



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Acts 1:12-14;
Psalms 27(26);
1 Peter 4:13-16;
John 17:1-11a

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

This Week: 17th - 24th May 2026 Psalter Week 3	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 17th May Seventh Sunday of Easter Year A Second collection for Catholic Communications	8:30 am Denise Grant RIP 10:30 am Elizabeth Ann Letts RIP 6:00 pm Rene Johnson & High Court Judges in Alicante (KW)	After 8:30am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall Children's Liturgy during 10.30am Mass
Monday 18th May Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Pamela Peacock RIP (LM)	
Tuesday 19th May Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am David Veale (MD)	
Wednesday 20th May Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Michael O'Regan RIP (BB)	After Mass, Adoration till 6pm
Thursday 21st May Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Shirley Keogh RIP (LM)	
Friday 22nd May Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Gladys Remedios RIP (KA)	After Mass, Sacred Heart Novena
Saturday 23rd May Easter Feria	11:00 am Mrs Janet Moorehouse RIP (GS)	10:15-10:45am Confessions 12:00-5:00pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall 2:00pm Public Church Tour NLHF
Sunday 24th May Solemnity of Pentecost Year A	8:30 am Mark Smallwood RIP (RS) 10:30 am Holy Mass 6:00 pm People of the Parish	After 8:30am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall

***"Mary is the Mother of the whole Church. Everyone can turn to her with filial confidence,
certain of being heard, protected, and loved."***

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 14th May 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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PARISH SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL

Mr A Carry

PARISH SECRETARY

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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

I believe I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

6:00pm

There is one thing I ask of the Lord x2

For this I long, to live in the house of God each day of my life,
each day of my life.

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

SAVE THE DATE: SACRED HEART SUMMER FAYRE 4TH JULY 2025

The Sacred Heart Summer Fayre will take place on Saturday 4th July. There is a new plan this year. More exciting details to follow.

Thank-you to all those who have pledged a raffle prize. We are now asking for items for our tombola stall only.

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!

REFUGEE KNITTING

Please bring any items you have to church by June 7th. I can also take anything you feel may help the displaced people. Many thanks in anticipation of your continual support.

SIDE CHAPEL FLOORS

The cleaning and restoration of the floors is starting on Monday 18th May. It will continue for two weeks. Access will be restricted during this time except for weekends, and on Wednesdays one of the Chapels will be made available for Adoration. The cleaning and restoration of the marble wall cladding is due to start at the end of June.

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-IOwqzjEFadaOkPsrxhvl5oHbcg/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 July from 10.30am till 2.00pm. 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.

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 6th June @ 2:30pm

Saturday 11th July @ 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 **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.

**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 **14th 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 2:1-11;
Psalms 104(103);
1 Corinthians
12:3-7,12-13
John 20:19-23

After three years of intense teaching about His Kingdom to disciples and preparing them for His departure, and with the prospect of His betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion, Jesus concluded His final Passover meal with a prayer. This prayer, recorded in John 17 and known as the High Priestly Prayer, is the longest recorded prayer of Christ. In it, He prays for Himself, His disciples, and all believers throughout time, right down to today and what He prays promises to be life-changing for all even those who just listen in. He begins by reflecting on the perfection of unity that exists within the Holy Trinity, praying that the apostles may experience that same kind of unity that He experiences with the Father and the Holy Spirit. St. Thomas Aquinas said that "there is a perfect unity within the Trinity". This unity is certainly not of the world, but it is the image that the church holds up for all Christian life. This prayer is part of the larger Last Supper discourse where Jesus gives His final words, His final instructions, to the apostles on the night before He dies. He is under no illusion as to what is going to happen to Him. Jesus knows exactly what is in store for Him, and the best gift that He can give His apostles is to pray for them, for unity and endurance.

The instinct of human society is to be selfish and fight for domination one over another, which is a survival tactic. But at the same time, it can be selfish too. With the rise of right-wing populism and pseudo-nationalism across the globe, increasingly the message throughout the world is to protect your own and be suspicious of those who don't look like you, think like you, act like you, pray like you. Isn't it ironic that as science pushes farther and farther into space and we learn more about the vastness of the universe, our political scope, our religious scope, our personal scope, becomes increasingly narrowed and we become increasingly suspicious of others because they're not like us? Pope Francis has been relentless in raising this issue for us. We need to look beyond our suspicions, and Jesus ends His great priestly prayer in today's section by saying, "Father, may they be one in Us so that the world will know that it was You who sent Me". This means that the way that we Christians live in the world has to be so radically counter-cultural that it will underline the truth of the Gospel. It will not undermine but underline the truth of the Gospel that Jesus is who he says He is.

Jesus's prayer for us is, "Father may they be so completely one that the world will know that You sent Me". Is that unity difficult to live? Yes, absolutely - because we wound each other. I see it from my perspective and you see it from your perspective: we clash and we disagree and it's so easy to be suspicious and to impugn the motives of the other person because they're not thinking like us. Jesus's prayer: "Father may they be so completely one, that the world will know that You sent Me". There is an old Christian song with the following line, "They will know we are Christians by our love." That is, not by the fact that we go to church; not by the fact that we pray; not by the fact that we quote the Scriptures. All of those are good and necessary and helpful things, but the criterion that Jesus raises in today's Gospel is, "Father the world will know that I am who I say I am, because of the way they live their lives". Jesus prays specifically for His disciples, whom He is leaving in the world. He asks the Father to "sanctify them in the truth". This means setting them apart for a holy purpose. Just as Jesus was consecrated by the Father for the mission, He consecrates His followers to be witnesses in a world that may not welcome them. He does not ask for them to be removed from the world, but to be kept safe from the Evil one and to be rooted in God's Word, which is truth. Jesus concludes by expressing His desire that we, His followers, will eventually be with Him where He is, to see His glory. He prays that the love with which the Father loves the Son may dwell in us.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ