



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 3rd May - 10th May (Psalter Week 4)	Mass Intentions (Mass will be said privately by the Parish Priest)	Other Events
Sunday 3rd May Fourth Sunday of Easter Year A	Margaret Bend RIP (DO'H)	World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Monday 4th May Feast of the English Martyrs	Mrs. Glenet Maison (MM)	
Tuesday 5th May Easter Feria	Mrs. Maria de Silva RIP	
Wednesday 6th May Easter Feria	Mrs. Alma RIP (Holder Family)	
Thursday 7th May Easter Feria		
Friday 8th May Easter Feria	75th Anniversary of VE Day (BB)	
Saturday 9th May Easter Feria		
Sunday 10th May Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A		

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:

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.**

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for **Millie Arnold, Maria de Silva** and **Dr. Vishna
Rasiah** who died recently. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful
departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Please keep their family
and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

Following the Prime Ministers address on Monday 23rd March the Sacred
Heart Church is now **closed** to the public. 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. Messages can be left on the
Presbytery phone on 01905 773258 and Fr. George will forward them on.

MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE: SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS - FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (ACTS 2: 14, 36-41, 1 PETER 2: 20-25, JOHN 10:1-10)

Feeding your sheep. John 10: 10 describes us as 'sheep'. God watches over
and feeds us with his Word, and in the Eucharist. With God's help we have
created a few more sheep, so we pray for His help, read books, use the
internet to protect our children from the harm done by the 'media' and
many of today's 'addictions'. That's being good shepherds.

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. We are able to offer
a new online giving facility. Online donations can be made at
<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/support-our-work> and would be
gratefully received. Please select Droitwich if you wish to donate to the
Parish.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass will continue to be said in Church privately by Fr. George; 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. 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.

BDES: CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The new BDES website pages *Prayer and Learning Resources* and *Shared Resources* are listed below. They have some useful resources so please do visit them.

<https://www.bdes.org.uk/resources-for-prayer-and-learning.html>

<https://www.bdes.org.uk/shared-resources-from-diocesan-schools.html>

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

www.ctsbooks.org/if-you-cant-get-to-mass-making-a-spiritual-communion/

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. A thank you letter has been distributed with this newsletter.

"I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength."

Philippians 4: 13

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 website for details of how to register for this course.

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

Reflection: Is He Your Shepherd?

It was Good Shepherd Sunday and a parish priest was speaking to the children in the Sunday catechism class. He told them that as the parish priest he was like a shepherd and the members of his congregation were the sheep. He then asked them: "What does the shepherd do for the sheep?" A little boy in the front row raised his hands and answered, "He fleeces them."

It is true that quite a few 'shepherds' go about fleecing, milking and feeding on the sheep. But when the Bible speaks of the leaders of God's people as shepherds, it envisions leaders who feed, protect and feel with the people as a good shepherd does for his flock. It must be noted here that in the text from John, Jesus is not only the Good Shepherd but also the Sheep Gate. This means that he not only leads the way to abundant life, life in all its fullness, which he does as the Good Shepherd, but is the way to that life himself as the Sheep Gate. There are some, however, who focus only on one of the images and so critique the analogy of the shepherd and sheep. Sheep may be loveable creatures, but they seem to lack independent spirit. The only thing they seem to do is relentlessly seek grass. They are relatively defenceless against wolves and other wild animals. They easily lose their way. It is precisely because they are dumb and defenceless that they need a shepherd. So some do not like to be termed as sheep and do not feel the need for a shepherd. They believe that they can do perfectly well on their own.

The truth is that we like to think that we are in control, that no one can hurt us if we do not let them, and that no problem is so intractable that we cannot solve it. But what keeps happening in our world should shake us out of that conviction. We are not secure even in our own little worlds. We remain vulnerable as much to our own sinfulness and the evils of contemporary life as to far-off terrorists and revolutionaries. Many of us are searching for love and compassion. Yet the world is torn apart by hatred, rage and violence. Despite its thin veneer of order and discipline, our condition remains as messy and chaotic as that of a flock of sheep without a shepherd. We are as vulnerable now as we will ever be.

On the other hand, there is something lovely about the imagery of sheep that trust without fail and a shepherd who cares without ceasing. There is a bond which words can't fully express. In today's text, despite any fear about surrendering too much of our independence to shepherd-like divinities, we can appreciate some of the profound meanings of Jesus as gate to the sheepfold and a good shepherd. Can this rural, pastoral imagery speak to us in our urban, cosmopolitan, and industrial setting? Because of our modern lifestyle we may long precisely for the kind of relationship between God and us that such imagery reveals.

The first reading of today from the Acts of the Apostles makes precisely this appeal through the words of Peter to those on the other side of the gate, "the whole House of Israel". The one who was crucified has been made Lord and Christ and Shepherd. The way to come to the right side is through repentance which necessarily implies giving up the old vision and seeing with new eyes. It will mean giving up the myth of self sufficiency and realizing that we need to be helped. It will mean acknowledging that we cannot travel long distances on our own, but need a higher power to guide and nourish us. The invitation is a universal invitation and no one will be excluded. The invitation is repeated by Peter in the second reading of today in which he exhorts us to live our lives in imitation of the Good Shepherd who remains the only example that we will ever need.

His life was a life committed to his Father even in the midst of his suffering even to the point of death on a cross. Since Christ has proved to be the Good Shepherd who cares for us and will continue to lead our way, we can dare to face life with confidence and courage even in the midst of our own trials, tribulations and crosses.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ