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

This Week: 22nd – 29th Nov 2026 Psalter Week 1	**Holy Mass & Services**	**Other Events**
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
Monday 23rd November Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Deceased members of Van der Heijden Family (MB)	10:30am Requiem Mass of Thomas Houlton 6:30pm pm Journey in Faith
Tuesday 24th November Memorial of St Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Anthony Ringer RIP (PR)	
Wednesday 25th November Feast of St Catherine of Alexandria	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am For Rester Family (L)	After Mass, Adoration until 6pm
Thursday 26th November Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Special Intention (AM)	After Mass, Church cleaning
Friday 27th November Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Fr. Giles Goward RIP (MB)	After Mass, Novena to the Sacred Heart
Saturday 28th November Feria	**11:30am** Forgotten Souls in Purgatory (LH)	10:45-11:20am Confession 12:00 noon Christmas Fayre
Sunday 29th November **First Sunday of Advent** **Year B**	8:30am Marion Coleman RIP (GH) 10:30am Jenny Parsonage RIP (C&GP) 6:00pm Deceased members of Martin & Quingley Families	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

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

6:00pm

Because the Lord is my shepherd.

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.

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.

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.

POPE'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

"Works of charity that assist the needy create an oasis that quenches thirst, brings comfort, and renews those who live and work there, as well as those who come to visit."

Pope Leo XIV, 16th November 2026 via Twitter.

CATHOLIC YOUTH GROUP

Today's youth are the future of the Church tomorrow. The Kenelm Youth Trust (KYT) is the youth service for the Archdiocese of Birmingham for young people to reflect upon their life of faith and how they respond to the call of Jesus Christ in their lives. KYT is seeing growing numbers of young people curious about their faith and taking active roles in their parishes. KYT are developing innovative ways for young people to encounter Christ, evangelise and be accompanied in their faith journey. The second collection today will be for the work of the diocesan youth services. Your generous donation will be appreciated.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE UPDATE – 28th NOVEMBER 2026

The Christmas Fayre is fast approaching. If you have pledged a raffle prize and not yet handed it in, please can you do so as soon as possible. We could still do with a few more Tombola prizes and gifts for secret shopping. Donations will be much appreciated. Paper plates are available after Mass today. Please take one and fill it with a contribution to the cake stall. All cakes, whether home made or bought, will be very gratefully received.

The hall will be open from 2pm on Friday 27th November for a couple of hours to set up ready for Saturday. Cakes and plants can be dropped off then or on Saturday morning after 10am.

The team of volunteers have been working hard to deliver an afternoon of family fun, food and music for you all to enjoy. Please come along with your friends and family to support us.

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.

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 **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: £349.55

Gift Aid: £152.00

Thank you for supporting your Parish.

Mass attendance last Sunday: 251

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

Isaiah 63:6b-17; 64:1,3b-8; Psalm 80(79); 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King, which brings the liturgical year to its close. Throughout Scripture God's people longed for a king, a ruler like David who would bring justice, security and restoration. Yet Jesus redefines what kingship means. When we look back to the history of humanity and its kings, they were not great. Most of the developed civilizations in the world emerged out of a great rebellion against its kings and rulers. So we struggle a bit with the imagery of a king. Kingship is a basic biblical idea. If we turn the pages of the Bible right back to the beginning, to the story of our first parents, Adam and Eve, in the Garden of Eden, we see that their primary identity was priestly: they were created in God's image and likeness to be with Him, to worship and to praise Him. At the same time, they were also given a kingly role: to reign over all that God had created, to care for it and to continue expanding His creation. But then something happened: sin entered their lives, damaging their relationship with God. As a result, they lost their original harmony with Him, with one another and with all creation. Their priestly and kingly identities were wounded, and humanity became separated from the very God for whom they were created.

Now, when we read further in Genesis chapter 12, we see God planning to save humanity by calling Abram, who travelled through the land as far as Shechem, in the land of the Canaanites. God establishes a priestly and kingly people, Israel, to be the rightly ordered kingdom that will eventually go on to bring the whole world into reconciliation with God through the leadership of their shepherds. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses were their shepherds. Move forward through the history of Israel, past Joshua, and we come to Saul. That is when the people of Israel say, "We want a king like the other nations have". That is in the Bible, of course, always a bad sign. So, against His wishes, God gives them Saul, who turns out to be a fallen, flawed and very dangerous king, ruling not for the good of the nation, but for his own good. After Saul comes David, who unites the tribes of Israel and establishes the proper worship of God. He brings the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem, preparing for the Temple of Jerusalem, and David goes on the march. David becomes a king after God's own heart. What Adam was supposed to do from the beginning, David goes on to do: he expands the borders of Israel outwards. But was David a perfect king? Hardly! David was a flawed and sinful character. Therefore, his kingship was compromised. Now, what we begin to hear in the Scriptures of Israel after David is a longing for the true and authentic David, the Messiah, the Anointed One. So, they begin to look for the Messiah par excellence. What is His role? To be priest, prophet and king, who would go on the march and bring the world into right order and reconcile with God.

Centuries later, Yeshua (Jesus) from Nazareth arrives proclaiming, "The Kingdom of God is at hand". He comes to fulfil Israel's ancient hope of establishing God's kingdom of righteousness, bringing heaven and earth into harmony. Jesus gathers twelve apostles, representing the twelve tribes of Israel, to reunite God's people. Like Moses, He teaches a new law, the law of love, through which His people are called to live. However, His kingdom is not a political empire with territories or armies, but a spiritual reign founded on truth, love, justice and righteousness. It is already present and active through the Church and the lives of believers yet awaits its full completion in the future. Unlike worldly kings who take, Jesus gives; unlike those who seek to be served, He serves. They rule through fear, but He reigns through love. They build thrones, but He embraces the Cross. Therefore, celebrating Christ as King is not merely a ritual but a decision. We must allow Him to reign in our hearts and demonstrate His kingship through our daily lives by choosing love over hatred, service over selfishness and forgiveness over resentment. May Christ our true King and Saviour, bless and save us.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ