our expectations collapse or when we feel lost. But the Emmaus story reminds us that Christ is closest precisely in those moments when we feel most abandoned. However, the Gospel tells us that their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. This is not merely a physical blindness. It is a spiritual inability to perceive. Their expectations of a political messiah and their fixation on the tragedy of the cross prevent them from understanding God's plan. In our own lives we too can fail to recognize Christ because we are trapped in our own expectations of how God should act, how life should unfold and how success should look. Human hope is fragile and hopelessness is desperately hard to cure. Jesus of course prompts them to make a U-turn by doing three things: He explained the scripture, He opened their eyes and then He opens their minds. So, we should allow our encounter with Christ in others, in prayer, in the Eucharist and in the Word to turn around our hearts today. We must allow ourselves to be so overwhelmed by the revelation of a God of love that no fear, no evil, no suffering can leave us in despair. The choice is ours. We can continue our road to Emmaus and stay there. Continue to live in despair, confusion, instability and fear; continue to live in a world where evil has the last word and death is the end of life. Or we can hear the Word, hear the Voice and be overwhelmed by Love. We can go back to Jerusalem, back to Your passion, back to healing, back to a life of hope and back to a world where love has the last word and life never ends. God bless you.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ