



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Web: www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk



### Today's Mass Readings

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

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

<b>This Week:</b> <b>26th Apr– 3rd May 2026</b> <b>Psalter Week 4</b>	<b>Holy Mass &amp; Services</b>	<b>Other Events</b>
<b>Sunday 26th April</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> <b>Year A</b> Second collection for Clergy Training Found	8:30 am Richard Hook RIP(MJ) 10:30 am Denise Grant RIP (BB) 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
<b>Monday 27th April</b> Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Jan, Miecia and Zyguich RIP (SC)	10:30am Private Church Tour 6:00pm Journey in Faith
<b>Tuesday 28th April</b> Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Denise Grant RIP (MM)	10:30am Private Church Tour
<b>Wednesday 29th April</b> Feast of St Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Patricia Ceclich RIP(GC)	After Mass, Adoration till 6pm
<b>Thursday 30th April</b> Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Leonard Myatt RIP (RS)	After Mass, Church cleaning 11.00am Private Church Tour 2:00pm Private Church Tour
<b>Friday 1st May</b> Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am John Leahy (ML)	After Mass, Sacred Heart Novena
<b>Saturday 2nd May</b> Memorial of St Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	11:00 am Alan Remedios RIP (KA)	10:15-10:45am Confessions 12:00-5:00pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall
<b>Sunday 3rd May</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> <b>Year A</b>	8:30 am Alec Thomson RIP(MT) 10:30 am Michael Healey RIP (LC) 6:00 pm Holy Mass	After 8:30am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall

***“Our problems do not disappear in the Lord’s presence; they are illuminated.  
Just as every cross finds redemption in Jesus,  
so the story of our lives finds its meaning in the Gospel.”***

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 23rd 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

**The Lord is my Shepard; there is nothing I shall want.**

6:00pm

**You are my shepherd, you are my friend.**

**I want to follow you always, just to follow my friend.**

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## 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, Frances Varney, Ernst Vonzatovski and Michael McCorry.

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## JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

The next Journey in Faith session will take place on Monday 27th April at 6pm. The topic will be 'Saints our Companions: Living with the Saints'.

## CAFOD: STAND WITH SUDAN. GIVE MONTHLY

On the third anniversary of the war in Sudan, Kayode Akintola, CAFOD's Head of Region for Africa, asks for your help:

"So many of our sisters and brothers in Sudan are facing increasing violence, hunger, and disease. That is why today, I'm asking you to consider setting up a regular gift to support families who are fleeing the violence – with food, safe water and other vital support. Monthly gifts are an act of steady love for our neighbours, a way of saying: we will not abandon you, we will stand with you until peace is restored." Donate at [cafod.org.uk/StandWithSudan](http://cafod.org.uk/StandWithSudan)

## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Catholic Women's League of England and Wales, Birmingham Branch invites all to join their Annual Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Evesham \*First Marian Shrine in England\* at St Mary's and St Egwin's RC Church, 118 High Street, Evesham, WR11 4EJ on Tuesday 5th May 2026 at 2pm Rosary and 2.30pm Mass, followed by a shared afternoon tea. Should you require any further information or assistance please contact Sarah Andrews – [sarahandrews1970@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sarahandrews1970@yahoo.co.uk)

## 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.

## VOCATIONS SUNDAY

“Dear friends,

This weekend we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday, when the Church prays especially for vocations to the priesthood. I want to ask you to join me in praying today that all those whom Our Lord is calling will respond with courage and generosity to his invitation to serve their brothers and sisters as priests in our Archdiocese. If you feel that the Good Shepherd might indeed be calling you - and if you are 18 or over - I would ask you to write to me directly at [archbishop@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:archbishop@rcaob.org.uk).

I shall be happy to meet you, with our Vocations Director, Fr Craig Szmidt, and to hear your story as you try to discern what the Lord is asking of you today and in the years ahead. Please pray for me and for all our priests.

With my prayers and kindest wishes.

+Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham”

### 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.

### 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 Szmidt (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 23rd May @ 2pm**

**Saturday 27th June @ 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, 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:

£293.85

## Gift Aid:

£176.82

## 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](mailto:DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk) or on 07772 927535 or on Facebook, SVP Sacred Heart Droitwich.



## Next Sunday's Mass Readings

Acts 6:1-7;  
*Psalms* 33(32);  
1 Peter 2:4-9;  
John 14:1-12

Today we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday and we also celebrate Vocations Sunday, reflecting on Jesus as the Good Shepherd who calls us by name. Vocation is not just a career but a divine call to love and serve, unfolded gradually through trust and openness to God's will. It is a call to priesthood, religious life, marriage, or single life. In today's Gospel Jesus describes Himself both as the shepherd, whose voice the sheep listen to, and as the gate of the sheepfold. Sheep-farming was one of the main livelihoods of the people of Israel during the time of Jesus. The sheepfold had a single entrance, and the shepherd himself would often lie across it at night guarding it from any potential predators. He became the gate - nothing could enter or leave without passing through him. In the Old Testament the idea of God as shepherd is deeply rooted in Israel's experience. Perhaps the most cherished expression is found in Psalm 23, "The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want". When the psalm says, "He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul", it expresses a God who is intimately involved in the daily struggles and needs of His people. This image becomes even more powerful in the prophetic writings through prophets like Ezekiel. God criticizes the leaders of Israel, the kings and the priests, because they failed to shepherd the people properly. In Ezekiel 34, God says that the shepherds fed themselves instead of the flock, neglected the weak and allowed the sheep to be scattered. Then comes a remarkable promise. God Himself will become the shepherd. "I Myself will search for my sheep. I will rescue them. I will feed them with good pasture." This is not just a correction; it is a revelation that true shepherding is divine in origin, rooted in care, justice and sacrificial love.

Against this background the words of Jesus in John 10 become extraordinarily significant. When Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd", He is not simply using a familiar metaphor. He is claiming to fulfil God's own promise. He is the shepherd sent by God and indeed God Himself comes to gather, guide and give life to his sheep. The concept of shepherding in the New Testament includes three essential dimensions. The first is about **Knowing**: Jesus says, "**I know my own and my own know Me**". This is not mere intellectual knowledge but relational intimacy. Just as a shepherd would call each sheep and each would respond. So, Jesus knows each one of our struggles, wounds and hopes. The second, shepherding is about **Leading**: The shepherd does not drive the sheep from behind. He walks ahead and leads them. This is why Jesus says the sheep follow Him because they recognize His voice. His leadership is not coercive but invitational. He calls and the sheep freely respond. This has deep spiritual meaning. God does not force obedience, but He simply invites. The third, shepherding is about **Laying down one's life**: Unlike hired hands who run away when danger comes, the good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. This is fulfilled in the cross where Jesus becomes both shepherd and sacrificial lamb. His authority is shown not in domination but in self-giving love. Now, the voice of the shepherd is a key element in this imagery. In the Gospel, Jesus says that His sheep recognize His voice and follow Him. To recognize the shepherd's voice means to be attuned to God's truth. It is distinct from the voices of strangers which may promise quick satisfaction but ultimately lead to emptiness or destruction. Jesus says clearly, "A stranger they will not follow." Practically, we come to recognize this voice through the scripture, prayer and a life of discipleship. The more we listen to the word of God, the more familiar His voice becomes. The more we walk with Him, the easier it is to discern His guidance. Just as sheep learn the voice of their shepherd over time, so too believers grow in spiritual discernment. My sisters and brothers, this imagery of the good shepherd also becomes a model for Christian life and leadership. Today's Gospel presents Jesus as the gate for the sheepfold. He declares that those who enter through Him will be saved, will go in and out freely, and will find life-giving pasture. This is not merely poetic language. It is a profound revelation about who Jesus is and what He offers to humanity. We notice here that Jesus contrasts Himself with thieves and bandits. The sheep recognize the voice of the shepherd and follow him, but they do not follow strangers. This highlights a deeply spiritual truth that discipleship is rooted in recognition of the Master. The Christian life is not about observing a set of rules but about relationship, about knowing the voice of Christ and trusting Him. On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations, we pray for good shepherd leaders in the Church while remembering our own vocation to listen and follow the Lord's voice, trusting that He will never lead us astray.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ