



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

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

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

This Week: 3rd - 10th May 2026 Psalter Week 1	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 3rd May Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A	8:30 am Alec Thomson RIP(MT) 10:30 am Michael Healey RIP (LC) 6:00 pm People of the Parish	After 8:30am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall
Monday 4th May Feast of the English Martyrs	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Breda Wightman RIP (RW)	
Tuesday 5th May Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Communion Service	
Wednesday 6th May Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Zdislaw Koniszewski RIP (BKF)	After Mass, Adoration till 6pm
Thursday 7th May Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Pamela Wojciechowski (JS)	5:45pm Private Church Tour
Friday 8th May Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Raymond Sutton RIP (JS)	After Mass, Sacred Heart Novena
Saturday 9th May Easter Feria	11:00 am Denise Grant RIP	10:15-10:45am Confessions 12:00-5:00pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall 2.30pm Children's Workshop Tour NLHF
Sunday 10 May Sixth Sunday of Easter Year A Second collection for Poor Parishes	8:30 am Christopher Fitzpatrick RIP(SC) 10:30 am For all taking GCSEs (BKF) 6:00 pm Ian Minogue (MM)	After 8:30am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall Children's Liturgy during 10.30am Mass 2:30pm SVP afternoon

***"Let us pray together that everyone, from large producers to small consumers,
be committed to avoid wasting food,
and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food."***

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 30th 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
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Roman Catholic
Diocesan Trustees:
Registered Charity
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PARISH SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL

Mr A Carry

PARISH SECRETARY

Bogusia Koniszewska-
Fijolek

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**PARISH HALL
BOOKINGS**

Please contact Sally at
volunteers.

sacredheart.droitwich
@rcaob.org.uk or
07891144870

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8:30am & 10:30 am

May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord.

6:00pm

Ring out your joy give glory to God.

Lift up your heart and sing.

Let all creation tell of his name. Praise him for evermore!

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.

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

The next Journey in Faith session will take place on Monday 11th May at 6pm. The topic will be 'The Christian Perspective of Death, Judgment and Internal Life'.

CATECHIST FORMATION SESSION: "HOW JESUS CATECHISED"

Catechists including Children's liturgy teams, sacramental preparation teams from the Kidderminster and Worcester Deanery are invited to join us for a morning of reflection and discussion on how Jesus taught and catechised. This session will offer valuable insights for our ministry in our respective parishes in the Deanery.

Date: Saturday, 6th June 2026 Time: 9:30 am – 12:15 pm Venue: St George's Parish Centre, Worcester

Formator: Dr. Christine Dodd. RSVP: Please contact Sacred Heart Parish Office (sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk) to confirm your attendance by Sunday 31st of May 2026 . We look forward to seeing you there!

SACRED HEART SUMMER FAIR 4TH JULY 2025

The Parish Summer Fair will be on Saturday 4th July. As part of the Summer Fair we will be organizing a Raffle. If you would like to sponsor a raffle prize, please give your name to Caroline Healy, Sally Spink or Steve Rawlings as soon as possible (or write your name on the clipboard in the Narthex).

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.

FIVE MINUTES TO HELP SHAPE MARYVALE'S 2027/28 PROGRAMMES

'Dear all,

Under the guidance of the Archbishop of Birmingham Maryvale Institute is planning its Further Education offer for the 2027/28 academic year, and we want the programme to be responsive to the needs of the clergy and laity. To do so we would like to hear your thoughts.

Would you take five minutes to fill in this short survey? The survey is open to responses until 20th May.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScxXOP8eRujX0_PclChG8d-IOWqzjEFadaOkPsrxhvi5oHbcg/viewform

Thank you.

The Maryvale Team'

If you would like to send the link by email, please contact parish secretary at sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk

DEANERY ALTAR SERVERS DAY: 11TH JULY 2026

The Kidderminster and Worcester Deanery is organising the Annual Altar Servers Day on Saturday 11th of June from 10.30am till 2.30pm. The day will begin with Mass, followed by the gathering of all altar servers and conclude with Adoration and Benediction. The lunch will be provided. We request all the altar servers to attend this day.

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 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 10th, 17th May, 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 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:

£313.47

Gift Aid: £175.00

**Second collection
for Clergy**

Training Fund:

£57.55

Gift Aid: £62.50

**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 8:5-8,14-17;

Psalms 66(65);

1 Peter 3:15-18;

John 14:15-21

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus. In the first reading, taken from the Acts of Apostles, we see the early Church facing one of its first internal challenges. As the number of believers increased after Pentecost, tensions arose between two groups: the "Hebrews", the local Jews who spoke Aramaic, and the "Hellenists", the Greek-speaking Jews from outside regions. The complaint was that the widows of the Hellenists were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. This shows that even in a Spirit-filled community, human problems and misunderstandings were present. The Apostles gathered the community together and appointed seven holy men from the Hellenists, while they focused on prayer and the ministry of the Word. The Apostles entrusted leadership to those who felt overlooked, giving them responsibility and dignity. This is often seen as the beginning of the ministry of deacons in the Church. This passage teaches us that problems in the Church are not always signs of failure; they can become opportunities for growth. Even in our families, parish groups, or communities, misunderstandings happen. The early Church did not allow division to broaden, but addressed it with fairness, prayer and shared responsibility. The result was beautiful: unity was restored, needs were met, and "the word of God continued to spread". How do we respond when disputes and misunderstanding arise in our family or communities? Do we complain or ignore them, or do we work together to find solutions? Do we also create space for those who feel unheard to take responsibility? Like the early Christians, when each person feels wanted, valued and entrusted with a role, the Church grows not just in numbers but in love and witness.

In the Gospel, Thomas the Apostle asks a very human question. Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way? Jesus does not give directions, steps or a map. Instead, He declares, "***I am the way and the truth and the life***". This is a deeply Johannine formulation where Jesus does not simply teach realities but embodies them. "***I am the way***" answers the longing for direction. In the Old Testament, ***The Way*** often refers to the path of righteousness, the way of covenant fidelity. But here Jesus radicalizes the concept. The way is no longer a path to follow but a person to encounter and to enter relationship with. This shifts religion from merely following the law to communion of relationship. To seek direction therefore is to abide in Christ. "***I am the truth***" addresses the longing for meaning. In the Gospel of John, truth, ἀλήθεια (alētheia) in the Greek language, is not merely factual correctness but the ultimate reality revealed by God. ***Jesus as truth*** means that in Him the mystery of God and the mystery of human existence are unveiled. Jesus does not simply explain life. He reveals its ultimate purpose: communion with the Father. Thus, the human search for meaning, so often scattered among the philosophies and ideologies, finds its centre in the person of Jesus Christ. "***I am the life***" responds to the longing for fullness and vitality. In John's Gospel, life, that is ζωή (zoē) in Greek, is not just biological existence but participation in divine life, eternal life that begins here on earth. Jesus offers not just survival, but a transformed quality of existence rooted in God's own life.

Finally, Jesus says, "***No one comes to the Father except through Me***". This is not a statement of exclusion but of mediation. It reveals that the deepest human longing is not only for direction or meaning, but for belonging, to come home to the Father. This is reinforced by the earlier image 'in my Father's house there are many dwelling places'. The dwelling place suggests abiding, permanence and relationship. Human beings are not meant to wander endlessly. They are created for communion, for a home in God. When Philip the Apostle asks, "Lord, show us the Father," he expresses the ultimate longing of humanity to see God. Jesus responds, "Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father" and this is the climax of the passage. Jesus is the definitive revelation of God. The invisible God becomes visible in the life, words and actions of Jesus. Thus, the longing for belonging is fulfilled not in an abstract idea of God, but in encountering Jesus Himself.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ