



SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

208 Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa
WR9 8AZ Tel 01905 773258
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:

Isaiah 22:15, 19-23;

Psalms 137;

Romans 11:33-36;

Matthew 16:13-20

This Week: 23 rd – 30 th August 2026 Psalter Week 1	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 23rd August Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	8:30am Edward Sykes and his family RIP (BS) 10:30am People of the Parish 6:00 pm Kenny (G)	After 8:30am Mass, tea & coffee in the Parish Hall
Monday 24th August Feast of St Bartholomew	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Mr. George & Mrs. Regina 40th Wedding Anniversary (CD T)	10:30am Private Church Tour
Tuesday 25th August Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Mrs. Lynn Ravenhill RIP (LH)	10:30am Private Church Tour
Wednesday 26th August Feast of St. Miriam Baouardy	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am For Peace in the Holy Land	After Mass, Adoration till 6pm
Thursday 27th August Memorial of St Monica	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Forgotten Souls in Purgatory (LH)	10:00am to 2:00pm Painting Group in the Church
Friday 28th August Memorial of St Augustine, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Robert Ravenhill RIP (LH)	After Mass, Novena to the Sacred Heart
Saturday 29th August Memorial of the Passion of the Saint John the Baptist, Martyr	11:00am Holy Mass	10:15-10:45am Confession 12:00-5:00pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall
Sunday 30th August Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	8:30am People of the Parish 10:30am Holy Mass 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

**O Lord, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not to work of your hands.**

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.

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.

POPE'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

"Music fosters communion. It helps unite our hearts to overcome differences between people and bring everyone together in praise of God through a symphony of voices." (Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 19th August 2026)

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.

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.

PARISH HALL NEWS

Regular bookings for the hall have been slowly building up. Bookings for various fitness groups continue to be the backbone, despite the impact of the new weight-loss medications; we now have five such groups.

The hall is also very popular for dancing. We have had a weekly booking for many years, but this has now been supplemented by another group who hire on a monthly basis. Their Sunday afternoon 'tea dances' are particularly popular.

The hall has been used a lot over the last two years holding events for the National Lottery project and, whilst this is coming to an end, it is planned to continue using it for school workshops.

We have now managed to secure a regular booking for NHS Blood who are holding blood donation sessions on one Monday a month. The next one is 7th September. The hall also continues to be available for parishioners, or indeed anyone, to book for their private function: birthday parties, meetings, family events, celebrations...

Hall bookings are now a valuable source of income for the parish.

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:

£286.91

Gift Aid: £141.00

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 267**

**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**
Jeremiah 20:7-9;
Psalms 63(62);
Romans 12:1-2;
Matthew 16:21-27

He said to them, "But Who Do You Say That I Am?" This question is at the heart of today's Gospel. Jesus asks his disciples, *"Who do people say the Son of Man is?"* They give Him various answers: John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. These are not bad answers. They show that people recognise something extraordinary in Jesus. But they still do not fully understand who He is. Then Jesus changes the question. He makes it personal: *"But who do you say that I am?"* Peter responds with that remarkable profession of faith: *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."* This is a turning point in the Gospel. Peter has not simply given the correct answer to a theological question. He has recognised the person standing before him. Jesus is not merely another prophet, a great teacher, a miracle worker, or simply one among the many founders of the world's religions. *He is the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God.* Jesus tells Peter that this understanding has not come simply from human knowledge: "Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven."

There is an important lesson here for each of us. Christianity is not simply about having information about Jesus; Christianity is about entering into a relationship with Jesus. I can know that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. I can know about His miracles and His parables. I can know the story of His death and resurrection. I can even know many passages of Scripture by heart. But knowing all these things does not automatically mean that I know Jesus personally. We can attend Mass regularly, read the Bible, study theology, know our prayers and even speak beautifully about Christ. These are all important in our Christian life, and yet, in our hearts we can remain distant from Him. So today Jesus turns towards each one of us and asks the same question: *"Who do you say that I am?"* He is not simply asking, "What does the Catechism say about me?" He is not asking, "What did your parents teach you about me?" Nor is he simply asking, "What does the Church teach about me?" All these are essential in forming and nourishing our faith. But eventually, the question must become personal: *"Who am I to you?"* Is Jesus simply someone I have heard about since childhood? Is He someone I turn to only when I need something? Or is He truly *my Lord, my Saviour, my friend and the centre of my life?*

Peter's confession of faith also leads to something more. Jesus says to him: *"You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church"*. Jesus gives Peter the keys of the Kingdom and entrusts him with a particular responsibility for his Church. For us as Catholics, this passage is particularly important because it points to the unique ministry entrusted to Peter and continued in the Church through apostolic succession. It also reminds us of something essential: our faith is personal, but it is never merely private. We receive our faith through the Church. We celebrate it within the Church. We are nourished through the Word of God and the Sacraments of the Church. And then we are sent out by Christ, through the Church, to bear witness to Him in the world. Peter's encounter with Jesus changes not only what he believes but also who he is. Simon becomes Peter - the Rock. His relationship with Christ gives him a new identity and a new mission. The same can happen to us. When we truly encounter Jesus, He does not simply give us more information about God. He reveals to us who we are. In Him we discover that we are loved, called and entrusted with a mission. Perhaps, then, we can turn Jesus's question around today. In our prayer, we might ask: "Jesus, who am I to you?" Perhaps we will hear Him reminding us: *You are my beloved. You are my disciple. You are someone I have called by name. You have a place and a mission in my Church and in my world.* So, let us take three questions with us today: Do I simply know about Jesus, or do I truly know Jesus? Who is Jesus to me personally? And does knowing Jesus make a difference in the way I live? Perhaps today Jesus does not need another theological answer from us. He wants the answer of our hearts. Like Peter, may we have the faith to say: *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."* And may that confession lead us from information to relationship, from relationship to deeper faith, and from faith to mission. Fr. George Mathew SCJ