



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

This Week 5th April - 12th April (Psalter Week 2)	Mass Intentions (Mass will be said privately by the Parish Priest)	Other Events
Sunday 12th April SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD Year A	Holy Mass	
Monday 13th April Easter Monday	Denis Regan RIP (BB)	
Tuesday 14th April Easter Tuesday	Christine Whitehouse RIP (DG)	
Wednesday 15th April Easter Wednesday	Pat Smith RIP (AM)	
Thursday 16th April Easter Thursday	Christine Whitehouse RIP (DG)	
Friday 17th April Easter Friday	Ken Bourne RIP (AM)	
Saturday 18th April Easter Saturday	Pat Smith RIP (BB) Annamma Mathew (SM)	
Sunday 19th April Second Sunday of Easter Year A	Vincenza Eaton RIP (MF) David Veale RIP (AM) Sheila Ferriter (MS)	Divine Mercy Sunday

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, Sheila Ferriter, 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.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS: UPDATED 29TH MARCH

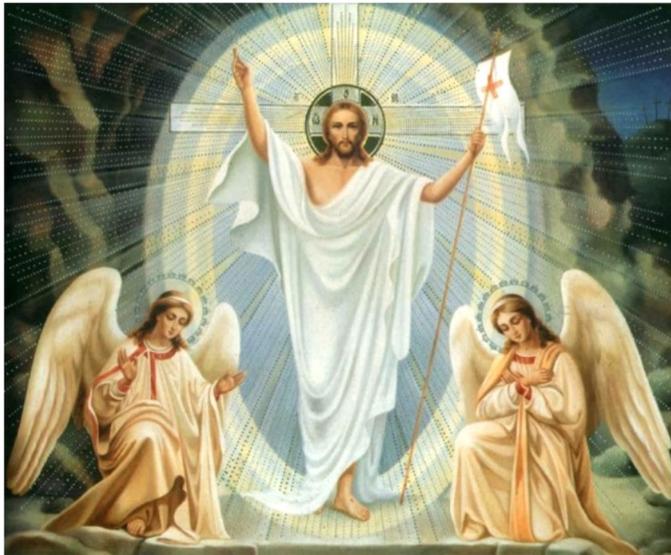
Mass will continue to be said in Church privately by Fr. George therefore any Mass Intentions already booked will still stand. Mass Intention requests can still be booked via contacting Fr. George on 01905 773258 or via email to sacredheartdroitwich@hotmail.co.uk. If the request is for a living individual, please could you include a declaration that their name can be published in the newsletter. If you would like to make a donation please could this be done via cheque made payable to the Sacred Heart Fathers & Brothers. 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 Friday 24th April.

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. If this is not possible messages can be left on the Presbytery phone on 01905 773258 and Fr. George will forward them on.

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 to register. There are also prayers and reflections available at www.cafod.org.uk/pray.



My Dear Parishners, as you celebrate Easter, may you be filled with abundant Joy, Happiness and Peace in this season of new beginning. May you and your Family be safe and be protected by the Risen Christ who defeated suffering and death.

With love and prayers

Fr. George Mathew, Fr. Brian, Fr. Tom & Br. Patrick

"But you, brothers and sisters, never become tired of doing good"

2 Thessalonians 3: 13

FOODBANK

Foodbank have sent through a new wish list. This is on the website and attached 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 Morrisons.

CTS BOOKS BLOG

Please visit 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: *How to Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet*, *A Catholic Mother's Guide to Family Life in Lockdown* and *How to Home School Your Children in Lockdown*.

CARDINAL NICHOLS EASTER BROADCASTING

Please see the attachment with the newsletter for full details of Easter broadcasts and interviews.

CATHOLIC SATELLITE TV (EWTN)

Catholic Satellite TV(EWTN) on Sky TV channel 588, broadcasts daily Mass at 1.00 pm, 6.00 pm and 11.00 pm and it has 24 hours of different programs which will be helpful for us all in this time. EWTN is also available on other digital platforms.

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.



Reflection: Easter Sunday - He is no longer in the Grave

Humankind is trapped in a dreadful situation. All around we are running low on hope. Every day we hear of thousands dying helplessly. People live in fear of death. The human intelligent, scientific knowledge, the cleverest medical professionals and doctors remain helpless. The entire world is in a war like situation. All because of COVID 19, a microscopic parasite not even visible to the naked human eyes, not able to thrive and reproduce outside of a host body. The more we try to rescue ourselves the more we seem to fall behind. This was the situation of the disciples of Jesus after the death of Jesus. They lost all hope; every were fear and uncertainty. Many of them gone back to their old trade. Back to zero, to where they started from.

In 1887, twenty-two years after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, his coffin was dug up and opened because there were constant rumours that his body was not in the grave. So, they dug it up and the body was there. The rumours continued so 14 years later they had to dig it up again. Both times witnesses were present who testified that Lincoln was still in the grave. Three days after the death of Jesus Christ, similar rumours began to spread throughout the land of Israel. Only this time there were no witnesses who could say that they had seen His body. In fact, to the contrary, many witnesses claimed to have seen him out of His grave and even talked with Him after the Resurrection. As great a man as Lincoln was, there were witnesses to prove he was still in the grave. If anyone were to cry out today to Lincoln for help, there would be no response. If a scientist were to cry out to Einstein for help today there would only be empty silence. If someone were to call out to Mohammed or Buddha or Gandhi today there would be no help. But if you and I call out to Jesus Christ there is instant power available to us... power to change lives ...why? Because He lives, He is no more in the tomb.

In the beginning when God created the Heaven and the earth, the earth had no form and was void. Darkness covered the deep and we are told that the Spirit of God moved over the waters. In this situation God speaks and there is a process of separation and the differentiation and the formless universe is given now a definite form through the Word of God. There takes place a separation of light and darkness. The waters above the dome is separated from the waters below the dome. Everything was separated and finally He created human being male and female. Thus, we see the completion of the creation. Void, formlessness, darkness these are all overcome and the whole universe is brought into existence through a process of separation and differentiation. The Gospel of the day speaks to us the first day of the new creation. The day of the resurrection of the Lord.

The setting is early morning where there is lack of separation of morning and the night. There is once again a void, the empty tomb. Mary of Magdala, Peter and John experience the void. Slowly they can see the separation of the linen covered the body of Jesus and the napkin that encrust His face. John saw all and we are told that he believed. He began to understand all these things in the light of whatever was foretold in the Sacred Scripture. Yes, John started to understand the meaning of the empty tomb in the light of the Gospel. My dear brothers and sisters there are situations in our own lives that we all experience void and emptiness as we do these days. Lack of clarity, lack of separation of darkness and light, when it is no more a question of black and white. In such moment of void and formlessness we need to let in the light of the Word and the Spirit of God. But that happens in a moment of pain, lost, separation, anxiety and fear, all these may take on a new meaning. May the Risen Christ light up the darkness of our lives. May our lives too be recreated by the Word and the Spirit of God. Amen.

Wish you all a Blessed Easter, Fr. George Mathew SCJ.

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