



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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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**

<p><b>This Week</b> <b>26th April - 3rd May</b> <b>(Psalter Week 3)</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 26th April</b> <b>Third Sunday of Easter</b> <b>Year A</b></p>		
<p><b>Monday 27th April</b> Easter Feria</p>		
<p><b>Tuesday 28th April</b> Easter Feria</p>		
<p><b>Wednesday 29th April</b> Feast of St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe</p>	<p>Patricia Ceclich RIP (GC)</p>	<p>Day of Prayer for Europe</p>
<p><b>Thursday 30th April</b> Easter Feria</p>	<p>Oliver Andrade RIP (KA)</p>	
<p><b>Friday 1st May</b> Easter Feria</p>	<p>Bernadette Duffy RIP (PD)</p>	
<p><b>Saturday 2nd May</b> Memorial of St. Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor of the Church</p>		
<p><b>Sunday 3rd May</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> <b>Year A</b></p>		<p>World Day of Prayer for Vocations</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. 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.

## **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”

Online reflections, news, live-streaming and information from the Archdiocese can be found at <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/>.

## **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 or if you wish pay in cash you may post them at the Presbytery. 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.

### **MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE: SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS - THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (ACTS 2: 14, 22-28, 1 PETER 1: 17-21, LUKE 24: 13-35)**

*How well do we listen to each other?* As Jesus walked to Emmaus, he listened carefully to His disciples and experienced their grief. An important part of our relationship is listening. We may disagree with our partner's thoughts and judgements but they are part of who this person is. We need to experience him/her and convey the joy of discovering the person he/she is.

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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) and home learning resources at [cafod.org.uk/Education/Education-resources](http://cafod.org.uk/Education/Education-resources).

### **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. There are also some other useful articles on this website under Spiritual Support in Isolation at the following links:

[www.ctsbooks.org/catholic-response-coronavirus/](http://www.ctsbooks.org/catholic-response-coronavirus/)

[www.ctsbooks.org/if-you-cant-get-to-mass-making-a-spiritual-communion/](http://www.ctsbooks.org/if-you-cant-get-to-mass-making-a-spiritual-communion/)

[www.ctsbooks.org/spiritual-sickness-in-pursuit-of-physical-health/](http://www.ctsbooks.org/spiritual-sickness-in-pursuit-of-physical-health/)

### **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/>.

## **FOODBANK**

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

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

*“Even if I walk through a very dark valley, I will not be afraid, because you are with me. Your rod and your staff comfort me.”*

Psalm 23: 4

## **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.

## **THEOLOGY OF THE BODY: VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

Please see the attachment sent with the newsletter for details of how to register for this course.



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Registered Charity  
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## **Reflection: Emmaus is where he meets us**

Doubt and disillusionment, discouragement and despair, dread and fear are emotions that are common to all of us at some point or other in our lives. When we are confronted with the death of a loved one or loss of a job, or a life-threatening illness, we are thrown into a tailspin and our hearts can be filled with anxiety and fear. We think that things will never be right again.

Especially in the middle of the night, things seem at their very worst. We find it hard to hope, and all that we have learned about God's saving grace is nowhere to be found. If ever we knew how to call upon God, it is now only a distant memory from a better and happier time; and even when we need God the most, we turn our backs on God and walk away.

The story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus is a story which addresses precisely these negative emotions. It is regarded as one of the most beautiful of the Resurrection appearance stories in the New Testament. They had experienced the death of Jesus in Jerusalem and with no hope of the Resurrection they were on the verge of giving up and giving in. They are sad and gloomy. They had hoped but now their hopes are dashed. They are puzzled by the resurrection appearance reports. So they started out, the two of them, talking as they went, and going over and over the same ground, as if saying it one more time would change everything. Don't we all do that? Emmaus therefore represents defeat. It is a place to which many of us go in order to escape from the harsh realities of the world. So, apart from a geographical location, Emmaus can also mean a state of mind, a way of proceeding or even an attitude. It is the tendency to run away, because nothing seems to be going the way we expect it to go. We can do this by using defence mechanisms like denial, displacement, regression or repression or sometimes external stimulants like alcohol and drugs. However, as the two disciples experienced, this is where Jesus meets us. He comes to us at those moments when we least expect him. Even in the midst of our despair and negativity, he continues to walk with us and show us the right path.

He does this in two ways. First he opens their minds to understand the scriptures which were fulfilled in their totality not only in the death of Jesus but also and more importantly in his resurrection and ascension. Second, he makes as if to carry on his journey because he does not want to impose himself on them - something which the Lord will never do with anyone (Rev 3:20). But they invite him to stay and eat with them. Though it seems at first glance that they want Jesus to stay with them because "it is toward evening and the day is now far spent", the real reason for the invitation is the impact of his concern and conversation. He accepts their invitation. Even as he takes bread, blesses and breaks it and gives it to them, they come to knowledge from ignorance, to insight from blindness and to recognition from a blurred vision.

Once this happens, however, Jesus disappears from their sight, since his presence is no longer required. They have understood, they have believed, they are willing to move from despair to hope. This is why immediately they set off to return to Jerusalem and to hope. We too can meet the risen Lord through the Scriptures as read and explained in the celebration of the reality (and not just the ritual) of the Eucharist. One of the most wonderful things to come out of the resurrection is that we learn this about Jesus: no matter how bad things become for us, no matter where we go to hide ourselves from the bitter reality, even if we lose our faith for a time, he will come to be with us. He will not ask us for explanations. He will simply meet us as we walk, each of us along our own road to Emmaus.

Let us pray to Him: "Lord, today I realize that I can choose not to harden my heart but rather to be open to the Holy Spirit warming my heart and making it burn within with zeal for the sacred Scripture and your Holy Word".