



SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

208 Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa
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Email: sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk
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**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:
1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a;
Psalm 84;
Romans 9:1-5;
Matthew 14:22-33

This Week: 9th – 16th August 2026 Psalter Week 3	Holy Mass & Services		Other Events
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	Robert Ravenhill (LH)	
	6:00 pm	People of the Parish	
Monday 10th August Feast of St Lawrence, Deacon, Martyr	8:55am	Morning Prayer	
	9:15am	Chacko, Annamma RIP and Family (TS)	
Tuesday 11th August Memorial of St Clare, Virgin	8:55am	Morning Prayer	
	9:15am	Holy Mass	
Wednesday 12th August Feria	8:55am	Morning Prayer	After Mass, Adoration till 6pm 6pm Choir practice
	9:15am	Gladys Remedios RIP (AK)	
Thursday 13th August Memorial of Blessed William Freeman, Priest, Martyr	8:55am	Morning Prayer	11:30am Private Church tour
	9:15am	KD Varkey, Rose RIP and Family (TS)	
Friday 14th August Memorial of St Maximilian Mary Kolbe, Priest, Martyr	8:55am	Morning Prayer	After Mass, Novena to the Sacred Heart
	9:15am	Francis Joseph RIP (MF)	
Saturday 15th August Feria	11:00am	Sunny and Simini 25 th Wedding Anniversary (TK)	10:15-10:45am Confession 12:00-5:00pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall 12:15pm Special FHC Mass
	11:00am	Anointing Mass	
Sunday 16th August Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Year A	8:30am	Holy Mass	After 8:30am Mass, tea & coffee in the Parish Hall
	10:30am	People of the Parish	
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass	

“Today we turn our attention to the ecclesial dimension of the Church’s liturgical prayer. Far from avoiding the world and its needs, all prayer, especially in the entire liturgy, is the essential dimension of humanity.”

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 5th August 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

PARISH SECRETARY

Bogusia Koniszewska-
Fijolek

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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

Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

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

This event 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.

We are delighted to share that the event raised a total of **£3,078.47** for the parish. After expenses of **£233.54**, the **net amount raised was £2,844.93**.



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.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:

£381.41

Gift Aid: £252.00

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 278**

**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**

*Revelation 11:19a;
12:1-6a, 10ab;
Psalm 45(44);
1 Corinthians
15:20-27;
Luke 1:39-56*

Today's readings invite us to listen for God's gentle voice and trust His presence even when the waves around us seem overwhelming. After his great victory over the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, Elijah expected Israel to return to God. Instead, Queen Jezebel threatened to kill him. Afraid and exhausted, Elijah fled into the wilderness and finally reached Mount Horeb (Sinai), the mountain where God had once revealed Himself to Moses. On Mount Horeb, Elijah expected God to reveal Himself through dramatic signs. There was a mighty wind, an earthquake, and a consuming fire. Yet Scripture tells us that the Lord was not in them. Finally came a gentle whisper, and Elijah recognized the presence of God. This is a profound lesson for us. We often expect God to act in extraordinary ways. We ask for miracles, dramatic signs, or immediate solutions to our problems. But more often, God speaks quietly: In the silence of prayer, through His Word, in the Eucharist, through the encouragement of a friend, in the voice of conscience, and in the hidden acts of love that surround us. In a world filled with constant noise and distractions, many of us complain that God is silent. The real question is whether we have become silent enough to hear Him. Often, He speaks gently to hearts that are willing to listen.

In the second reading, St. Paul expresses deep sorrow because many of his own people have not accepted Christ. His words reveal the heart of a true disciple. Paul does not condemn them. Instead, he suffers for them and longs for their salvation. This challenges us. Do we truly care about those who have drifted away from the faith and the Church? Do we pray for our children and relatives who no longer practise the faith and go to church? For those searching for meaning? True Christian love does not give up on people but continues to hope that everyone may come to know the saving love of God.

As we come to the Gospel passage we see the disciples were struggling against strong winds in the middle of the lake. During the darkest part of the night Jesus came walking toward them on the water. Instead of recognizing Him, they thought He was a ghost. How often fear distorts our vision! When difficulties overwhelm us, we begin to think that God has abandoned us. Yet often He is much closer than we realize. Peter's courage is admirable. At Jesus' invitation, he steps out of the boat and walks on the water. As long as Peter keeps his eyes fixed on Jesus, he walks confidently. The moment he focuses on the wind and the waves, fear overcomes him, and he begins to sink. Isn't that our story too? We begin our Christian journey with enthusiasm. Then come disappointments, failures, criticism, illness or uncertainty. Gradually our attention shifts from Christ to our problems. The Gospel reminds us that faith is not the absence of storms but the decision to keep our eyes on Jesus despite them. When Peter cries, "**Lord, save me!**", Jesus immediately stretches out His hand. That same hand reaches out to each of us today.

Whenever fear overwhelms us, let us remember the words of Jesus: "**Take courage; it is I. Do not be afraid.**" Whenever we begin to sink under the weight of life's burdens, let us have the humility of Peter to pray: "**Lord, save me, I am drowning!**" And, whenever we feel alone, let us remember Elijah, who discovered that God was nearest to him not in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire, but in the silence of his heart, in the gentle whisper of His love. The peace God gives is not the absence of difficulties, but the confidence that He walks with us through them. May this Eucharist strengthen our faith, quieten our fears, open our hearts to God's gentle voice and help us recognize the living presence of Christ in every circumstance of our lives.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ