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

This Week: **29th Nov – 6th Dec 2026** **Psalter Week 1**	**Holy Mass & Services**	**Other Events**
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 & Quigley Families	After 8:30am Mass, tea & coffee in the Parish Hall Children's Liturgy during 10:30am Mass
Monday 30th November Feast of St Andrew, Apostle	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am All forgotten souls RIP(MB)	10:30am Private Church Tour
Tuesday 1st December Feast of St Edmund Campion, Priest, Martyr	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Communion Service	
Wednesday 2nd December Advent Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Peggy Hughes RIP (PC)	After Mass, Adoration until 6pm
Thursday 3rd December Memorial of St Francis Xavier, Priest	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am Nora O'Learey RIP (AM)	
Friday 4th December Advent Feria	8:55am Morning Prayer 9:15am (C&GP) Healing for Richard	After Mass, Novena to the Sacred Heart
Saturday 5th December Feast of St Birinus, Bishop	11:00am Gladys Remedios RIP (AK)	10:15-10:45am Confession
Sunday 6th December **Second Sunday of Advent** **Year B**	8:30am Michael McCarthy (AK & ST) 10:30am Kenny (LH) 6:00pm Breda (KR)	After 8:30am Mass, tea & coffee in the Parish Hall Children's Liturgy during 10:30am Mass 12:00noon Baptism

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

Bring us back, O God; let You face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

6:00pm

God of hosts bring us back; let Your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

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.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

We had yet another successful Christmas Fayre! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported the event in so many different ways – by baking cakes, advertising the Fayre, helping to set up the stalls, running stalls, selling raffle tickets, providing refreshments, donating items, helping with the clear-up afterwards, and, most importantly, attending on the day and supporting the event. Your generosity, hard work and enthusiasm made the Fayre a great success. The total amount raised for the parish will be announced in due course. May we also kindly remind those who have purchased raffle tickets but have not yet made payment to do so as soon as possible, please? Thank you once again for your continued support, generosity and community spirit.

HOUSE MASSES DURING ADVENT

During this season of Advent, Fr. George would be delighted to celebrate Holy Mass in your homes, both for those who are housebound or unable to come to church and for anyone who would like to host a House Mass in their home. If you would like to arrange a House Mass, please write your name on the clipboard at the back of the church. It will be a wonderful opportunity to come together in prayer, share in the celebration of the Eucharist, and prepare our hearts to welcome the Lord at Christmas.

DROITWICH SPA FOODBANK REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Message from Droitwich Spa Foodbank:

'Thank you very much to all those who supported our Harvest Festival Collections. This has helped increase our stocks going into winter. Over the summer we have fed about 40 people per week but this has increased to an average of 60 people per week in October. We are expecting the use of the foodbank to rise as it gets colder and fuel bills continue to rise. If you are able to support us with donations of food or toiletries leading into Christmas, we would be very grateful.'

The Droitwich Spa Foodbank Reverse Calendar poster is on the noticeboard in the back of the Church.

JOURNEY IN FAITH

The next Journey in Faith session will take place Monday, 7th December 2026, at 6.30 pm. The theme of the session will be: "**Word of God: The Bible".** 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 and 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

"Lets us Pray Together for the victims of the many conflicts that, sadly, continue to sow death and suffering throughout the world, and for those responsible, that they may commit to finding solutions for reconciliation and peace without delay."

Pope Leo XIV, 22nd November 2026 via Twitter.

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.

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

The Parish Carol Concert is on Wednesday 16th December at 6.30pm in the Church. We would love the Parish Community to join us in this special celebration.

SCHOOL CAROL CONCERT

St Joseph's School Carol Concert is on Thursday 17th December at 6pm in the Church.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS SECOND COLLECTION

Second collection for Christmas Flowers will be on 20th December.

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 **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: £275.52

Gift Aid: £289.00

Second collection for Catholic Youth Service: £234.90

Thank you for supporting your Parish.

Mass attendance last Sunday: 272

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 40:1-5,9-11;
Psalm 85(84);
2 Peter 3:8-14;
Mark 1:1-8

Waiting for the Redeemer: A woman stands at the end of a pier, her eyes scanning the horizon as she waits for her husband's ship to come home. A father climbs a hill to the lookout, exercising his hope that his younger son will come home soon. Young parents wait with growing expectation for the birth of their child. An old man sits in a nursing home, still waiting for the day when his family will visit him. All of them wait, and that waiting tests the quality of their hope. They are powerless to bring about what they hope for; all they can do is wait. Waiting is part of life, and there is no life without it. We can only wait with patience and trust. Today, we begin the season of waiting, as we begin Advent, the Church invites us to prepare for the coming of God through prayer, hope, and faithful waiting. This four-week season reminds us that we cannot fully understand or possess God but must patiently wait for Him to reveal Himself. Our waiting becomes a prayer, acknowledging our weakness, God's greatness, and our trust in His promises.

The first reading reflects the struggle of the Israelites who returned from exile in Babylon. They had hoped to find Jerusalem restored and to experience God's renewed presence but instead found the city in ruins. God seemed distant and silent, and their hope began to weaken. In their despair, they turned to the memory of God's past deeds and His faithfulness. Remembering God as their Redeemer helped them renew their hope. Their memories of God's love became a light in darkness, sustaining them through disappointment and uncertainty. Their faith taught them that, even when God seems silent, He has not abandoned His people. They continued to wait, trusting that God would once again come to save them. Advent reminds us that the hope we await is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. This peace is the new expectation of humanity today.

There is a phrase written at the United Nations headquarters from Isaiah 2:4 "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore". Isaiah's vision of "swords becoming ploughshares and spears becoming pruning hooks" speaks of a world free from war and conflict. Yet, despite this vision being displayed at the United Nations, peace remains elusive. Wars, divisions, broken relationships between people and nations and conflicts continue to affect families and communities. Lasting peace cannot be achieved through human efforts alone; it requires Christ to reign in our hearts, teaching us to love, forgive, and live in harmony. The second reading and Gospel call us to prepare for the Lord's coming. St Paul reminds us that our salvation is nearer than ever and urges us to awaken from spiritual complacency. This is God's Kairos—His appointed time of grace, renewal, and salvation. It is an opportunity for God to heal our hearts, restore relationships, strengthen families and communities and bring peace to troubled lives. We are called to live as children of light, rejecting jealousy, selfishness, conflict and sin, and clothing ourselves with Christ so that His love guides our actions.

The Gospel gives us a clear warning: "Stay awake!" Advent is a season of spiritual awakening, prayer, preparation and expectation. Just as we prepare our homes for Christmas, we must prepare our hearts to welcome the Lord through prayer, forgiveness, love, generosity and faithful living. Our waiting must be active, not passive. Advent is not merely remembering Christ's birth in Bethlehem but welcoming Him into our lives today and preparing for His final coming. It assures us that God never abandons His people, even in times of darkness and uncertainty. As we begin this Advent journey, may we wait patiently, hope courageously, live faithfully and work for peace. May Christ reign in our hearts, homes, families and nations. Let us pray: "Peace be to your homes! May peace reign in your walls, and in your palaces, peace!" May Advent awaken us to God's presence and prepare us to welcome Christ with joyful and hopeful hearts.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ