



SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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

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

This Week: 30 th Aug – 6 th Sep 2026 Psalter Week 2	Holy Mass & Services		Other Events
Sunday 30th August Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	8:30am James & Mary McDonnell RIP (NM & B)	10:30am Rod Fuller speedy recovery (G)	After 8:30am Mass, tea & coffee in the Parish Hall
	6:00pm People of the Parish		
Monday 31st August Feria	<u>10:00am</u> Anna, for speedy recovery (SC)		
Tuesday 1st September Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer	9:15am Liam Ryan	
Wednesday 2nd September Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer	9:15am Stella Turner (RIP) & Catherine & Mary (C&G)	After Mass, Adoration till 6pm
Thursday 3rd September Feast of St Gregory the Great, Pope, Doctor of the Church	8:55am Morning Prayer	9:15am For the victims of natural calamities	After Mass, Church cleaning
Friday 4th September Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer	9:15am Bogusia & Arek Wedding Anniversary (BKF)	After Mass, Novena to the Sacred Heart
Saturday 5th September Feria	11:00am SVP Worcester District Members (GP)		10:15-10:45am Confession 11:45am Private Church Tour 12:00-5:00pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall
Sunday 6th September Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	8:30am John Dorgan RIP (SD)	10:30am People of the Parish	After 8:30am Mass, tea & coffee in the Parish Hall Children's Liturgy during 10:30am Mass 12:00noon Baptism
	6:00pm Holy Mass		

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

For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Of your charity please pray for Attracta Edna Ann Weaver (Peggy) who have recently died. Please also keep her families in your prayers. The Funeral service for Edna (Peggy) will take place on Monday 7th September at 11:30am. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

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!

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.

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.

POPE'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

"It is essential to develop more sustainable technological solutions that reduce environmental impact and help protect our common home."

Pope Leo XIV Encyclical Letter Magnifica Humanitas (paragraph 101)

THE SEASON OF CREATION 20026: MAKE LIVING WATER FLOW

Each year from **September 1 to October 4**, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It is a special season where we celebrate God as Creator, and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common call to care for Creation. We are co-creatures and part of all that God has made. Our well-being is interwoven with the well-being of the Earth. We rejoice in this opportunity to safeguard our common home and all beings who share it with us. This year, the theme for the Season is *"Living Water"*. Our Biblical text for this year is drawn from Ezekiel 47: 1- 12, which portrays God's life-giving water flowing from the temple of God. The river grows deeper and deeper restoring barren land, reviving waters, and sustaining flourishing ecosystems. The vision invites human responsibility: recognising ecological damage, embracing interconnectedness, we are called to immerse ourselves in the water, and actively safeguarding and working for the renewal of creation so that environmental healing and human well-being may flourish together.

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.

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.

KNITTING – REMBRANCE SUNDAY

Calling all knitters and crocheters. The flower group would like to arrange some crafted poppies along with flowers for Remembrance Sunday (8th November). If you would like to make some poppies for our display, your help would be much appreciated. There are some patterns at the back of church and many more poppy patterns for knitting or crocheting available online.

NHS BLOOD DONATION CAMP

NHS Blood are holding blood donation sessions on one Monday a month here at the Parish Hall. The next NHS Blood donation camp is 7th September.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will resume on 6th September.

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:

£260.15

Gift Aid: £255.54

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 257**

**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**
Ezekiel 33:7-9;
Psalms 95(94);
Romans 13:8-10;
Matthew 18:15-20

Today's readings speak honestly about what it means to follow Christ. Last Sunday, we heard Peter make his great profession of faith: *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"*. Yet today, only a few verses later, Peter struggles to understand what being the Messiah truly means. Jesus tells His disciples about His imminent passion death and resurrection. Peter cannot accept this: *"Heaven preserve you, Lord; this must not happen to you"*. Peter could not comprehend a Messiah who suffers. He wants the crown without the cross. Perhaps we are not so different from Peter. We believe in Jesus, come to Mass and pray. We ask God to bless our families, heal our illnesses, solve our problems and protect us from difficulties. But sometimes we begin to think that, because we are faithful to God, everything should go well for us.

Then life takes an unexpected turn. Illness occurs, death of a loved one, relationships break down, our plans fail or experience disappointment and uncertainty. We ask, *"Why, Lord? Why is this happening to me?"* It is precisely then that Jesus's words become real: *"If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me"*. Jesus is not telling us to search for suffering. Life brings enough crosses of its own. Nor does Christianity teach that suffering is good in itself. Rather, Jesus teaches us that, when unavoidable suffering comes, we do not have to carry it alone; we can carry it with Him. There is a difference between simply suffering and carrying our cross with Christ. Suffering can make us bitter and discouraged. But suffering united with Christ can deepen our faith, increase our compassion and teach us to depend more completely upon God. We see this in Jeremiah in the first reading. Jeremiah has faithfully proclaimed God's Word, yet he faces rejection and ridicule. He becomes so discouraged that he considers giving up. Yet God's Word becomes, as he says, *"a fire burning in my heart"*. Jeremiah discovers that remaining faithful to God can be difficult, but turning away from Him will be a fatal mistake. We too may become discouraged when we try to do what is right and are misunderstood, or when our prayers remain unanswered. Even in these moments God continues to work within us, and the flame of faith continues to burn.

In the second reading St Paul tells us: *"Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God"*. This reminds us that the our liturgy does not end when Mass finishes. *Our whole life should become an offering to God*. In the late Pope Francis's words, *"Parents making sacrifices for their children, someone caring patiently for an elderly or sick relative, forgiving someone who has hurt us, visiting someone who is lonely, or remaining faithful during difficult times—all these ordinary acts of love can become a living sacrifice offered to God"*. This is often what carrying the cross looks like. Our crosses are not always made of wood. Sometimes the cross is living patiently with illness, caring for someone who depends on us, forgiving someone who has wounded us, accepting something we cannot change or simply continuing to trust God when we do not understand what He is doing. But there is something we must never forget: the Cross is not the end of the story. Jesus tells His disciples that He will suffer and die, but He also tells them that *on the third day He will rise again*. Peter heard about the suffering, but he seems to have missed the promise of resurrection. We can make the same mistake. When difficulties come, we often see only Good Friday, but God sees beyond the cross to the empty tomb. Christian hope is not a wishful expectation of a bright future. It is a conviction that God will remain always faithful to His promise. So, the question today is not simply, *"What is my cross?"* but, *"How am I carrying it?"* Am I carrying it alone with bitterness and despair, or am I allowing Jesus to walk beside me? As we celebrate this Eucharist, let us place before the Lord all the crosses we carry—our worries, illnesses, disappointments, family difficulties, fears and uncertainties. Christ may not always remove our crosses, but He will give us the grace and strength to carry them. May we follow Him faithfully, remembering always that beyond every Good Friday there is an Easter morning. God bless you all.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ