



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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### Today's Mass Readings

*Acts 12:1-11;*

*Psalms 34(33);*

*2 Timothy 4:6-8,17-18;*

*Matthew 16:13-19*

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

<b>This Week: 28th Jun - 5th Jul 2026 Psalter Week 1</b>	<b>Holy Mass &amp; Services</b>	<b>Other Events</b>
<b>Sunday 28th June</b> <b>Solemnity of SS Peter &amp; Paul</b> Second collection for Peter's Pence	8:30 am Fr. Terry Luxon RIP (MM) 10:30 am Elizabeth Silvester RIP (GF) 6:00 pm Danny Roberts (RR)	After 8:30am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall Children Liturgy during 10:30am Mass
<b>Monday 29th June</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Rene, Howard, Boris, Alana Johnson & Alicante Judge (KW)	
<b>Tuesday 30th June</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Rene Howard, Boris, Alana Johnson & Alicante Judge (KW)	11:00 am Private Church Tour
<b>Wednesday 1st July</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Stanislawa Fraczek RIP (BKF)	After Mass, Adoration till 6pm
<b>Thursday 2nd July</b> Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Communion Service	10:00 am Private Church Tour
<b>Friday 3rd July</b> Feast of St Thomas, Apostle	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Private intention (BS)	After Mass, Novena to the Sacred Heart
<b>Saturday 4th July</b> Feria	11:00 am Gladys Remedios RIP (AK)	12:00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall 12:00 noon Private Church Tour 2:00 pm Private Church Tour
<b>Sunday 5th July</b> <b>Fourteenth Sunday</b> <b>In Ordinary Time</b> <b>Year A</b>	8:30 am Shane Healy (MM) 10:30 am Brian Byrne (M&LR) 6:00 pm Jo Gylee RIP (FL)	After 8:30 am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall Children Liturgy during 10:30 am Mass

***"We are called to celebrate the Eucharist at the altar of the Lord, but also in daily life, where it is possible to live everything as an offering and an act of thanksgiving.."***

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 14th June 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**

**From all my terrors the Lord set me free.**

**6:00pm**

**I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips.  
In the Lord my soul shall make its boast;  
the humble shall hear and be glad.**

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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, Michael James, Frances Varney, Ernst Vonzatovski, Michael McCorry and Shane Healy.

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**RECENTLY DECEASED**

Of your charity please pray for Stella Turner and Josephine Gylee who have recently died. Please also keep their families in your prayers.

The Requiem Mass for Stella will take place on Friday 10th July at 11.30 am.

The Requiem Mass for Josephine will take place on Friday 17th July at 10.30 am.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**SACRED HEART SUMMER FAYRE**

The summer fayre is taking place on Saturday 1st August 12pm to 3pm.

Raffle Tickets are available to buy after each Mass. Please do buy some tickets for yourself and for your friends and family.

**1st Prize: £500 cash,**

**2nd Prize: £300 cash,**

**3rd Prize: £150 cash. Many more prizes.**

If you have not already volunteered and would like to join the summer fayre team, please add your name to list at the back of church during this coming week. After that, we will know which stalls will be running and individual stallholders will be able to plan their stalls. We will then be able to start advertising and preparing for the day.

**MARBLE CLEANING & RESTORATION - SIDE CHAPELS**

The final part of the project to restore the mosaics in the church started on Tuesday 23rd June. This should last for two weeks and will be confined to the Lady Chapel and St Catherine's Chapel. Hopefully the disruption to Wednesday Adoration and Confessions will be minimal. Thanks to The Droitwich Preservation Trust for funding this project.

## **DROITWICH SPA FOODBANK**

'Thank you for your continued support of Droitwich Spa Foodbank. The use of the foodbank has been steady over the last few months feeding 200 people every month. Food donations are still lower than we need so we are purchasing up to 30% of the food and toiletries that we give out. We are concerned the demand is likely to rise with increasing fuel bills. If you can support us this summer with a food donation we would be very grateful.' Droitwich Spa Foodbank team.

A short shopping list poster is on the Church noticeboard.

## **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 here at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall. The day will begin with Mass, followed by the gathering of all altar servers and conclude with Adoration and Benediction. Lunch will be provided. We request all the altar servers to attend this day.

## **WEBELIEVE - FESTIVAL OF CATHOLIC LIFE**

Friday 24 – Monday 27 July 2026 | St Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham. WeBelieve Festival aims to bring the Church in England & Wales together. It's an unmissable opportunity to connect with other Catholics, 100's of contributors, and has something for every age and stage of the faith journey. Join us in July with a 33% discount on day tickets using the code 'BIRMINGHAM-DISCOUNT' at checkout. Book your tickets at [www.webeliefefestival.com](http://www.webeliefefestival.com)

## **LIBRARY**

Following a recent Fire Risk Assessment, it has been decided to clear the Choir Loft of as much flammable material as possible. The library at the Choir Loft is to be disposed of. If anyone would like any of the books or literature that is in the library, please take it (free of charge), over the next week.

## **HARVINGTON HISTORY FESTIVAL (22-26 JULY)**

The Harvington History Festival in Worcestershire returns from 22–26 July with a fascinating programme of talks, tours, and events exploring history at Harvington Hall, the Archdiocese's historic moated manor house well known for its priest hides. For more information and to book, please visit: [harvingtonhall.co.uk](http://harvingtonhall.co.uk)

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

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

**Saturday 27th June @ 2pm**

**Saturday 25th July @ 2pm.**

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

**Saturday 11th July @ 2:30pm**

**Saturday 8th August @ 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 **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:**

**£293.41**

**Gift Aid: £146.50**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

**Mass attendance  
last Sunday: 254**



**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 **12th July**  
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**

*Zechariah 9:9-10;*

*Psalms 145(144);*

*Romans 8:9, 11-13;*

*Matthew 11:25-30*

It was in 64 AD when a terrible fire engulfed the city of Rome, rumours spread quickly and suspicion fell on Emperor Nero himself. In a desperate move to deflect the blame, Nero accused the Christians, an obscure and persecuted sect at that time, of setting the city ablaze. What followed was one of the most horrific waves of Christian persecution. And among the victims of that brutal time were two men whose blood would become the seed of the church: Peter and Paul, whose solemnity we celebrate today. Peter was crucified upside-down at the Circus of Nero (a stadium used for chariot races) on Vatican Hill. This exact site is where the current St. Peter's Basilica and St. Peter's Square stand today. Paul, a Roman citizen, was beheaded in Rome for preaching the gospel to the Gentiles. Their martyrdoms were not tragic ends but the powerful opening of a new era. They did not die for a political cause or for personal gain, but because of their indisputable conviction that Christ had risen from the dead and that truth was worth everything, even their lives.

Now, almost 2,000 years since that tragedy occurred, you and I live in a different world of technology, convenience, and countless freedoms. Yet, we also live in a time of deep confusion, relativism, and a growing indifference towards Christianity. The church faces different challenges today: scandals, divisions, intolerance and outright hostility in others. Many of us like Peter and Paul combat with our own struggles, doubts, fears or past slip-ups. The question is what do we have in common with those ancient occurrences? A great deal! In today's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles 12:1-11, Peter is imprisoned and chained. Yet God sends an angel to set him free. It's a powerful reminder that no power on earth and no political oppressions can stop God's plan in our time. Even when the church seems shackled by scandal or hostility, God is still sending His angels to rescue His people and guiding the church. In our second reading Paul writes his final farewell speech, with a quiet triumphal tone though. He says, "*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing*". This is not arrogance, rather it is a testimony to the violent persecutor he once was and has been transformed by grace. He gives credit to Christ. The Lord stood by me and gave me strength. He continued, that same grace is available to all of us. We don't have to be a declared saint to start with God. We just must be willing to be knocked down from our own horseback like Paul.

As we heard in the Gospel, Jesus asks a decisive question to all of us as he asks his apostles, "*who do you say that I am?*" Peter's response laid the groundwork for the church. You are the Christ, the son of the living God. On this profession of faith, imperfect yet sincere, Christ builds His church and He still asks us today, "*who do you say that I am?*" It's not a theological question, but a personal one, who is Jesus to me at my workplace, in my family and in times of struggle? Saints Peter and Paul weren't perfect. They were miserable too. One denied Christ, the other persecuted His followers. Yet both were transformed into fearless witnesses, because they opened their hearts to the power of the Risen Christ. So, as we honour these great apostles, let's not merely admire them from afar, let us walk in their footsteps by recommitting ourselves to the faith they lived, preached, and died for. Let us be willing to stand for Christ in our own time. For in our weakness, His strength is made perfect. And in our weakness, His church lives on to the greater glory of our Lord Jesus Christ and for our own sanctification.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ