



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Genesis 12:1-4a;
Psalms 33(32);
2 Timothy 1:8b-10;
Matthew 17:1-9

**Welcome to this House
of God:**
Talk to God before Mass
Listen to God during Mass
Talk to others after Mass

This Week: 1st– 8th Mar 2026 Psalter Week 2	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 1st March Second Sunday of Lent Second collection for CAFOD	8:30 am Noel O'Toole RIP (CH) 10:30 am Fenil Joseph (FJ) 6:00 pm Patricia Ceclich RIP (GC)	After 8:30am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall Children's Liturgy during 10:30am Mass
Monday 2nd March Feast of St Chad, Bishop	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Paul Seddon RIP(RB)	
Tuesday 3rd March Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am David Weale RIP (AM)	
Wednesday 4th March Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am JYUK Silver Jubilee	After Mass, Adoration until 6.00pm
Thursday 5th March Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Three little children who are suffering: Howard, Boris and Alana Rose Johnson (KW)	After Mass, Church cleaning
Friday 6th March Lent Feria	No morning Prayer 9:00 am Stations of the Cross 9:30 am Private Intention (C&PI)	
Saturday 7th March Lent Feria	11:00 am Nora O'Leary RIP (AM)	9:30am FHC Session in the Hall 10:15-10:45am Confessions 12:00-5:00pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall
Sunday 8th March Third Sunday of Lent Second collection for Cathedral Maintenance	8:30 am Breda Wightman RIP (RW) 10:30 am Tim Cree RIP (M&LR) 6:00 pm Nora O'Leary RIP(AL)	After 8:30am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall Children's Liturgy during 10:30am Mass 2:30pm SVP Afternoon

**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
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Diocesan Trustees:
Registered Charity
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PARISH SCHOOL

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Primary School,
Droitwich

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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

8:30am & 10:30am

**May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O Lord.**

6:00pm

More desired than gold

PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for all our parishioners, and/or their friends and relatives, who are unwell: Beryl Hill, 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, Denise Grant and Michael McCorry.

RECENTLY DECEASED

In your charity, please pray for Tim Cree, Neville Howard and Judith Cussen who have all recently died. Please also keep their families in your prayers. The Requiem Mass of Tim will take place on Tuesday 10th March at 11:00 am. The dates for the Funeral Service of Neville and the Requiem Mass of Judith will be advised shortly. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

CAFOD LENT FAMILY FAST DAY

This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought. Collect a CAFOD envelope to bless others with your support, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY 6TH MARCH

Churches Together in Droitwich are meeting for the World Day of Prayer at the Salvation Army, Union Lane Droitwich 10:30am Friday 6th March. There will be refreshments afterwards. This is a worldwide annual event, bringing people together in prayer. EVERYONE IS WELCOME

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

The next Journey in Faith session will take place on Monday 9th March at 7pm. The topic will be 'Sacraments: Holy Orders and Matrimony'.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2026

If your child is in Year 3 or above and does not go to a Catholic school and you wish your child to be prepared to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion this summer, please would you contact Fr. George SCJ or the Parish Office before Sunday 1st March. The First Holy Communion Sessions will begin on Saturday 7th March at 9.30am in the Parish Hall. There will be a meeting with parents on Sunday 1st March after 10:30 Mass. The First Holy Communion Mass will be on Saturday 13th June at 11:00am with the Commitment Mass on Sunday 3rd May at 10:30am.

MUSICIANS/SINGERS WANTED

We are very grateful for the faithful service of our musicians and choir members over many years. As we look to the future, we would love to welcome new volunteers to help with music and singing at Mass — especially younger parishioners who might like to share their gifts. If you are interested, please speak to Fr George or contact the Parish Office.

WALK WITH ME - A JOURNEY OF PRAYER FOR LENT 2026

'Welcome to this special edition of *Walk with Me*. Special, because Lent is a sacred moment in the Church's year; a time of conversion and inner renewal. But special too because with this edition we celebrate *Walk with Me's* Twenty-Fifth Anniversary. During these weeks of Lent we will be drawing on St Paul's Letters, entering more deeply into the wonder of Jesus and living life in the Holy Spirit.' Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham

The *Walk With Me* booklet is available at the back of the church. Please take a copy home for yourself or for your family and friends. A suggested donation of £1.50 would be appreciated.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On every Friday during Lent there will be Stations of the Cross at 9:00am There will not be a Novena to the Sacred Heart on Fridays during Lent.

EASTER CHOCOLATES COMPETITION

How many Easter Chocolates are there? During Lent you are invited to guess how many Chocolates are in the container. The chocolates weigh approx 5lbs (2.2kg), so this prize is very good value and you can make as many guesses as you want. Each guess will cost £1. The winner will be the person who accurately estimates the number of chocolates. In the event of a tie the prize will be split between the winners, and if there is no outright winner the prize will be given to the nearest number, higher or lower. The money raised will be donated to the Youth section of the Parish, meaning that with every guess you make you will be helping fund this important part of our Parish. Go on - Make a Guess!

MARCH FOR LIFE

Calling men of all ages and states of life: book your place at 'Commissioned', the National Men's Pro-life Conference, on April 18th at Birmingham Christian College. Through compelling talks on fatherhood, marriage, post-abortion healing, spiritual welfare and sexual responsibility learn to live out your vocation with humility, courage and integrity. For more info including speakers or to book your place contact info@marchforlife.co.uk or go to

<https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/commissioned-pro-life-mens-conference/>

NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT – PUBLIC TOURS & CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS

The next monthly public church tours (with a café) will take place on:

Saturday 21st March @2pm & 3:30pm and Saturday 25th April @ 2pm & 3:30pm
The 2pm tours are fully booked so extra tours have been added.

The next monthly public children's workshops (mini church tour & mosaic-making session) will take place on:

Saturday 14th March @ 2.30 pm & Saturday 11th April @ 2:30 pm

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 **1st, 8th and 22nd March.**

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 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 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Main Collection:
£315.89
Gift Aid: £189.00

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**



**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 8th March
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**

Exodus 17:3-7;
Psalms 95(94);
Romans 5:1-2,5-8 ;
John 4:5-42

The first reading taken from the book of Genesis, presents to us the call of Abram and his great sacrifice that proved his trust in God. At the time of Abram in the ancient Near East, family, land, and ancestors were central to one's identity and security. When God asked Abram to leave his country, his people, and his father's house, it was not a small ask. It meant leaving behind all the safety, status, and certainty, trusting completely in God's promise. For Abram it was a leap into the unknown. God's call is clear but open-ended: "Leave your country... to the land that I will show you." Abram is not given a map or full details. Instead, he is given a promise of land, of blessing, of a great future. Most importantly, God says that through Abram, humanity will be blessed. Abram's journey is not just for himself; it is for others. On this second Sunday of Lent, this reading gives us a lot to reflect on. Lent is a time of leaving behind the safety, status, and certainty that we have created for ourselves, what holds us back and moving towards God with trust. Like Abram, we are called to step out of our sanctum, habits, attitudes, or securities that keep us from growing in faith. At the beginning God may not tell us exactly where our journey will lead, but gradually He reveals His plan for us and reassures us of His abiding presence on our journey. What was Abram's response? Scripture simply tells us, "So Abram went, as the Lord had told him". He does not argue or delay his response or ask for more clarity. This Lent, we are invited to imitate that faith of Abram to listen, to trust, and to take the next step God is asking of us, believing that obedience leads to blessing, not only for ourselves, but for others as well.

Therefore, what is Faith? Faith is a confident assurance of things hoped for, and the conviction of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1). When driving down a two-lane road, I trust that the oncoming car will remain on the other side of the white line and we will not have a high-speed head-on collision. The toddler on the edge of the pool, who jumps into the arms of her father, trusts implicitly that her father will catch her. She will not drown. She screams with delight and believes him. Faith is a relationship which gradually develops by trust. The child who is on the edge of the pool ready to jump in, jumps into her father's arms. He has caught her before, and she has experienced his care and protection in many situations before when she is on the side of the pool. Faith grows from knowledge and knowledge grows from relationship. Though believing is possible only by grace and the internal help of the Holy Spirit, yet it is no less true that believing is an authentically human act. Why? Because what moves us to believe is not the fact that revealed truths appear as true and intelligible always in the light of our natural reason: we believe "because of the authority of God Himself who reveals them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived". When we say we believe in Jesus, we are not merely saying that he exists, but that he is "for us and with us". He has the power and the disposition to save us and make everything right for us at the end of the day.

Faith seeks knowledge and being in a relationship, like friendship. When I love someone, I want to know about them; what is going on in their life. If someone I love is in the hospital, I want to know what happened, the diagnosis, the prognosis, and how I can help. God has this interest in us; this is why he numbers the hairs on our head and delights in our prayers. Faith also prompts in us a desire to know and understand God in a deeper way. In today's gospel with the Transfiguration, Christ reveals His glory and the realities of human life to us. There is no life without death, joy without pain, and regeneration without destruction. So, to share in Christ's glory, we must first trust in Him and ready to go where He sends us and even walk with Him to Calvary. Also, if we want to share in Abraham's blessings and praise, we must instead be ready to "leave something" behind, our safety, status, and certainty and be ready to take a leap in faith and allow ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit. What is the one thing God is asking me to leave behind this Lent?

Fr. George Mathew SCJ