



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>19th April - 26th 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 19th April</b> <b>Second Sunday of Easter</b> <b>Year A</b></p>	<p>Vincenza Eaton RIP (MF) David Veale RIP (AM) Sheila Ferriter (MS)</p>	<p>Divine Mercy Sunday</p>
<p><b>Monday 20th April</b> Easter Feria</p>	<p>Christine Whitehouse (DG)</p>	
<p><b>Tuesday 21st April</b> Easter Feria</p>	<p>Peter Turner RIP (P &amp; CI)</p>	
<p><b>Wednesday 22nd April</b> Easter Feria</p>	<p>Jordi Murphy O'Toole RIP (GC)</p>	
<p><b>Thursday 23rd April</b> Solemnity of St. George, Martyr, Patron of England</p>	<p>Harold Ingram RIP (P &amp; CI)</p>	
<p><b>Friday 24th April</b> Easter Feria</p>	<p>Mr. Shaji &amp; Family</p>	
<p><b>Saturday 25th April</b> Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist</p>	<p>Holy Mass</p>	
<p><b>Sunday 26th April</b> <b>Third Sunday of Easter</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, 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.**

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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.

## **MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP BERNARD LONGLEY**

Speaking on the importance of Communications, Pope Francis reminded us recently that the digital world is a vital place of meeting and encounter which he describes as a gift from God. As a gift, our website offers a unique window into the life of the local church as well as an opportunity to share our Catholic faith more widely. I assure you of my prayers and kindest wishes. Yours sincerely in the Lord,

Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham

## **ARCHDIOCESE: ONLINE DONATIONS**

We appreciate many of our parishioners may be struggling financially at this time and we pray they are getting the support they need. Indeed, many people in our parishes are stepping in to help where it is needed, and their efforts are to be commended. However, we are receiving numerous enquiries from parishioners who would like to continue giving during this period when we cannot attend our parishes in person. Ideally this would be via standing order however we know this won't suit everybody so we are also able to offer a new online giving facility. Donations can be made to specific parishes, the Diocese centrally or other areas such as the Clergy Training Fund. Online donations can be made at <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/support-our-work> and would be gratefully received.

## MASS INTENTIONS

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 at [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. 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 Saturday 25th 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](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.

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## ONLINE RESOURCES

### CAFOD

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).

### LOURDES AT HOME

Although we cannot travel to Lourdes in person this year, let us make a pilgrimage in our hearts by visiting [www.lourdes-france.org/en/your-spiritual-pilgrimage-to-lourdes/](http://www.lourdes-france.org/en/your-spiritual-pilgrimage-to-lourdes/). There is also an opportunity to view the prayer of Chaplains at the Grotto at <https://www.lourdes-france.org/tv-lourdes>.

### 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 regularly and are free to view. The articles this week are: *COVID: Community on the Verge of Incurable Destruction*, *How to Homeschool Your Children in Lockdown* and *How to Live the Triduum at Home as a Family*.

### VATICAN WEBSITE

The English language version of the Vatican website can be found at <http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>. There are many useful resources on this website, particularly in the news section at <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>.

### ALIVE PUBLISHING

The publishers of Bible Alive, Alive Publishing, have a page on their website dedicated to the COVID-19 outbreak. To view these free resources, please visit <https://www.alivepublishing.co.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

"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.

### 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.



Registered as a Charity,  
Birmingham Roman Catholic  
Diocesan Trustees:  
Registered Charity  
Number 234216.

## Reflection: Divine Mercy Sunday

Today we are celebrating the Divine Mercy Sunday. In the year 2000 the then Holy Father St. John Paul II instituted the Feast of the Divine Mercy to be celebrated for the first time in the year 2001 on the Second Sunday of Easter. It arises out of a series of apparitions that Jesus gave to the Polish nun Sr. Faustina Kowalska. In its depth Jesus promised to her that those who goes for confession and receive Holy Communion on this day, not only receive the forgiveness of sins but a total remission for the temporal punishments for their sins, and this promise which is recorded in the diary of St. Faustina three times, speaks to the significance of celebrating this feast in a worthy manner. One of His promises Jesus says "My daughter, tell the whole world my inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge for all souls, especially for poor sinners. On that day, the depths of my tender mercy are open; I pour out the whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of my mercy. Let no soul fear to draw near to me, even though its sins are as scarlet. My mercy is so great, that no mind be it of man or an angel will be able to fathom it throughout eternity. Everything that exists comes from the very depth of my most tender mercy". Beautiful words come from our Lord. The revelation that St. Faustina received telling us about Divine Mercy, it is telling us the importance of celebrating this day invoking the mercy of Jesus.

The Gospel of this Sunday from John 20: 19-31 helps us to grasp the full message and the value of this gift of Mercy. Evangelist John makes us share the emotions felt by the disciples and apostles in their meeting with Christ after His Resurrection. Our attention falls on the gesture of the master who transmits to the fearful, astounded disciples the mission to be messengers of Divine Mercy. We find that how Jesus would show them His hands and side which bare the marks of His passion and would tell them "as Father has sent me, so I am sending you" and immediately after He breathed on them and said to them "receive the Holy Spirit, if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven, if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" and so Jesus entrusts to them the gift of forgiving sins, a gift that flows from his loving heart from where the waves of mercy poured out to the whole of humanity. Pope St. John Paul II rightly said, "the greatest gift that the Risen Lord gave to the apostles and through the apostles to entire humanity is the power to forgive the sins and thus establishing the Holy Sacrament of Mercy. So, God has given a Sacrament as a tangible sign to bestowal of His mercy. He fits his gift of mercy to our human nature. So, let us relive this moment of spirituality to its intensity, let us live this moment. Today Lord also shows to us his glorious wounds and his most Sacred Heart, the inexhaustible source of light and love of forgiveness.

In the old Testament God told Moses to celebrate their most important Feast of Atonement once a year and to prepare for that they have afflict themselves and to offer the animal blood sacrifice and on the last day God would forgive their sins. When we go through the Gospels, we see that the people call out to Jesus and He answers them. The blind Barthemius would cry out to Jesus, "Jesus son of David, have mercy on me" and he receive the sight. The Canaanite women would cry out to Jesus on behalf of her daughter and would say, "Lord, son of David, have mercy on me, my daughter is tormented by a devil" and her daughter was free. Today the Sacred Heart of Jesus gives us salvation, redemption and justification through His Divine Mercy.

So let us ask God's mercy upon us. Also let us cultivate this devotion to the Divine Mercy of Jesus which He reveals to us through St. Faustina. May God in His tender mercy, bless all of us on this day of His divine Mercy.