Priests and Brothers
of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
BETHARRAM

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

SACRED HEART DROITWICH
ENGLAND'S RAVENNA

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:
Wisdom 6:12-16;
Psalm 63(62);
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18;
Matthew 25:1-13

This Week: 8th – 15th Nov 2026 Psalter Week 4	**Holy Mass & Services**	**Other Events**
Sunday 8th November Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	8:30am Anne Hynes RIP (KB) 10:30am Lyam Ryan RIP (GF) 6:00pm Private Intention (SG)	After 8:30am Mass, tea & coffee in the Parish Hall Children's Liturgy during 10:30am Mass 2:30pm SVP Afternoon
Monday 9th November Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Deceased members of Brush Family (MB)	11:00am Private Church Tour PV 7:00pm Journey in Faith
Tuesday 10th November Memorial of St Leo the Great, Pope, Doctor of the Church	**11:00am** Deceased clergy of the Deanery	
Wednesday 11th November Memorial of St Martin of Tours, Bishop	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Special Intention (C&GP)	After Mass, Adoration until 6pm
Thursday 12th November Memorial of St Josaphat, Bishop, Martyr	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Private Intention (SG)	After Mass, Church cleaning
Friday 13th November Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Deceased members of Baldry Family (MB)	After Mass, Novena to the Sacred Heart
Saturday 14th November Feria	11:00am Arthur Leason RIP (MB) 12:00noon Memorial Mass for Elikutty Mathew	10:15-10:45am Confession
Sunday 15th November Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	8:30am Mil Paling RIP (MB) 10:30am Jacquie Sutton RIP (GS) 6:00pm Deceased relations and friends of the Whaley & Peters families (AP)	After 8:30am Mass, tea & coffee in the Parish Hall Children's Liturgy during 10:30am 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@emmausmac.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

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

6:00pm

I will call on the Lord I will glorify His name.

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 family in your prayers. The Requiem Mass for Thomas will take place on Monday 23rd November at 10:30am. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

MASS FOR THE DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DEANERY

On 10th November at 11am we have the Deanery Mass for the deceased clergy of the Deanery. All are welcome to join the Mass. There will not be morning Mass at 9:15 am.

JOURNEY IN FAITH

The next Journey in Faith session will take place Monday, 9th November 2026, at 6.30 pm. The theme of the session will be: "**Getting to know God: The Creed 1".** 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.

ENCOUNTER EN-ROUTE – NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION – JESUS YOUTH UK

Jesus Youth UK is organising a National Eucharistic Procession from 1 to 30 November 2026, travelling through various parishes and university chaplaincies across the UK. As part of this beautiful initiative, the procession will visit Sacred Heart Church, Droitwich, on Tuesday, 17 November, at 9.45am, following the morning Mass.

All parishioners are warmly invited to come along and take part in this special occasion of prayer and devotion to the Eucharistic Lord. Let us join in praying for a renewed love for the Holy Eucharist and for the re-evangelisation of our families and our country.

POPE'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

"Faith in Christ tells us that our bond with the faithful departed is not broken, but transformed. Through our prayers for the repose of their souls, we accompany our loved ones toward full communion with the Lord, of which we already have a true foretaste here, in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Inspired by this filled with hope, let us continue our earthly journey, awaiting the day when the Lord will wipe away every tear."

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 2nd November 2026

POPPIES

A big thank-you to all those who contributed poppies and helped to create the display for Remembrance Day. Over 400 poppies were crafted.

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.

NHS BLOOD DONOR SESSION

The next NHS Blood donor session in the parish hall will take place on Monday 16th November.

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

There will be Children's Liturgy during 10:30am Mass on **8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th November** and **6th, 13th December**.

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: £325.25

Gift Aid: £178.60

Second collection for Johnson Association: £161.59

Thank you for supporting your Parish.

Mass attendance last Sunday: 231

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

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; Psalm 128(127); 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25:14-30

Herbert Hoover was President of the United States from 1929 to 1933, during the Great Depression. His support for big business allowed a few companies to control much of the nation's wealth. The Wall Street Crash of October 1929 exposed the weaknesses of this approach. Hoover underestimated the severity of the economic crisis, believing it would be temporary. His unrealistic optimistic statements failed to reassure the public, and he suffered a decisive defeat in the 1932 presidential election. Years later, speaking with the voice of experience, Hoover reflected: "Wisdom consists not so much in knowing what to do in the end as in knowing what to do next."

Wisdom is the central theme of both first reading and the Gospel today. When it comes to wisdom, many people shy away from the subject, believing that it is the proper concern of philosophers or poets. However, if wisdom is about knowing what to do next, then it clearly concerns all of us. The parable of the ten bridesmaids and their oil lamps teaches us an important lesson about being prepared for the Lord's coming. Although it is a difficult parable because of its strong warning, Matthew uses it to address a Christian community that was becoming anxious about the future. Many early Christians expected Jesus to return soon. When his return was delayed, some began speculating about the time and interpreting signs, despite Jesus's clear warning that no one knows the day or hour except the Father (Matthew 24:36). The parable speaks about the Second Coming of Christ, but Jesus communicates this through a story rather than explaining it directly. The focus is not on the bride and bridegroom, but on the ten young bridesmaids waiting to welcome the bridegroom. According to the wedding custom described, they were expected to meet him and escort the couple to his house for the wedding feast. However, the bridegroom was delayed. All ten had lamps, but only five had brought an extra supply of oil. The other five were therefore unprepared for the unexpected delay. The wisdom of the five wise bridesmaids was not extraordinary. It was simply practical wisdom: they understood their responsibility, anticipated a possible delay and made the necessary preparations. The parable reminds us that readiness for the Lord requires constant faithfulness and preparation.

The parable teaches us a profound truth about life, that certain things in life cannot be borrowed. You and I cannot live on someone else's oil. We can help one another in so many ways, but at some point we are on our own. This is especially true when it comes to faith. The road of the religious pilgrimage is a narrow one and can only be walked two at a time. You and God. Your parents cannot walk it for you or with you. Husbands cannot depend upon their devotion of their wives. I have had more than one husband laughingly say to me over the years, "My wife handles the religion in our family". What they really reveal, however, is how little they understand about faith. Faith is the most intensely personal experience we will ever have in life. Others can help us towards it. They can encourage us. They can pray for us. They can bring us up in the way we should go. But in the end we must embrace it ourselves. No one can do that for us. The five foolish maidens in this story were foolish because they thought that they could rely upon the resources of others to get them through. What they discovered was that there are some things in life that cannot be borrowed. Wisdom is not merely intellectual knowledge; it is an active relationship with God. The wise person anticipates, keeps watch and makes room for God in daily life rather than letting spirituality become shallow, distracted or reactive. All this reflection about wisdom can be summarised in one simple well-known story. Once St. Don Bosco was sweeping up the fallen leaves in the monastery garden when a visitor asked him: "What would you do, brother, if you knew you were to die in ten minutes?" St. Don Bosco replied: "I'd carry on sweeping". He was ever ready for Christ. Are we?

Fr. George Mathew SCJ