



SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

208 Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa
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Email: sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk
Web: www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk



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

Today's Mass Readings:
Isaiah 55:1-3;
Psalms 144;
Romans 8:35,37-39;
Matthew 14:13-21

This Week: 2nd – 9th August 2026 Psalter Week 2	Holy Mass & Services		Other Events
Sunday 2nd August 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	8:30am	Eileen Hickey RIP (MT)	After 8:30am Mass, tea & coffee in the Parish Hall
	10:30am	Aleksandra Jwona (PW)	
	6:00pm	Holy Mass	
Monday 3rd August Feria	8:55am	Morning Prayer	
	9:15am	Fr Paul Johnson RIP (LM)	
Tuesday 4th August Memorial of St John Mary Vianney	8:55am	Morning Prayer	
	9:15am	Lynn Morton RIP (L)	
Wednesday 5th August Feria	8:55am	Morning Prayer	After Mass, Adoration till 6pm 6pm Choir Practice
	9:15am	Diarmuid O'Regan RIP (BB)	
Thursday 6th August Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord	8:55am	Morning Prayer	After Mass, church cleaning 11:30am Private Church tour
	9:15am	For an end to war. Peace.	
Friday 7th August Feria	8:55am	Morning Prayer	After Mass, Novena to the Sacred Heart
	9:15am	People of Enerhodar & Dnipropetrovsk Oblast	
Saturday 8th August Memorial of St Dominic	11:00am	Alan Remedios RIP (AK)	10:15-10:45am Confession 12:00-5:00pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall 2:30pm NLHF Public Children's Workshop & Church tour
Sunday 9th August 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	8:30am	Vincenca Eaton RIP (MF)	After 8:30am Mass, tea & coffee in the Parish Hall
	10:30am	People of the Parish	
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass	

"It is not atomic weapons that generate peace, but disarmament. This truth, which seemed clear in the past decades when we witnessed de-escalation, has been obscured by a race to armament that today frightens and terrifies". *Pope Leo XIV via Instagram 21st 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@emmausma
c.com

PRINCIPAL

Mrs Emma
Brocklesby Hancock

PARISH SECRETARY

Bogusia Koniszewska-
Fijolek

Tel.: 01905 773258

Email:
sacredheart.droitwich@
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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 & 6:00pm

You open your hand and fulfil us, O Lord

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.

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 baptised 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!

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. Tel: 0788 7296983 www.retrouvaille.org.uk/info

NEWS FROM ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

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

NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT

The project will officially end on Saturday 12th September. This will be two years since we were awarded the grant. On the day we will again participate in the national Heritage Open Day and this will be followed by a social 'thank you' event for everyone who has volunteered in any way on the project.

The last monthly public children's workshops (mini church tour & mosaic-making session) will take place on **Saturday 8th August @ 2.30 pm**. This is almost 'sold out'.

The last monthly public church tour (with a café) will take place on **Saturday 22nd August @ 2pm**.

Both of these events can be booked on Eventbrite, links can be found on the parish website. Or by contacting the Hall Booking Secretary.

Once the project has finished there will be a permanent information board for visitors in the Narthex. This will replace the Visitor Centre in the Parish Hall.

ANNUAL ALTAR SERVERS' MASS

Registration is now open for the Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Guild of Saint Stephen. It will be held at St Chad's Cathedral, 12noon on Saturday 3rd October, celebrated by Bishop Timothy Menezes. Altar servers and their families are invited to join this year's celebration, which is hosted by the Diocesan Vocations Office. Please keep this date on your diary. More information to follow in due course.

SUMMER FAIR

Thank you to all who came to the Summer Fair. This year we tried something different and it was a massive success. The activities for children were particularly well received and the numbers who came exceeded all expectations. Feedback was very positive.

Also a big thank you to all those who helped make it such a success: those who ran the stalls, those who donated prizes, those who helped on the day and especially to those members of the organising team for their hard work and dedication.

The list of raffle winners will be displayed on the parish notice board. Prizes can be collected after each Sunday Mass.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will resume after the 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.droit

wich@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:

£239.64

Gift Aid: £188.20

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 263**

**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 19:9a, 11-
13a;**

Psalms 84;

Romans 9:1-5;

Matthew 14:22-33

My dear brothers and sisters, one of the deepest longings of the human heart is to be loved, accepted, and fulfilled. We spend much of our lives searching for happiness in wealth, success, possessions, or pleasure. Yet, even after achieving these things, many people still feel an emptiness within. Today's readings remind us that only God can truly satisfy the deepest hunger of the human heart. In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah extends God's invitation: *"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters... Come, buy and eat without money and without price."* God's love is a free gift. It cannot be bought or earned. Isaiah also asks a challenging question: *"Why spend your money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy?"* These words challenge us to reflect on where we seek fulfilment.

All those who attended the Easter Vigil must have noticed that the church begins in complete darkness. The priest lights the Paschal Candle, and from that one flame, the light is passed from one candle to another. Slowly, the darkness disappears as every person holds a burning candle. No single candle loses its light by sharing it; instead, the whole church is illuminated. A small flame, placed in many hands, transforms the entire space. The miracle was not in the size of the flame but in its willingness to be shared. The gospel today begins with Jesus withdrawing to a lonely place after hearing the heartbreaking news of John the Baptist's death. Jesus needed time to grieve. This reminds us that even the Son of God experienced human sorrow and sought moments of silence. Although He needed time alone, He did not turn the crowds away. Instead, He was moved with compassion. The Gospel presents the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand. This miracle is much more than an act of generosity; it reveals who Jesus truly is. He is the Bread of Life who alone can satisfy every human need. He healed the sick and cared for the people before feeding them. This reminds us that Jesus understands our pain, knows our struggles, and is always ready to help those who come to him. As evening approached, the disciples became concerned about the hungry crowd. Their solution was simple: send the people away to buy food. But Jesus challenged them with the words, *"You give them something to eat."* The disciples immediately focused on what they lacked. *"We have only five loaves and two fish."* How often do we react in the same way? We focus on our limitations instead of God's power. The miracle began not with abundance but with generosity. Five loaves and two fish seemed insignificant before such a large crowd, but they became enough because they were placed in the hands of Christ. God does not expect us to give what we do not have. He asks only that we generously offer what we do have.

This miracle also points us towards the Holy Eucharist. Every Mass follows the same pattern: Jesus takes us, blesses us, breaks us through life's experiences, and gives us to the world. We come to be fed so that we can become food for others. The One who fed the hungry crowd continues to nourish us today with His very life. Whenever we place our gifts, however small, in the hands of Christ, He multiplies them beyond what we could ever imagine. Miracles still happen—not because of our strength, but because we allow God to work through us. At every Mass, Christ continues to feed us, not with ordinary bread but with his own Body and Blood. The Eucharist strengthens us for our journey of faith and nourishes our souls with God's own life. So, this week, let us ask ourselves three questions: What am I still thirsting for? What fear do I need to entrust to Christ's love? And what are the five loaves and two fish that I have been hesitant to place in His hands? If we offer Him even our little, He will make it enough—not only for us, but for many others. May God bless us all.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ