



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



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

This Week: 16th – 23rd August 2026 Psalter Week 4	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 16th August Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Year A	8:30am Fr Wilfred SCJ on his Ordination anniversary 10:30am Kathrine & Michael Sekowski RIP (BS) 6:00pm For rain and an end to extreme weather	After 8:30am Mass, tea & coffee in the Parish Hall
Monday 17th August Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Innocent victims of war in Ukraine – Kramatorsk & Sloviansk	
Tuesday 18th August Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Franciska Gruska RIP (BS)	
Wednesday 19th August Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Br John SCJ	After Mass, Adoration till 6pm 6pm Choir Practice
Thursday 20th August Memorial of St Bernard, Abbot, Doctor of the Church	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am For rain and an end to extreme weather	After Mass, church cleaning
Friday 21st August Memorial of St Pius X, Pope	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Harry Remedios RIP (AK)	After Mass, Novena to the Sacred Heart
Saturday 22nd August Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	11:00am Nimmy and Blair Wedding Anniversary (BM)	10:15-10:45am Confession 12:00-5:00pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall 2pm NLHF Public Church tour
Sunday 23rd August Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am People of the Parish 10:30am Edward Sykes and his family RIP (BS) 6:00 pm Holy Mass	After 8:30am Mass, tea & coffee in the Parish Hall

**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

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 & 6:00pm

On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir

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.

POPE'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

"They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks" (Isaiah 2:4). "The care of creation represents a true vocation for every human being..." (Pope Leo XIV)

SCJ SPONSORED WALK 2026

This year's Sacred Heart Sponsored Walk will take place on **Saturday, 19th September, at 1pm, along the Droitwich Canal Walk**. The SCJ Sponsored Walk aims to raise funds to support the formation of young SCJ seminarians in India and Vietnam. Your generous support would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to sponsor the walk, please write your name on the clipboard at the back of the church. If you would like to take part in the walk, you are most welcome to join the Sacred Heart Fathers and Brothers: please collect a sponsorship form from Br Patrick at the back of the church. Further information about the walk will be provided in due course.

LOOKING FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS TO HELP CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy is a wonderful way of helping children to understand and grow in their faith when they come to Mass. Our dedicated team does a tremendous job in making the liturgy meaningful, engaging, and child-friendly. We are currently in great need of a few more volunteers to help with the Children's Liturgy. Even if you do not have much experience of working with children, you are very welcome to join the team, and appropriate training will be provided before you begin. If you would like to help or would like more information, please speak to Fr George.

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](mailto:sg.sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk)

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:

£258.27

Gift Aid: £176.50

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 268**

**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 22:15, 19-23;

Psalms 137;

Romans 11:33-36;

Matthew 16:13-20

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven. In the Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus*, promulgated in 1950, Pope Pius XII solemnly defined that: "The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory." In other words, Mary, was taken by God into heavenly glory in the fullness of her person—body and soul. What is the main theological message that the Pope communicates to us? He presents the Assumption as deeply connected with *Christ's victory over sin and death*. Mary's Assumption is the unique fruit of her relationship with Christ. Because she is the *Mother of God*, was preserved from original sin, and remained intimately united with her Son throughout her life, it was fitting that she should share in a unique way in the bodily glorification of the risen Christ. Mary's Assumption points beyond Mary herself. It directs our attention towards *our own Christian hope of resurrection*. What has already been accomplished in Mary, anticipates what God promises to accomplish in those who belong to Christ. Mary is already experiencing, body and soul, the glory for which redeemed humanity is destined. Thus, the Assumption tells us that *the human body has an eternal destiny*. Christianity does not teach merely the immortality of the soul; we profess in the Creed: "*I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.*"

Mary's Assumption is a powerful sign of that hope. Pius XII deliberately says: "*having completed the course of her earthly life*" rather than defining whether Mary actually died before being assumed into heaven. So, in one sentence, the heart of *Munificentissimus Deus* can therefore be expressed like this: *Mary, the Mother of God, having completed her earthly life, was taken body and soul into heavenly glory; in her Assumption we see the triumph of Christ's resurrection already fulfilled in one of his redeemed and a sign of the future resurrection promised to us all*. This makes the Feast of the Assumption not simply a celebration of Mary's privilege, but also a celebration of Christian hope—our hope that death does not have the final word and that the whole human person, body and soul, is destined for glory in Christ.

Why does Mary's bodily Assumption make sense theologically? First and foremost, the *Mother and Son Connection*: Mary gave Jesus his human body and physical DNA. Because Jesus was taken into heaven body and soul, it is seen as fitting that the mother who gave him his flesh shared that same glory. Secondly *Free from Decay*: Christian tradition teaches that Mary was preserved from original sin (the Immaculate Conception). Because sin leads to bodily decay, her sinless state meant her body did not need to suffer the corruption of the grave. Thirdly a *Preview for Humanity*: Mary's bodily entry into heaven is a signpost for the rest of humanity. It proves that physical matter and human bodies matter to God and are destined for eternal glory, not just disposal. The Assumption of Mary clarifies and confirms that the heaven of the New Testament is a place where the saints experience the presence of God. She is the first one to enter heaven under the New Covenant (there may be an exception to the *good thief* at the crucifixion). In a way, Mary opened up heaven for rest of the saints, just as she opened up the earth to the fullness of God's Incarnate Word – Jesus Christ. The Church sees Mary as the New Eve alongside Christ, the New Adam, a relationship foreshadowed in Simeon's prophecy and revealed in a profound way by Mary's presence at the foot of the Cross. The first Eve stood with the first Adam in the story of the Fall, through which sin and death entered the human condition. In contrast, Mary, the New Eve, stood faithfully beside Christ, as He conquered sin and death on the Cross. Mary's Assumption into heaven, therefore, can be seen as the final triumph over the consequences of sin and death unleashed by the Fall, and as a sign of the new life won for humanity through Christ. Let us imitate her life of holiness and Our Lady intercede for us.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ