



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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

<p><b>This Week</b> <b>5th April—12 April</b> <b>(Psalter Week 2)</b></p>	<p><b>Mass Intentions</b> <b>(Mass will be said privately by the Parish Priest)</b></p>	<p><b>Other Events</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday 5th April</b> <b>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</b> <b>Year A</b></p>	<p>Marie Kampes (LR) Yurek Mazgajczyk RIP (BB) Violet Duffy RIP</p>	<p>5.00 pm Stations of the Cross (Private - for Fathers and Brothers only)</p>
<p><b>Monday 6th April</b> Monday of Holy Week</p>	<p>Christine Whitehouse RIP (BB)</p>	
<p><b>Tuesday 7th April</b> Tuesday of Holy Week</p>	<p>Birthday Intention (C &amp; PI)</p>	
<p><b>Wednesday 8th April</b> Wednesday of Holy Week</p>	<p>Peggy Regan RIP (BB)</p>	
<p><b>Thursday 9th April</b> Thursday of Holy Week</p>	<p><b>Mass of the Lord's Supper</b></p>	
<p><b>Friday 10th April</b> <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b></p>	<p><b>Celebration of the Lord's Passion</b></p>	
<p><b>Saturday 11th April</b> <b>HOLY SATURDAY</b></p>	<p><b>Vigil Mass of Easter</b></p>	
<p><b>Sunday 12th April</b> <b>SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD</b> <b>Year A</b></p>	<p>Holy Mass</p>	

## SACRED HEART COMMUNITY

Fr. George Mathew SCJ  
(Priest-in-Charge)  
georgemathewscj@  
hotmail.com

**In an emergency, please  
contact:**

07448 042484

Fr. Brian Boyle SCJ  
(Retired Priest)

Fr. Tom Kelly SCJ  
(Retired Priest)

Bro. Patrick Leighton SCJ

## PARISH SCHOOL

St. Joseph's,  
6 St Joseph's Close,  
Ombersley Way,  
Droitwich, WR9 0RY  
Tel: 01905 773572

Email: office@st-josephs-  
droitwich.worcs.sch.uk

## HEAD TEACHER

Mrs. Cath Bryan

## PARISH SECRETARY

Kate Dalglish  
The Sacred Heart  
Presbytery  
Tel: 01905 773258  
Email:  
sacredheartdroitwich  
@hotmail.co.uk.

## SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

Gerry Ceclich  
Kate Dalglish  
Clare Tomlinson

## PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS

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

Milly Arnold, Mary Arulandhu, Barbara Conway, Eileen Dalton, Delores Delaney, Frank Fawcett, Alan Francis, Joan Graham, Beryl Hill, Alan Hurst, John Jennings, Andrew McDermott, Stella McDermott, Jackie McLean, Michael Sheridan, Aidan Skinner, Jacky Smith, Paul Smith, Margaret Steward, Angela Wardle, Breda Wightman, Mark Wightman, Richard Wightman & Monsignor Graham Wilkinson.

Please keep all parishioners and their families in your thoughts and prayers at this time.

**Due to the new data regulations (GDPR), the Archdiocese have requested that we do not list names unless we have the consent of the individual. If you would like your name to be included in this list please contact Fr. George SCJ or Kate Dalglish. Please note that the newsletter is also placed on the parish website. Thank you for your understanding.**

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## CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

Following the Prime Ministers address on Monday 23rd March the Sacred Heart Church is now **closed** to the public. However, the celebration of Mass, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, will take place without a public congregation. Below is an extract of the letter sent to parishes from Archbishop Bernard Longley:

“As a sad but necessary consequence we must ensure that the doors of all churches and chapels in the Archdiocese are closed to the public and that they remain permanently locked until these restrictions are lifted. In this way we shall continue to play our part within every parish in fighting the Coronavirus and to show our solidarity with all those who are striving to overcome the current pandemic. In the meantime it will still be a great consolation to your parishioners to know that Mass is being celebrated daily in their local church and that they are spiritually united with the celebrant and with one another as beneficiaries of the Sacrifice of Christ...Our natural instinct as Catholics to gather together and to pray in the real presence of Our Lord is expressed in the Second Eucharistic Prayer: *Humbly we pray that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.* The live-streaming of Mass from twenty-three of our churches (with the Cathedral soon to join that number) is proving to be a great spiritual resource and a powerful way of expressing and deepening our communion in Christ during these challenging days. Please continue to keep in your prayers all those working in the NHS and all those who are ill because of the Coronavirus. I particularly thank all our Hospital and Healthcare Chaplains, working alongside deanery clergy and volunteers at this time, for the hope and trust in Our Lord that they are fostering and for their support of healthcare staff and patients alike.

With my prayers and kindest wishes. Yours devotedly in Christ,  
Most Rev Bernard Longley

## FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

The coronavirus outbreak in Bethlehem is having a devastating effect. People there are suffering unemployment and isolation as Bethlehem is shut down. Please pray for the people in the Holy Land; if you would like further information, please visit [www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk).

## MASS INTENTIONS: UPDATED 29TH MARCH

Mass will continue to be said in Church privately by Fr. George therefore any Mass Intentions already booked will still stand. Mass Intention requests can still be booked via contacting Fr. George on 01905 773258 or via email to [sacredheartdroitwich@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sacredheartdroitwich@hotmail.co.uk). If the request is for a living individual, please could you include a declaration that their name can be published in the newsletter. Please do not use Mass Intention envelopes at this time due to the risk of infection via the envelope. We make every effort to accommodate Mass Intentions on the dates requested however this is not always possible due to prior bookings. When submitting a Mass Intention request, please could you provide an email address so that we can contact you if needed. Please note that the next available date for Mass Intentions is currently Tuesday 21st April.

## NEWSLETTER

The newsletter will continue to be published and will be available via the website and, whilst there are no Masses, distributed via email. Please contact [sacredheartdroitwich@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sacredheartdroitwich@hotmail.co.uk) if you would like to be added to the distribution list. If anyone has anything that they would like to include, it can be submitted via email to the email address above.

## PARISH SECRETARY

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday 23rd March, the Parish Secretary will now be working from home until lockdown restrictions are lifted. If you wish to contact the Parish Secretary, the best way is via email to [sacredheartdroitwich@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sacredheartdroitwich@hotmail.co.uk). If this is not possible messages can be left on the Presbytery phone on 01905 773258 and Fr. George will forward them on.

## CTS BOOKS BLOG

Please visit [www.ctsbooks.org/blog](http://www.ctsbooks.org/blog) for some useful articles to help support parishioners whilst the church is closed. These articles are updated weekly and are free to view. The articles this week are: *Live Holy Week at Home*, *COVID: Community on the Verge of Incurable Destruction?* and *Brief Examination of Conscience*

Where are we  
going, Pooh?

Home, Piglet.  
We're going home.  
Because that's the best  
thing to do right now.



## MISSIO: RED BOXES

As the church is now closed to the public, please could you keep your Missio boxes until further notice. Once Mass has resumed we will make arrangements for them to be returned to church then. Many thanks for your understanding and co-operation.

## CAFOD: ONLINE RESOURCES

CAFOD are offering a live online Children's Liturgy for families at 10.00 am on Sundays. Please visit [www.cafod.org.uk/education/children-s-liturgy](http://www.cafod.org.uk/education/children-s-liturgy) to register. There are also prayers and reflections available at [www.cafod.org.uk/pray](http://www.cafod.org.uk/pray).

## ONLINE LENT RETREAT 2020

Due to the spread of Coronavirus it has been necessary to cancel all further weekly meetings in the Parish Hall for the online Lent Retreat on the Wednesdays in Lent, although the online part of the retreat continues to be available.

*“Even the darkest  
night will end and  
the sun will rise”*

Victor Hugo

## FOODBANK

Foodbank have sent through a new wish list. Their two posters are on the website and also added to the email with this newsletter.

They would be very grateful for any donations. Whilst the church is closed there are collection points in Droitwich at Waitrose and Specsavers.

## THANKSGIVING MASSES FOR MARRIAGE

The Thanksgiving Masses for Marriage due to take place in May have been postponed. It is hoped that these can be rearranged for later in the year.

## **DROITWICH SVP**

Sacred Heart SVP can be contacted on 0777 292 7535 or at droitwichsvp@googlemail.com.

## **REFUGEE KNITTING & REFUGEE UNDERWEAR: UPDATED**

**All collections have now been cancelled until further notice.** If you wish to continue knitting, please do so and, given that church is now closed, please keep them at home until collections resume. Thank you for your continual support.

## **ONLINE RESOURCES**

Please see the website for a posters with links to Holy Week Services from the Vatican and some useful Faith At Home links from Maryvale. These have also been distributed with this newsletter

## **CAFOD BIDDING PRAYER FOR PALM SUNDAY**

We pray for the Church and for the world: that God may grant us the gifts of courage, compassion and wisdom as we face challenging circumstances together. *Lord in your mercy...*

## **Reflection: Palm Sunday**

Today we begin Holy Week, a day of feeling triumph when Jesus enters the great city of Jerusalem. Next Sunday is another day of triumph, of lasting triumph. In between is a strange mixture of pain, of sorrow and fear known to all of us human beings. We sometimes wish life was a bowl of cherries, but we know only too well that reality is often for many the exact opposite. We may talk as much as we like about joy, contentment and peace, but only a fool believes that Christians have the recipe for a trouble-free golden future. We don't. Common sense tells that human life - yours and mine is complex, confusing, tragic and even uncertain like the situation we are all in.

Today we celebrate the solemn and triumphant entry of Jesus our King into the Holy City of Jerusalem. The Holy Week is an experience of mixed feelings especially this year. Moment to rejoice as well as moment of sadness. The triumphant entry of Jesus today will culminate in the passion and death of Jesus on Good Friday and the triumphant of Jesus' Resurrection on Easter Sunday. The Passion and the Resurrection of Jesus must enlighten our minds to understand the meaning and the facts of life in total perspective. The liturgy of the word on Palm Sunday invites us to reflect on the suffering of Christ our Saviour, which unfolds into our human salvation.

The Cross, which was once an emblem of suffering and shame, has become a sign of Victory. St. Matthew in today's Gospel portrays Jesus' passion having many dramatic elements, namely the religious leaders gathered to forge a desperate plot which portrays them in a negative shade. The betrayal of Judas, the denial of Jesus by Peter manifests the pain and agony of Jesus.

Salvation history is the centre of today's passion narration. The readings of the day point to the Cross of Christ which is the centre of Christian living. The Suffering Servant in the first reading speaks to us about Jesus who gave His body to be beaten and His face to be struck. Thus, Jesus laid down His life for us for our salvation through the greatest Sacrifice of Love for Humanity. And in the second reading St. Paul reminds us that Jesus humbled Himself and became obedient unto death.

As we begin the Holy week through the triumphant entry into Jerusalem, all of us are called to march forward towards the Salvific Cross to experience God's love more intimately. I am sure this Holy Week is a unique week which none of us never have experienced even during the time of Christian persecution. The church services without the faithful, millions of Catholics not able to receive the Holy Communion. Thousands of our fellow Christians have lost their lives because of COVID19. The whole world lives in fear and uncertainty. But still we have hope that after the Passion a glorious Resurrection is awaiting.

We can make this Holy Week more spiritual and meaningful through a Metanoia experience - change of heart and mind. In this time of difficulty, we are called to respond positively and contractively for our own good and for the good of the others. We are invited to make the differences by sharing Jesus' love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness with our brothers and sisters. Lets us participate this week's liturgy by being wherever you are praying, reflecting the word of God and thus participate the Holy Week spiritually. let this spiritual communion nourish and nature our souls and bodies. God Bless you all.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ