



SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

208 Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa
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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 25:6-10a;
Psalms 23(22);
Philippians
4:12-14, 196-20;
Matthew 22:1-14

This Week: 11th – 18th Oct 2026 Psalter Week 4	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 11th October Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A Second collection for Pact (Prisoners' Sunday)	8:30am Arthur Blizzard RIP (RB) 10:30am Liam Ryan RIP (LC) 6:00pm Mary Ryan (DR)	After 8:30am Mass, tea & coffee in the Parish Hall Children's Liturgy during 10:30am Mass 2:30pm SVP Afternoon
Monday 12th October Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Joseph Hughes RIP (L)	10:00am Private Church Tour 11:30am Funeral Service of Mrs Phyllis Poole 7:00 Journey in Faith
Tuesday 13th October Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Francis	
Wednesday 14th October Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Gladys Remedios RIP (AK)	After Mass, Adoration until 6pm
Thursday 15th October Memorial of St Teresa of Jesus, Virgin, Doctor of the Church	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am John Kakkanamkattil RIP (JT)	After Mass, Church cleaning 2:00pm Private Church Tour
Friday 16th October Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Frank Fallon (HD)	After Mass, Novena to the Sacred Heart
Saturday 17th October Memorial of St Ignatius of Antioch	11:00am For the sick and the housebound 11:00am Anointing Mass	10:15-10:45am Confession
Sunday 18th October Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A Second collection for Missio	8:30am People of the Parish 10:30am Jadwiga & Jan Kasperski RIP (BS) 6:00pm Joseph Mason RIP (TC)	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

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sacredheart.droitwich@
rcaob.org.uk

**PARISH HALL
BOOKINGS**

Please contact Sally at
volunteers.

sacredheart.droitwich
@rcaob.org.uk or
07891144870

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8:30am & 10:30am

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for length of days unending.

6:00pm

**His goodness shall follow me all the days of my life.
I will walk in God's Kingdom forever.**

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 and Shane Healy.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Of your charity please pray for Liam Ryan and Jackie Sutton who have recently died.
Please also keep their families in your prayers.

The Requiem Mass for Liam will take place on Monday 19th October at 12:00 noon.

The Requiem Mass for Jackie will take place on Thursday 22nd October at 1:30pm.

May their souls 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). The first session will start on **Monday the 12th of October at 7pm** in the Parish Hall. 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!

CHRISTMAS CARDS & 2027 CALENDARS

Our beautiful Christmas cards are now available to purchase.

A pack of 8 Christmas Cards:

- A6 – £5.00
- A5 – £7.00

2027 Calendar – £12.00

These make lovely gifts for family and friends, while also helping to support our parish.
All cards and calendars are available at the back of the church.

POPE'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

"Our age needs men and women who have the courage to do good even when it comes at a cost. Draw close to those who are alone, support those who are weary, and seek out those who have drifted away. Have the courage to forgive, to begin again, and to engage in dialogue."

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 5th October 2026

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the latest Parish Council Meeting are available at the back of the Church on the notice board.

PRISONERS' SUNDAY – 11TH OCTOBER

We will remember prisoners and their families at Mass this weekend. Prisons are in crisis, and life for prisoners and their families in our communities is challenging. Pact, the national Catholic prison charity, supports prisoners, their families and their children, offering them hope and the chance to turn their lives around. There will be a second collection to support Pact's important work in the year ahead.

OCTOBER: THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

Throughout October, the Rosary will be prayed in St. Catherine's Chapel after the morning Mass or Communion Service each weekday. On Saturdays please join us for the Rosary at 10.30 am in the main body of the church. All are welcome to join us in prayer, seeking the intercession of Our Lady.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Next Sunday, 18th October, is World Mission Sunday when the Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Missio – his charity for world mission – through a special collection. This day of prayer, solidarity and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world. (This year Missio also celebrates 100 years of World Mission Sunday having been established by Pope Pius XI in 1926.) There will be a special second collection next week to support this appeal.

SAVE THE DATE

Following the success of our family-oriented summer fayre, planning has now started for the Christmas fayre. This will be on Saturday 28th November and will be a similar format.

A plant stall is planned. Hopefully this gives any gardeners time to prepare suitable plants we can sell. The summer raffle was even more successful than usual, so we are looking again for cash donations, to be consolidated into significant prizes. We are also hoping to produce a programme for the fayre, with the opportunity for local businesses to advertise, for a small donation. If you are interested in contributing prizes or sponsorship, please speak with Fr George or email volunteers.sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk

More details to follow soon.

We are planning to print the raffle tickets as soon as possible. If you would like to donate a raffle prize, please write your name on the clipboard at the back of the church.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be Children's Liturgy during 10.30am Mass on **11th October**.

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:

£296.60

Gift Aid: £180.00

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 303**

**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 **11th**
October 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 45:1,4-6;

Psalms 96(95);

1 Thessalonians

1:1-5b;

Matthew 22:15-21

An invitation expresses love and belonging. It tells us that we matter and that someone wants us to share in their joy. Today's Gospel portrays God as a king who invites His close associates to the wedding banquet. Yet those invited refuse to come. They offer various excuses, but the result is the same: they do not attend. God is good to us. He freely offers us His friendship, His joy and His salvation. His banquet reveals His desire to gather humanity into fellowship and to invite us to share in His divine life. Today's Gospel, therefore, is not about food and clothing but ultimately about God's invitation to communion with Him. The great question it asks each of us is: What have I done with that invitation? The Gospel warns us about indifference to His call, that we can neglect God without openly rejecting Him. Those invited to the banquet turn instead to their farms and businesses. These are legitimate responsibilities, but they become spiritually dangerous when they take precedence over God. We can become so pre-occupied with our daily concerns and worries, earning a living, that we forget the true purpose of our lives.

Since the first invitees had declined the invitation, the king extended it to others who were not on the original list, and the banquet hall was filled. But the Gospel continues: "When the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment." Everyone there had been invited, just as all of us are invited to salvation. The door is open to anyone who wishes to enter, but the invitation calls for a response, symbolized by the wedding garment. In ancient times, wedding garments weren't just an appropriate attire. They symbolized honour, purity, belonging, and it reveals the necessary relationship between grace and transformation. In many cultures, the host would provide guests with appropriate attire ensuring that everyone, regardless of their background, had the proper clothing for the occasion. Through baptism we are clothed with Christ; throughout our lives we are called to make that sacramental gift visible.

In the final verses of the parable, there is a dramatic change in tone. Why is the man without the wedding garment thrown out? At first, this seems to contradict the generosity of the invitation. But knowing the cultural context changes everything. If the king provided the garments, then the man deliberately refused to wear what was given to him. This isn't about someone who didn't have access to the right clothes (as I thought it was) - it's about someone who rejected the king's provision and tried to enter on his own terms. God offers us the garment of salvation through Jesus, but we have to put it on. The man in the parable was willing to accept the invitation, but not the transformation. Many people want to be part of God's kingdom, but on their own terms. They don't want to submit, repent, or change - they just want to show up as they are, without surrendering to Christ. But Jesus makes it clear that we can't enter the Kingdom of God clothed in our own goodness.

God's invitation is indeed extended to all, but it calls for a deliberate and sincere response. Simply joining the crowd is not enough. We must allow God's grace to shape the way we live. Let us ask ourselves: Do I allow my daily preoccupations to take precedence over seeking God? Do I take my faith for granted, or do I make a sincere effort to grow in the knowledge and love of God? Does my life reflect the invitation I have received? We thank God for inviting us into communion with Him through sacraments, particularly the Holy Eucharist. Through His Church, God purifies us and clothes us with His grace. Baptism incorporates us into the Mystical Body of Christ. Confirmation strengthens us. The Eucharist sustains us. The wedding banquet in the parable points us toward the Eucharist and the heavenly feast. In the Eucharist, we receive the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus, the Divine Bridegroom. He nourishes our souls and draws us into deeper communion with Himself. As we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread," we recognize our dependence on God for both our daily needs and our spiritual nourishment. By participating in Sunday Mass, we keep the Lord's Day holy and gather around the table of His love. This wedding feast foreshadows the joy of heaven, where our communion with God will be complete. May we accept God's invitation with grateful hearts, clothe ourselves with the love of Christ, and live each day in preparation for His eternal banquet. Amen.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ