Priests and Brothers
of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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

This Week: 15th – 22nd Nov 2026 Psalter Week 1	**Holy Mass & Services**	**Other Events**
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
Monday 16th November Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Deceased members of Clapham Family (MB)	
Tuesday 17th November Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Mr & Mrs. A. Leason RIP (MB)	After Mass, Jesus Youth Adoration
Wednesday 18th November Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am John Kakkanamkattil RIP (C&GP)	After Mass, Adoration until 6pm
Thursday 19th November Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am John KM RIP(JT)	
Friday 20th November Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Kathleen Broad RIP (C&GP)	After Mass, Novena to the Sacred Heart
Saturday 21st November Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	11:00am Hannah Imelda Heaney, 1st Anniversary RIP (ML) 11:00am Anointing Mass	10:15-10:45am Confession 12:00 noon Private Church Tour PV
Sunday 22nd November Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe Second collection for Catholic Youth Group	8:30am Kevin McCorry RIP (MM) 10:30am Jacquie Sutton RIP (JM) 6:00pm O.C. Philip RIP (MG)	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

Blessed are all who fear the Lord.

6:00pm

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in His ways.

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.

JOURNEY IN FAITH

The next Journey in Faith session will take place Monday, 23rd November 2026, at 6.30 pm. The theme of the session will be: "**Getting to know God: The Creed 2".** 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.

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.

NHS BLOOD DONOR SESSION

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

POPE'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

"The Church is not a business, it is not a humanitarian agency, the church is not an NGO. The church is sent to bring everyone to Christ and His Gospel.

If, hypothetically, it ever happened, that the church did not lead to Jesus, it would be a dead church."

Pope Leo XIV, on his recent visit to Cordoba, Argentina.

ADVENT JOURNEY

The 'Walk With Me' booklet and children's calendar for the Advent Journey are available at the back of the Church. The booklet is to help focus on our relationship with God and with people during Advent. Please consider taking a copy home to prepare for Christmas. A suggested donation of £1.50 would be appreciated.

PARISH DIARIES

2027 Parish Diaries have arrived and are available to collect from the Narthex. The Diaries are free, but any donation would be appreciated and will be given to the Sacred Heart Mission

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.

MISSIO RED BOX COLLECTION

The 'Red Boxes' are due to be emptied and counted before the end of the year. If you have one and would your money included in this year's donations please bring it to the church between now and Sunday 13th December. Please do not leave it at the back of church with money in it, but make sure that you give it to either Fr. George, Brother Patrick or take it to the Presbytery. Your box will be returned as soon as possible and will be left, with a receipt for your donation, at the back of the church for you to collect. If you would like a Red Box to support Missio, please contact Fr. George or Maddie (01905 429036).

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be Children's Liturgy during 10:30am Mass on **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: £251.17

Gift Aid: £126.00

Thank you for supporting your Parish.

Mass attendance last Sunday: 258

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 December** 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 34:11-12,15-17; Psalm 23(22); 1Corinthians 15:20-26,28; Matthew 25:31-46

The great philosopher Aristotle observed that excellence is not simply an isolated achievement, but something developed through habitual practice. We become what we repeatedly do. In other words, our gifts become fruitful through consistent effort. The readings of this Sunday invite us to reflect on life as a sacred trust. Everything we have received from God – our abilities, opportunities, time and resources – is entrusted to us, not merely for our own benefit but also for the good of others. The first reading from the Book of Proverbs presents us with the image of a worthy woman. Her greatness is not measured by wealth, beauty or social position, but by her wisdom, diligence, generosity and fear of the Lord. Through her actions she becomes a blessing to her family and the wider community. She is an example of someone who faithfully uses his or her God-given gifts. In the second reading, St Paul reminds the Thessalonians that, as children of light, all must remain spiritually awake and live with faith, love and hope. Our faith should guide our daily lives and help us use God's gifts responsibly. Being children of light means allowing our faith to influence our daily choices and actions. It also reminds us that we are accountable for how we live and how we use the gifts God has entrusted to us. This message becomes clearer in today's Gospel, where Jesus tells the parable of the talents. A man going on a journey entrusts his property to three servants. To one he gives five talents, to another two and to the third one, each according to his ability. The first two servants invest what they receive and double their master's money, while the third buries his talent in the ground out of fear.

The parable of the Talents reminds me about the life of Louis Braille, the French educator who transformed the lives of millions of blind people. At the age of three, he suffered an accident that eventually caused him to lose his sight completely. However, he refused to allow his disability to define his life. At fifteen, he developed a system of reading and writing using combinations of raised dots. What began as a response to his own difficulties eventually became a universal system that opened the doors of education and independence to countless blind people throughout the world. What is remarkable about Louis Braille is that he did not let his blindness stop him from using the abilities he had. He transformed a personal limitation into a gift for humanity. His life illustrates the message of today's readings. Like the woman in Proverbs, he used his abilities diligently for the good of others. Like the children of light described by St Paul, he allowed hope and determination to guide his life. And like the first two servants in the Gospel, he put his gifts to work and made them fruitful.

We must remember that a talent in the time of Jesus was an enormous amount of money, equivalent to several years' wages for an ordinary labourer. Even the servant who received one talent was entrusted with something immensely valuable. Although the master distributed the talents differently, he entrusted something substantial to each person. This reminds us that God does not give all of us identical abilities, opportunities or responsibilities. We differ in our gifts, personalities and circumstances. Sometimes we spend so much time looking at the five talents given to someone else that we neglect the one or two talents entrusted to us. But God does not judge us by comparing us with others. He looks at how faithfully we use what we have received. Dear brothers and sisters, the three readings invite us to examine our lives. Are we using our gifts as generously as the woman in Proverbs? Are we living as children of light, as St Paul encourages us? Are we investing our talents faithfully, as the first two servants did in the Gospel? Christian life is not simply about possessing gifts but putting them into practice. Whatever God has entrusted to us, whether five talents, two or one, let us use them with love, generosity and faithfulness. Ultimately, the Lord will not ask us why we were not like somebody else. He will ask how faithfully we used the gifts He gave us. "What we are is God's gift to us, and what we become is our gift to God."

Fr. George Mathew SCJ