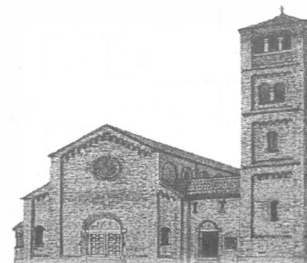




SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

208 Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa,
WR9 8AZ, Tel: 01905 773258
Email: sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk
Web: www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk



**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 11:1-10;
Psalms 72(71);
Romans 15:4-9;
Matthew 3:1-12

| This Week: 7th-14th Dec 2025 Psalter Week 2 | Holy Mass & Services | Other Events |
|--|--|--|
| Sunday 7th December Second Sunday of Advent Year A Second collection for Poor Parishes | 8:30 am Nora O'Leary RIP (AM) 10:30 am Juliet KV RIP (TJ) 6.00 pm Marykuty Varghies RIP (SD) | After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am Mass |
| Monday 8th December Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary | 8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Claire & Jim Langston RIP (MM) | 7.00pm Journey in Faith |
| Tuesday 9th December Advent FERIA | 8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Noel Paula, Dara Duffy & Family | 11.00 – 12.00 noon Deanery Adoration |
| Wednesday 10th December Advent FERIA | 8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Private Intention (A&J) | Adoration after Mass till 6.00pm |
| Thursday 11th December Advent FERIA | 8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Private Intention (A&J) | |
| Friday 12th December Advent FERIA | 8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Jenny Parsonage RIP (CP) | Novena to the Sacred Heart after Mass 2.00 pm Private Church Tour |
| Saturday 13th December Memorial St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr | 11.00 am Alan Remedios RIP(AK) | 10.15-10.45 am Confession 12.00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall 3.00 pm Christmas Carol Concert |
| Sunday 14th December Third Sunday of Advent Year A | 8:30 am Baby Ottley Siobhan and Kieron (CH) 10:30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Betty Parry & Sheila Manion RIP (AP) | After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am Mass 2.30 pm SVP Afternoon |

***"If we wish to build peace we must anchor ourselves to heaven and,
firmly set in that direction, let us love without being afraid of losing those things
which pass away and let us give without measure."***

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 1st December 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,
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Tel: 01905 773572

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PRINCIPAL

Mr A Carry

PARISH SECRETARY

Bogusia Koniszewska-
Fijolek

Tel.: 01905 773258

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PARISH HALL BOOKINGS

Please contact Sally at
volunteers.

sacredheart.droitwich
@rcaob.org.uk or
07891144870

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am and 10.30 am

In this days shall justice flourish,
and great peace for ever.

6.00 pm

In his days justice will flourish. Peace will reign 'til the moon fades.
May His name be blessed for ever and endure like the noon-day sun.

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 and Michael McCorry.

*To all our young people who received the
Sacrament of Confirmation on last Wednesday,
may the Holy Spirit dwell in your hearts forever.*

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Thank you to all those who supported the Christmas Fair, by making cakes, advertising the event, helping set up the stalls, being a stall holder, selling raffle tickets, providing refreshments, clearing afterwards, donating items, attending on the day and supporting the event. The total money raised for the parish was £1819.29.

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

The next Journey in Faith will take place on 8th December at 7.00 pm and the topic will be 'Word become flesh: Meaning of Christmas'.

VOLUNTEER IN LOURDES

Could you be a Healthcare Volunteer in Lourdes? Are you a doctor, nurse or carer? Would you consider donating your time and expertise on next year's Lourdes Pilgrimage? Every year sick pilgrims are able to make the journey to Lourdes thanks to the support of a dedicated Healthcare Team. Without their expertise many pilgrims would not be able to go. If you are a healthcare professional and would like to try something new, please consider joining us. You will make a real difference. For more information, and to access the Volunteer Pilgrimage Pack and an application form, please visit <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage>

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Christmas card will be available to buy from the Parish Hall. A pack of 8 cards costs you only £5. Please consider buying some cards for this Christmas.

ADVENT JOURNEY/PARISH DIARIES

The "Walk With Me" booklet and 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 help prepare for Christmas. Also 2026 Parish Diaries have arrived and are available to collect from the Narthex. The diaries, "Walk with me" booklet and calendar are free but any donation would be appreciated and will be given to the Sacred Heart Mission.

GIVING TO OTHERS THIS CHRISTMAS

Christmas Giving Tree: SVP will be putting up a Christmas Giving Tree for parishioners to donate gifts for children. Fr Hudson Care have asked that donated gifts change this year, according to the ages of the children: **11- 15 yrs: Amazon Gift vouchers.** These should be put in an envelope with the amount written IN PENCIL on the front. The envelopes can be decorated. **7-10 Yrs:** gifts as usual but placed in **GIFT BAGS not wrapped**, with ages written on the angel tags. **0-6 yrs:** Gifts for this age group **are not needed** as another Parish and a corporate are taking care of this age group. The Tree will be ready on **30th November** for you to take an Angel tag, an envelope, or both. Please put the age range on the tag. Gifts can be left under the tree. Please leave your gift bags and envelopes under the tree on Sundays. They will be put in a safe place after each Mass. Fr Hudson Care will be collecting the gifts on **December 15th.**

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

Christmas Carol Concert Saturday 13th December at 3:00 p.m. followed by seasonal refreshments in the church hall approximately 4:15 to 5:00 p.m.

Following last year's popular and delightful concert, Quinborne Choir will be returning to sing carols old and new in our stunning church. Come and get the Festive Season off to a great start! Tickets £10, under 18s free, available from Jenny Leonard 07874 323260 and after all Masses on 23rd November. Please see the poster on the notice board.

RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF CREATION

December's Responding to the Call of Creation Newsletter is on the notice board.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS SECOND COLLECTION

Second collection for Christmas Flowers will be on 21st December.

THE JOURNEY OF GLOBAL AID NETWORK (GAIN)

In 2025 GAIN is celebrating ten years! Join them on a journey through the past decade s they share stories and highlights from their work.

In 2023 GAIN UK joined with GAIN Worldwide in supporting our Water for Life Initiative, which has been providing rural villages with wells for fresh water since 2002. We do this by drilling 50-80 metres down, tapping onto the water supply and setting up a deep-capped well. Alongside the construction, GAIN provides training on hygiene and sanitation practices, gender sensitivity and community health. In the second year of the project in the UK, we were able to fund our first well, thanks to some generous donors. Not only that, but we sent a group of people to Benin and they had the privilege of laying the concrete pad for this well's foundation. Not only that, they were also able to help in every stage of the process in different villages, from digging to drilling, laying the foundation, flushing the well and finishing a complete well.

NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT – PUBLIC TOURS & CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS

The monthly public church tours (with a café) will resume in January and take place on: **Saturday 24th January @ 2pm & Saturday 28th February @ 2pm.** The monthly public children's workshops (mini church tour & mosaic-making session) will also resume in 2026 and take place on: **Saturday 11th January @ 2:30pm & Saturday 14th February @ 2:30p.** All of these events can be booked on Eventbrite, links can be found on the parish website. Or by contacting the Hall Booking Secretary.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am mass on **7th, 14th December.**

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:

£355.02

Gift Aid: £135.00

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 307**



**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 14th

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 35:1-6a,10;

Psalms 146(145);

James 5:7-10;

Matthew 11:2-11

Welcome to everyone at Mass today, especially if you are new to our church or haven't been to Mass for some time. If you are of another Christian denomination or non-Christian you are warmly invited to approach the priest or minister and ask or signify your wish for a blessing.

The Gospel this weekend begins in a peculiar way. Some 2000 years after the birth of Jesus we are still interested in Jesus, not just the historical person of Jesus or some ancient geography. But these details reveal something crucial to us about Jesus, who is not an abstract God. He weaves His action and His presence into the very fabric of our lives. He is present in the personal history of you and me. Our God is one who enjoys a personal relationship with us; He is not a mere distant deity. This is evident in the invitation of John the Baptist in the Gospel passage today. The central theme of the liturgy is a call to "Prepare the way of the Lord" through repentance and a change of heart. It emphasizes that true preparation involves transforming our inner lives and relationships, moving away from selfishness and towards a life of social consciousness, justice and love for our neighbour. John the Baptist's message is a stark call to make our spiritual lives more than just rituals; it's about producing the "fruit" of a renewed life, such as kindness, honesty and forgiveness, to prepare for Christ's coming. The famous English poet Alexander Pope once said, "What does it profit me if Jesus is born in thousands of Christmas Cribbs all over the world but not in my own heart?" Indeed, Jesus wants to enter into our heart, He wants to enter into our story, to bring us love, to bring us mercy and peace. This is not just for us to keep as private treasures, but so that we can in turn give to others as well.

As we are getting closer to the closing of the Jubilee Year of Pilgrims of Hope, this Sunday calls us to reflect on the special theme of peace. For the people of Israel peace and hope were the fruits of the Jubilee Year (Leviticus 25), a year of rest and reflection that had economic and social significance such as land restoration, through which all ancestral lands were returned to their original families, reinforcing the idea that God, not individuals, is the ultimate owner of the land. Debt cancellation provided economic amnesty by forgiving debts. By liberation of slaves indentured servants, who had become enslaved due to debt, were set free. Preservation of family and community was secured by restoring land and freeing people from servitude. The Jubilee aimed to keep families whole and prevent the long-term consequences of poverty and debt. There was also spiritual significance in rest and renewal. Like the sabbatical year, the Jubilee was a holy year for the land to rest and be rejuvenated, symbolizing a time of rest and renewal for the people as well. There was also an expression of God's justice and mercy, which demonstrated God's concern for the poor and marginalized. There is also spiritual fulfilment: Jesus is identified in Isaiah 61 and Luke 4 as the Messiah who brings liberation to captives, ending of debts and spiritual freedom. These are significant details of the Jubilee which are relevant for us all in this year of jubilee too.

Advent is the time for us to make this preparation for spiritual freedom by repenting of our sins and renewing our lives through prayer, penance and sharing our blessings with others. This is a time of homecoming to rediscover our identity as children of God. Sin disfigures our identity, because it is an offence against reason, truth and right conscience; it is failure in genuine love for God and neighbour caused by a perverse attachment to certain things, behaviour and belief. It wounds the nature of man and injures human solidarity. It is a desire contrary to the eternal law. Therefore, during this Advent, let us stay awake so that nothing can disfigure our true identity as Christians.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ