



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Web: www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk



**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

Deuteronomy 30:10-14

Psalms 69(68);

Colossians 1:15-20 ;

Luke 10:25-37

This Week: 13th– 20th July 2025 Psalter Week 3	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 13th July Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C Second collection for Apostleship of the Sea	8:30 am Milbrough Blizzard RIP(RB) 10.30 am Bernadette Walder (MF)) 6.00 pm People of the Parish	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall 10.30 am Children's Liturgy 2.30 SVP Afternoon
Monday 14th July Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Thomas Antony RIP	2.30-4.00 pm Private Church Tour
Tuesday 15th July Memorial of St Bonaventure, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Brenda O'Keeffe (JC)	10.30 am Private Church Tour
Wednesday 16th July Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Br. Gerard SCJ	After Mass– Adoration till 6.00 pm.
Thursday 17th July Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Peace in the world	Church cleaning after Mass
Friday 18th July Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am For Vocations to the Priesthood and religious life.	Sacred Heart Novena after Mass
Saturday 19th July Feria	10.00 am Rosary 10.30 am Holy Mass 10.30 am Anointing Mass	10.00-10.25 am Confessions 11.00 - 2.00 pm Summer Fair 12:00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall
Sunday 20th July Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C Gift collection for Br. Patrick	8:30 am Arthur Leason RIP (MB) 10.30 am People of the Parish 13.00 noon Baptism 6.00 pm Mary Bell RIP(P&PG)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall

“ The Lord has entrusted us with the mission to care for creation and to bring it peace and reconciliation. We hear the cry of the earth and the poor, for that cry has reached the heart of God. Our indignation is His indignation: our work is His work.”

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 10th July 2025

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

Mr A Carry

PARISH SECRETARY

Bogusia Koniszewska-
Fijolek

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PARISH HALL BOOKINGS

Please contact Sally at
volunteers.

sacredheart.droitwich
@rcaob.org.uk or
07891144870

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am , 10.30 am & 6.00 pm

Seek God, you who are poor, and your hearts will revive.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for all our parishioners, and/or their friends and relatives, who
are unwell:

Beryl Hill, Alan Hurst, John Jennings, Andrew McDermott, Michael Sheridan,
Jacky Smith, Paul Smith, Margaret Steward, Richard Wightman, Mrs. Roma,
Judy Lynam Pyper, Peggy Garvey, Josephine Gylee & Michael James.

SACRED HEART SUMMER FAIR 19TH JULY 2025

FROM 11.00AM to 2.00PM

The Parish Summer Fair will be on Saturday 19th July. We are hoping and
praying for delightful sunny weather for our Summer Fair. We are also
hoping to have a BBQ, International food stalls, games organized by Youth
Group and much more. As part of the Summer Fair we will be organizing a
raffle. If you would like to sponsor a raffle prize, please give your name to
Terry Poulten as soon as possible (or write your name on the clipboard in
the Narthex). Raffle tickets are available to buy from the parish hall after
each Mass. Please buy some tickets for yourself and for your friends and
family. In addition, there will be stalls such as cakes, bric-a-brac, tombola,
toiletries, toys and books. Please start bringing items for these stalls,
especially items for tombola and toiletries. **Paper plates are available after
Mass today. Please take one and fill it with a contribution, homemade or
bought, for the cake stall. All items will be very gratefully received.**

NEW VOTIVE CANDLE STAND

As we have almost reached the final stage of the cleaning and restoration of
the mosaics, it is important that we preserve its beauty and elegance for
another fifty years from dust and dirt. One of the recommendations
suggested by the Mosaic Restoration Company is that we use smokeless
votive candles. So, for the next four weeks we will be trialling the St Killians
Votive Burning System, which claims to be the safest, cleanest, most
environmentally friendly votive burning system in the world. The candles in
the system are completely smoke free, which will help preserve our newly
cleaned mosaics. Their system is endorsed for its safety by the largest
insurer to the Catholic Church in the world. The system does not use any
plastic or aluminium. All the candle wax from the system is recycled. The
system is a lot cleaner than our current votive system, and wax spillage on
the floors, stands and surrounding areas will be greatly reduced. We also
hope the beauty of the system enhances your experience of lighting votive
candles. We look forward to your feedback .

MISSION RED BOX THANK YOU & APPEAL

Fr Joseph Thangaraj Balaswamy MHM wishes to thank the parish for the
welcome and generous response to the Red Box appeal last weekend. If you
did not get a chance to collect a Red Box or Direct Debit form, please speak
to your Missio Volunteer or Parish Priest. You can also find more
information at: www.missio.org.uk.

70TH BIRTHDAY AND 40TH YEARS OF RELIGIOUS LIFE OF PATRICK LEIGHTON SCJ

The Fathers and Brothers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Betharram cordially invite you all for the 70th Birthday and the Ruby Jubilee of the Religious Profession of Br. Patrick on Monday 21st of July 2025, 6pm Jubilee Mass here at Sacred Heart church and followed felicitation and buffet. Please keep this day in your diary.

MOSAIC RESTORATION UPDATE

The restoration of the mosaics in the church is coming close to completion. The Lady Chapel is still to be started and there are some repairs to do in the main body of the church - chiefly on the panel depicting the death of St Richard. The crane will be removed on Monday 7th July and the current aim is for the work to be completely finished on Friday 25th July. It is to everyone's credit that we have managed to keep the church open and functioning throughout; many thanks are due to the restoration team for their patience and understanding. Also to the parishioners, particularly those who attend weekday Masses, for their tolerance of the disruption. But special thanks must go to National Lottery players for the restoration work is wholly funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

SAVE THE DATE

The work of the SVP is needed now more than ever, and thanks to your help and support we have been able to help even more families this year. As a thank you to you all, you are invited to an afternoon tea on Saturday 30th August between 2.30 and 4.00pm. So please come along and enjoy a cuppa and a piece of cake while finding out what we have been up to. There will be SVP raffle tickets on sale, the proceeds of which go to Droitwich SVP Conference and SVP Head Office. We look forward to seeing you there.

CASH4COINS

Thank you for your continuing donations of foreign and out of date cash for SVP funds. We recently dispatched the coins and notes that have been collected, the value of which has been confirmed as £289.13. This will be split between SVP Head Office and Sacred Heart Droitwich Conference. THANK YOU!! The collection box will continue to be available at the back of Church.

FAREWELL TO THE PARISH

After 32 years attending the Sacred Heart Church the time has come to say a fond goodbye, as I move to Sheringham, Norfolk to be with my daughter and her family. I have been privileged to have served throughout this time as a Eucharistic Minister, to have spent 20 years on the Parish Finance Committee, to have served for an extended period as Chair of Governors at St. Joseph's and after retirement about 10 years as an educational volunteer at the school. Zita and I made so many friends within the Parish over the years and it is with some sadness that I now move on. It will be strange starting again in a new Parish, knowing nobody! Tim McConnell

PUBLIC CHURCH TOUR

As part of our National Lottery Heritage Fund project we continue to run activities for the local community. Church tours will be conducted on one Saturday each month. To book, visit the website:

<http://www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk/the-church/church-tours/>

One Saturday a month children's mosaic workshops and mini tours will run. To book, visit the website:

<http://www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk/news-and-events/upcoming-events/>

Thanks to all our volunteers who continue to make this work possible.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am mass on **13th July.**

PARISH YOUTH GROUP

Runs 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 Clare Tomlinson, 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/safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Main Collection:**£334.86****Gift Aid: £238.90****Second collection for****Red Box:****£126.31**

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 293**

**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 July** 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**

Genesis 18:1-10;

*Psalms 15(14);**Colossians 1:24-28;**Luke 10:38-42*

My dear friends, today's readings invite us to rediscover the heart of our faith, a faith that is near, accessible and lived out in love that leads us to eternal life. It is not about extraordinary feats, but about everyday choices to love, forgive and follow God's way. We are challenged not only to listen to the Word but to speak it and live it. The question is not, "Can we do it?" but "Will we choose it?" For the Word is already near; we need only say yes.

A young woman once missed her train while helping an elderly man who had fallen on the platform. When her friends reprimanded her later, she replied, "I can catch another train, but he might not have had another chance to be helped". This simple moment captures the heart of the gospel passage taken from Luke, where Jesus is asked by a lawyer, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" The man knows the law: love God and love your neighbour. But still he seeks a loophole: "Who is my neighbour?" Jesus responds not with a rule, but with a story that flips the question entirely. A man is beaten, robbed, and left half-dead. A priest and a Levite, both religious, respectable figures, see him but pass by. Why? Perhaps they were thinking of their responsibilities at the temple, or the ritual impurity they might contract. They were probably focused on themselves, their duties, reputations, safety. Then comes a Samaritan, a cultural enemy, one despised by Jews. Yet he is the one who sees, stops, helps and sacrifices. He becomes the unexpected example of mercy. Jesus ends with a challenge: "Go and do likewise." This parable reveals the core of Christian spirituality: the path to eternal life is not found by turning inward, perfecting ourselves, or clinging to religious identity alone. Rather, it is found in turning outward, in loving the other, especially the one we least expect or even dislike. We're often like the priest and the Levite, busy with "good things" that cause us to ignore the best thing: love in action. Christianity, at its core, is a faith of interruption, where God's call often comes disguised as an inconvenience. The Samaritan shows us what divine love looks like: unexpected, costly and inconvenient. The question for us is not "Who is my neighbour?" but "To whom can I be a neighbour?"

This prompts us to go back to the question asked by the lawyer in the Gospel. What must I do to inherit eternal life? We need to die first. Death puts an end to human life as the time open to either accepting or rejecting the divine grace manifested in Christ. Even though man's nature is mortal, God had destined him not to die. Death was therefore contrary to the plans of God the Creator and entered the world as a consequence of sin. For us Christians, death does not unravel the original design of our spiritual life which is destined to be eternal. What is eternal life? Therefore Holy Mother Church teaches that, "Those, who die in God's grace and friendship and are perfectly purified, live for ever with Christ. They are like God for ever, for they "see Him as He is", face to face in the heavenly Kingdom and celestial paradise with Christ, in the company of the holy angels. This perfect life with the Most Holy Trinity, with the Virgin Mary, the angels and all the blessed - is called "heaven". Because of His transcendence, God cannot be seen as He is, unless He Himself opens up His mystery to man's immediate contemplation and gives him the capacity for it. The Church calls this contemplation of God in His heavenly glory "the beatific vision". (CCC1023-28). This beatific vision is eternal life and the ultimate end and fulfilment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness. Eternal life begins not in heaven, but here when we allow God's love to flow through us to the wounded beside the road. True faith doesn't avoid the broken; it stops, stoops down and heals. Like the Samaritan, may we see, feel and act with mercy, because, in loving the other, we find Christ and in finding Christ, we find life. May God bless us all.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ