



Priests and Brothers
of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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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:
Exodus 22:21-27;
Psalms 18(17);
1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10;
Matthew 22:34-40

This Week: 25th Oct – 1st Nov 2026 Psalter Week 2	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 25th October Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	8:30am Margaret, John & Paul Harding RIP (MM) 10:30am Deceased members of Turner & Ingram family (C&PI) 6:00pm Private intention (JD)	After 8:30am Mass, tea & coffee in the Parish Hall
Monday 26th October Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Rene Johnson, Howard Boris & Alana Johnson (KW)	7:00pm Journey in Faith
Tuesday 27th October Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Francis Varghese RIP (A&S)	
Wednesday 28th October Feast of Ss Simon and Jude, Apostles	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Special Intention (C&PI)	After Mass, Adoration until 6pm
Thursday 29th October Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Jacquie Sutton RIP (PW)	After Mass, Church cleaning
Friday 30th October Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Healing for Kate (C&GP)	After Mass, Novena to the Sacred Heart
Saturday 31st October Feria	11:00am Mr & Mrs. Mathew Naduvilekuttu RIP (A&S)	10:15-10:45am Confession
Sunday 1st November Solemnity of All Saints Ordinary Time Year A Second collection for Johnson Association	8:30am Deceased members of Leason Family (MB) 10:30am Marie Bruman RIP (TK) 6:00pm People of the Parish	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 & 10:30am

I love you, Lord, my strength.

6:00pm

Lord I love you, you are my strength, you are my shelter my God and my King.

You keep me from harm in the shadow of Your wing.

Lord I love you and that is why I sing.

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 Thomas Houlton who has recently died.
Please also keep his families in your prayers. May his soul and the souls of
all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

SCJ SPONSORED WALK 2026

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Walk by
sponsoring it, as well as to all those who offered their spiritual support.
Thanks to your generosity, we raised a total of **£1,515**.

JOURNEY IN FAITH

The next Journey in Faith session will take place this Monday, 26 October
2026, at 6.30 pm. The theme of the session will be: **"Who do people say
the Son of Man is?" (Matthew 16:13–14) – Who is Jesus to me?** If you
would like to deepen your understanding of Jesus and explore your
personal relationship with Him, you are warmly invited to join us for this
session.

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.

POPPIES

Please can any poppies that have been knitted, crocheted or sewn be put
into the box at the back of church by 1st November giving us a week to
assemble them into a suitable arrangement/ display for Remembrance
Sunday. Thank you for all your efforts.

POPE'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

"The witness of the saints, deeply rooted in the concrete realities of their times, reminds us of the renewing and transforming power of Easter.

They show us that history is shaped by faith."

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 21st October 2026

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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

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.

GIVING TO OTHERS THIS CHRISTMAS

This Christmas the SVP will again be putting up a Giving Tree in St Richard's Chapel on the 21st November so that parishioners can donate presents to children in need. This year some will again be going to Father Hudson's Homes and the others will be going to the Salvation Army who are distributing presents to local children.

Both have requested new unwrapped gifts including gift vouchers for older children but if you wish you can put your present into a gift bag. To ensure that all the gifts are with the families in time for Christmas we would ask that your donations are back in church by the 5th December.

At Masses from 22nd Nov to the 6th December Christmas cards to be sent to prisoners will be left on the pews. We would ask that you write something in them to give seasonal greetings and hope to those in prison but please **do not** put any personal details even your name in them. We will then arrange delivery to Long Lartin.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE UPDATE – 28th NOVEMBER 2026

Thank you to everyone who has already pledged raffle prizes. If you would like to sponsor a prize, please write your name on the clipboard at the back of the church. **Raffle Tickets are on sale after all Sunday Masses from today.** Planning is well underway and the stalls are almost sorted. Again, the focus will be family-friendly with activities specifically for children. There will also be a variety of food available, a licensed bar and live music.

We are now looking for items for the Tombola and 'Secret Santa' (where children can buy gifts for their parents) stalls.

We are also keen to hear from anyone else who would like to join the team and help on one of the stalls. There is a clipboard at the back of church to add your name.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will resume after half term on 8th November.

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:

£291.99

Gift Aid: £149.00

**Second collection
for Missio: £212.00**

**Late collection for
Pact: £10.00**

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 256**

**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 8th
November 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 7:2-4,9-14;

Psalms 24(23);

1 John 3:1-3;

Matthew 5:1-12a

"God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him" (1 John 4:16). These words that begin the Papal Encyclical of late Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love) express the core of the Christian faith. In today's liturgy, Jesus reminds us that the true measure of our love for God is inseparable from the way we love and treat our fellow humans. The Book of Exodus describes how God formed the Israelites into a nation after liberating them from slavery in Egypt. Their long experience of slavery and oppression had deeply influenced their outlook on life, shaping their attitudes, values and relationships with others. Therefore, it was necessary for God not only to free them from physical slavery but also to transform their hearts and minds, forming them into a new people with a new identity. To achieve this, God gave them the Ten Commandments and provided further laws to guide their lives as a community, teaching them to live in justice, compassion, mutual respect and faithfulness to Him.

During the Crimean War in the 1850s, Florence Nightingale witnessed the terrible suffering of wounded and sick soldiers living in appalling conditions. Moved by compassion, she worked tirelessly to improve sanitation, organise nursing care and provide better treatment for the injured. Her dedication transformed nursing into a respected profession. What makes her example remarkable is that her compassion did not remain merely a feeling; it became action. She not only cared for individual patients but also worked to change the conditions that caused their suffering. This reflects the message of today's First Reading from the Book of Exodus, which reminds us of our responsibility to protect the poor and vulnerable from exploitation and injustice. True compassion recognises suffering, while genuine love takes action to relieve it. God warns that He will hear the cries of widows and orphans when they are mistreated, thus revealing a God who does not remain distant from human suffering but stands with the vulnerable. The passage also teaches that compassion must be practical, that helping others must not be a reason to exploit their helplessness. Human dignity must always take priority over material gain. This passage invites us to examine how we treat the vulnerable in our own society. The poor, the unemployed, migrants, families that are struggling, etc. may be easily ignored or exploited. Sometimes, we judge them without understanding their difficulties. Our faith is not measured only by how we pray, but also by how we treat those who have the least. God calls us to recognise the dignity of every person, stand up against injustice and respond with compassion. Christian charity and charitable service must flow from a personal encounter with Christ, whose love touches and transforms the hearts of the people, inspiring genuine love and compassion for others. True Christian charity rises above political affiliations and ideologies, seeking only to respond to the needs of those who suffer. As Jesus teaches us through the parable of the Good Samaritan, the Christian mission is to have "a heart which sees", a heart that recognises where love, compassion and care are needed and responds generously through concrete acts of kindness and service.

In today's Gospel, a lawyer approaches Jesus and asks, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replies by quoting Deuteronomy 6:5: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." Loving God is not simply one religious duty among many; it is the foundation of our entire Christian life. It means placing God at the centre of our desires, decisions, thoughts and actions. Jesus then adds a second commandment: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." He declares that the whole Law and the Prophets depend on these two commandments and that love of God and love of neighbour are inseparable. The commandments are not merely external rules to be followed but are meant to transform our hearts and shape our relationships with others. When our hearts are truly touched by God's love, that love becomes visible in our compassion, kindness and concern for others. Authentic Christian love is not merely expressed in words or feelings but demonstrated through concrete actions. As we leave this table of love, let us remind ourselves that the greatness of our Christian life will not be measured merely by how much we have spoken about God, but by how faithfully we have loved Him and how generously we have loved the people He has placed in our path.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ