



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Wisdom 12:13,16-19;

Psalms 86(85);

Romans 8:26-27

Matthew 13:24-43

**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 Jul 2026 Psalter Week 4	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 19th July Sixteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time, Year A Second collection for Day for Life.	8:30 am Nora Abbott RIP (MM) 10:30 am KD Mathew RIP 6:00 pm People of the Parish	After 8:30 am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall
Monday 20th July Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Arthur Leason RIP (MB)	
Tuesday 21st July Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Gladys Remedios RIP (AK)	
Wednesday 22nd July Feast of St Mary Magdalene	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Aleyamma Pappachan RIP (TC)	After Mass, Adoration till 6pm
Thursday 23rd July Feast of St Bridget, Religious, Patron of Europe	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Private Intention (BB)	After Mass, Church cleaning
Friday 24th July Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Lynda Morton (LH)	After Mass, Novena to the Sacred Heart
Saturday 25th July Feast of St James, Apostle	11:00 am Kay Tunney RIP (RS)	10:15-10.45 am Confession 12:00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall 2:00 pm Public Church Tour NLHF
Sunday 26th July Seventeenth Sunday In Ordinary Time, Year A	8:30 am Thanksgiving (MM) 10:30 am Thomas & Theresa Donohue RIP (MF) 6:00 pm John & Mary Rayan RIP (DR)	After 8:30 am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall

"Only in the cross of Jesus is evil overcome; only in His passion does our mortal weariness find consolation and redemption. In slavery, Christ is liberation. Amid the scourge of war, Christ is hope. In the hour of sin, Christ is forgiveness."

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 5th July 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:

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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 are good and forgiving.

6:00pm

Show to us your love and mercy, give us your saving help. X2

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, Shane Healy and Liam Ryan.

PARISH SUMMER FAIR: 1ST AUGUST FROM 12NOON TILL 3PM

The Parish Summer Fair is a time for us, as a parish family and school community, to come together, have fun, and strengthen our family spirit. This year's Summer Fair offers many exciting attractions, including a variety of games and entertainment for children and adults, a wonderful selection of food and drinks, barbecue, tombola, and a raffle with fantastic prizes to be won. Please come along with your family and friends.

The summer fair 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.

SUMMER FAIR PLANT STALL

We are looking for donations of plants and garden related items. These can be brought to the Parish Hall after midday on Friday 31st July.

NEWS FROM ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

As you perhaps already know from the school newsletter that Mr. Andy Carry who served the school faithfully for last two years has stepped down as Principal. The new principal Mrs. Emma Brocklesby Hancock will be taking charge as new principal from this September. We thank Mr. Carry for all his great service he did for the school last two years and we wish him all the best for his future job.

MARRIAGE IN A RUT?

Or need help with deeper issues? Retrouvaille has helped thousands of couples find hope and healing in their marriage. Next dates: 2nd - 4th Oct. www.retrouvaille.org.uk/info Tel: 0788 7296983

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.webelievefestival.com

SVP DROITWICH

On behalf of all the SVP members and beneficiaries, we would like to say a huge thank you to all parishioners who responded to our appeal so generously. The money you have given will make a huge difference to the lives of local people in need.

Angela and Cath SVP Co-Presidents.

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

NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT – PUBLIC TOURS & CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS

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

Saturday 25th July @ 2pm

Saturday 22nd August @ 2pm.

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

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

Children's Liturgy will resume after Summer holiday.

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 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:

£258.49

Gift Aid: £196.00

**Second collection
for Stella Maris:**

£352.23

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 251**

**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 **13th
September** 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**

1 Kings 3:5-6a, 7-12;

Psalms 119(118);

Romans 8:28-30

Matthew 13:44-52

Dear brothers and sisters, the readings for this Sunday reveal both the nature of God and the mystery of His Kingdom. In today's Gospel, Jesus presents the Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds to answer a question that has troubled people throughout history: If the Kingdom of God has already come, why does evil still exist? Why has God not removed evil once and for all? Jesus teaches that the Kingdom of God has indeed begun, but it does not grow in neutral ground. It faces constant opposition from the forces of evil. The apparent slowness of God's Kingdom is not a sign of weakness but of His patience and mercy. To understand the parable, we need to know something about farming in first-century Palestine. A poisonous weed called darnel often grew among the wheat. In its early stages it looked almost identical to wheat, making it impossible to distinguish between the two. By the time they could be identified their roots had become so intertwined that pulling up the weeds would also damage the wheat. For this reason farmers allowed both to grow together until the harvest, when they could be separated safely.

Jesus uses this familiar image to teach a profound spiritual truth. Good and evil coexist in our world, in our communities, and even within our own hearts. God does not immediately remove evil because, in His wisdom, He is patiently working for a greater good. At the final judgment, He will separate good from evil perfectly and justly. This parable applies not only to the world but also to the Church and to each one of us. Throughout history Christians have sometimes been so eager to eliminate what they considered evil that they have caused great harm. The painful history of intolerance reminds us that we must never become more concerned with condemning others than with encouraging goodness and fostering conversion. God's justice is always guided by His mercy, and His patience gives every sinner the opportunity to repent. For those who suffer because of evil this parable is also a message of hope. Jesus assures us that evil will not have the final word. Those who remain faithful to God will one day be vindicated. Persecution, injustice and suffering are temporary. At the harvest, which symbolises the final judgment, God will establish His justice completely.

Jesus then reinforces this message with two short parables: the mustard seed and the yeast. The mustard seed is the smallest of seeds, yet it grows into a large shrub where birds find shelter. In the same way, yeast quietly transforms an entire batch of dough, though it seems insignificant at first. These images remind us that God's Kingdom often begins in small, hidden and humble ways, yet its power is extraordinary. What appears weak today will, in God's time, bear abundant fruit. The Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds also teaches us an important lesson about conversion. In nature weeds can never become wheat. But in the supernatural order, through God's grace, sinners can become saints. The lives of St. Mary Magdalene, St. Augustine, and the Good Thief beautifully illustrate this truth. Each had a sinful past yet, through repentance and God's abundant mercy, they became shining examples of holiness. God never gives up on anyone. Therefore we should never lose hope in ourselves or in others. While we firmly reject sin, we must always love the sinner, remembering that every person is capable of conversion. As we continue our earthly pilgrimage, let us ask the Lord to help us reject sin and strive each day for deeper conversion. St. Paul reminds us in today's second reading that the Holy Spirit comes to our aid in our weakness. We are never alone in our struggle against evil. God's grace is always at work within us. May we become faithful wheat in the Lord's field, bearing the fruits of holiness, patience, mercy and love, so that, when the final harvest comes, we may rejoice forever in the fullness of God's Kingdom.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ