



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

208 Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa,
WR9 8AZ, Tel: 01905 773258
Email: sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk
Web: www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk



Today's Mass Readings

1 Kings 3:5-6a, 7-12;
Psalms 119(118);
Romans 8:28-30
Matthew 13:44-52

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

This Week: 26th Jul - 2nd Aug 2026 Psalter Week 1	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
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
Monday 27th July Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Forgotten Souls in Purgatory (LH)	
Tuesday 28th July Feast of Our Lady of Betharram	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Sophie Minogue (MM)	
Wednesday 29th July Memorial of Ss Martha, Mary and Lazarus	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Chris Dennis RIP (MD)	After Mass, Adoration till 6pm
Thursday 30th July Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Intentions of S&P Maxwell (CI)	
Friday 31st July Memorial of St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am KJ Mathews RIP (B)	After Mass, Novena to the Sacred Heart
Saturday 1st August Memorial of St Alphonsus Mary de' Liguori, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	11:00 am Special Intention (CI)	10:15-10.45 am Confession 12.00 noon-3pm Summer Fair 12:00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall
Sunday 2nd August Eighteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time, Year A	8:30 am Eileen Hickey RIP (MT) 10:30 am People of the Parish 6:00 pm Holy Mass	After 8:30 am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall

***"We continue to follow with concern the events unfolding in various countries torn apart
by war and violence. Let us not forget those who are suffering and dying because of
these conflicts, and let us add our constant prayers to the generous efforts for peace."***

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 19th 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:
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

O Lord, how I love your law!

6:00pm

**The word of God is more desired than gold;
the word of God is sweeter than honey.
Light to our eyes the Lord's command is clear;
greater than gold the message of eternal 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, 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.

JOURNEY IN FAITH

Are you looking to explore the Catholic faith? Are you wondering about your relationship with God but are not sure where to start? The Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart and St Catherine of Alexandria welcomes everyone to come and visit us or worship with us. You do not need to be a baptized Catholic to walk through the doors of our church or to stay and pray during Mass. We are very happy that you have come to visit us. If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or would like to find out more about the Catholic faith, we invite you to join us on a journey of discovery and see how the Catholic Church can help your relationship with God to grow. This may be the right path for you. There is a period of instruction and preparation before a person is received into the Catholic Church. This is called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). We will begin our RCIA sessions at the end of September. If you would like to explore the RCIA process or find out more, please speak to Fr George Mathew, the Parish Priest. We look forward to welcoming you!

SUMMER FAIR CAKE STALL

As usual, we will be having the very popular cake stall for you to buy and take home the lovely donated bakes. In the style of the "Great British Bake Off -Star Baker", enter your donated cake into the competition for the best decorated cake to win a bottle of prosecco. To enter, please drop off your cake on the day before 11:30am. The entries will be judged before the fair opens by Fr George. Paper plates will be available after each Mass. Please take one and fill it with a cake.

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.

SUMMER FAIR BAR

For the first time this year, we have applied for a licence so that we can run a bar at the summer fair. There will be Pimms, a selection of local beers along with lagers and wine for you to enjoy. Soft drinks, teas and coffees will also be available. For the children, there will be slush puppies, ice creams, games and crafts. See enclosed/attached flyer for more details. We are trying to raise funds and to build the community in the Parish. Please come along and support us.

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

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.

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.

NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT – PUBLIC TOURS & CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS

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

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:

£253.00

Gift Aid: £181.50

**Second collection
for Day for Life:**

£105.70

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 258**

**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**

Isaiah 55:1-3;

Psalms 145(144);

Romans 8:35,37-39

Matthew 14:13-21

Many people spend their lives searching for success, wealth, security or happiness, believing that one more achievement or possession will finally satisfy them. Yet today's readings challenge us to ask a much deeper question: **What is the greatest treasure we are truly seeking?** The answer given by Scripture is clear: the greatest treasure is not material wealth or worldly success, but **the wisdom that comes from God**. In the first reading, Solomon has just become king after his father, David. He is young, inexperienced, and overwhelmed by the enormous responsibility placed upon him. Rather than asking God for riches, power, or a long life, Solomon asks for something far greater: **"Give your servant an understanding heart to judge your people and to discern between good and evil"**. Solomon recognised that he could not fulfil his mission through his own strength. He knew he needed God's wisdom to lead His people faithfully. One of the most important lessons from Solomon's prayer is that wisdom begins with listening. Before God made Solomon a wise king, He first made him a good listener. In today's fast-paced world, we often value speaking more than listening. We are surrounded by constant noise, opinions and distractions. Yet God speaks most often in silence. A listening heart enables us to recognise His voice, discern His will and make decisions that reflect His wisdom rather than our own desires.

True wisdom begins with humility, when we admit that we do not have all the answers and allow God to guide our lives. Listening to God slows us down, prevents us from acting impulsively and helps us see life through God's eyes. Sadly, Solomon did not remain faithful throughout his life. As time passed, he stopped listening to God and gradually allowed wealth, power and foreign influences to draw him away from the Lord. His life reminds us that wisdom is not something we receive once and possess forever. It is a gift that must be renewed daily through prayer, obedience and a willingness to keep listening to God. The Bible repeatedly reminds us that many people who were specially chosen by God failed because they neglected His grace. Samson, King Saul and Judas all received extraordinary gifts, yet each misused those gifts and turned away from God's plan. Their stories warn us that God's blessings can be lost if they are neglected. The same challenge applies to us. Through Baptism and the other Sacraments, we have received countless blessings and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. However, these gifts require cooperation. If we fail to nourish them through prayer, the Eucharist, Scripture and a life of virtue, they can become dormant. St Paul reminds us of this when he writes, *"I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest, after preaching to others, I myself should be disqualified"*. Even Paul, the great Apostle who preached throughout the pagan world and established many churches, recognised the need for continual spiritual discipline. Holiness is not achieved by a single decision but through daily faithfulness.

The Vulgate (the Latin translation of the Bible) says that Solomon asked for a *cor docile*, a docile heart, a heart that can be taught. That means that divine wisdom is something that has to be learned all through life, a rule of our human existence. Yes, Solomon was right in thinking that a wise and discerning heart is by far the most precious gift anyone can receive from God. And that same message is imparted to us in today's Gospel, where the treasure hidden in the field and the pearl of great value represent the fullness of divine wisdom. We are all invited to sell everything we possess in order to buy this wisdom that comes from God and was made accessible to us by the power of Jesus's death on the Cross. We need it every day and in all aspects of our life; family, work, studies, and in all life's decisions to succeed. Thus the Apostle James encourages us: "If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously, and it will be given to you" (Jas 1:5). Wisdom was given to Solomon because he asked for it. As we celebrate this Eucharist, let us pray for the grace to cultivate a listening and teachable heart, one that remains open to God's voice each day. May we recognise the incomparable treasure of His wisdom, cherish it above every earthly possession, and allow it to guide us faithfully throughout our lives. Amen.

Fr. George Matehw SCJ