



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**

<b>This Week</b> <b>17th May - 24th May</b> <b>(Psalter Week 2)</b>	<b>Mass Intentions</b> <b>(Mass will be said privately by the</b> <b>Parish Priest)</b>	<b>Other Events</b>
<b>Sunday 17th May</b> <b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b> <b>Year A</b>	Milly Arnold RIP (MS)	
<b>Monday 18th May</b> Easter Feria	Mrs. Mariam RIP (Fr. George)	
<b>Tuesday 19th May</b> Easter Feria	Alan Remedios RIP (KA)	
<b>Wednesday 20th May</b> Easter Feria	Intentions of Daphne Bath (CS)	
<b>Thursday 21st May</b> Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord	Mass for the sick and suffering in our parish	
<b>Friday 22nd May</b> Easter Feria	Gladys Remedios RIP (KA)	
<b>Saturday 23rd May</b> Easter Feria	Mass for the Victims of COVID-19	
<b>Sunday 24th May</b> <b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b> <b>Year A</b>	Bert Parry RIP (BP)	World Communications Day

*“The Internet...is something truly good...The  
digital world can be an environment rich in  
humanity. A network not of wires but of  
people”*

Pope Francis

48th World Communications Day, 2014

## 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.**

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## RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for **Milly Arnold** and **Maria de Silva** who died recently. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. The funeral service for Milly Arnold will be on Tuesday 19th May. 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 - SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (ACTS 8: 5-8 & 14-17, 1 PETER 3: 15-18, JOHN 14: 15-21)

*Listen to Jesus within ourselves and within our partner . Jesus is in me and in you! In marriage we are especially called to honour that presence in our spouse every day. There may be times when we hurt each other or take each other for granted, leading to feelings of jealousy and resentment, often to arguments. At times like this the call is for forgiveness, for healing, for affirmation.*

## 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](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.

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## 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 have provided many resources, including online liturgy for children and adults, blogs and prayer resources. To find out more about how CAFOD are responding to the Coronavirus outbreak and to access these resources, please visit [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk).

## LOURDES AT HOME

Although we cannot travel to Lourdes in person this year, the Archdiocese of Birmingham is arranging an online programme of events **#Lourdes2Brum**. This will be updated as the programme develops. Please visit <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-at-home> for further details.

## CTS BOOKS BLOG

Please visit [www.ctsbooks.org](http://www.ctsbooks.org) for some useful articles and videos 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.

## 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/>.

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

The Pathways to God website has articles, prayers and audio exercises to help and support readers and listeners struggling with their mental health. Please visit <https://www.pathwaystogod.org/resources/mental-health-awareness-week> to view these.

## FOODBANK

Foodbank have sent through an urgent wish list. This is on the website and has been distributed 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.

*"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo. "So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for us to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us".*

The Lord of The Rings:  
The Fellowship of the Ring,

J. R. R. Tolkien

## 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.

## Always with us: Jesus and his Spirit

### 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.

Someone once said tongue in cheek: "The reason mountain climbers are tied together is to keep the sane ones from going home." Whoever said that may have been joking, but only partly. For, though we know that mountain climbers are tied together to keep from getting lost or going over a cliff and even to support and encourage one another, there is another piece of truth here. When things get difficult up on the mountain, many a climber is tempted to say, "This is too difficult! It's crazy! I'm going home." This is understandable and sometimes even prudent.

The life of faith can be like that. When doubts set in and despair overwhelms us, the whole notion of believing in God seems crazy. Jesus was aware that his disciples would have days like that, and so the focus in the opening verses of this chapter (Jn. 14) Here the focus is on two other interconnected aspects. The first of these is the intimate connection between the love which one has for Jesus and keeping his commandment of love - a theme which begins and ends this text - and the second is the promise of the Advocate, Helper, Comforter, Counsellor or Paraclete that Jesus will ask for the disciples from the Father who will come to their aid to give strength and courage when the going gets tough and the road is steep.

In the first, Jesus is explicit that the love of the disciple has to be a tangible love that will express itself in action. It is to be an imitation of the love that the first letter of Peter speaks about; the love of Christ who died for the guilty to lead us to God. This kind of unconditional love will lead to the disciple sharing in the Father's love. It also leads to second and connected aspect: the promise of the gift of the Advocate who will abide not only with the disciples but also in them. The Advocate can mean variously, "the one who comforts", "the one who helps" and "the one who makes appeals on one's behalf". This Advocate will not engage in any new work, but will continue the work of Jesus. The Spirit will ensure that the revelation of God begun in Jesus will continue forever, since the Spirit will be with the disciples for ever.

While not abandoning traditional beliefs - for instance, in the second coming and judgement - John handles them in a way which relates them directly to the present. The chief focus of his spirituality is not bigger miracles or stricter commandments, but the expansion of the initiative of love which comes from God and seeks to fill the world. This is why John's account of Jesus' last words insists on the Spirit, relationship and resultant action on communities of love which 'speak for themselves'. The passage is framed by human anxiety about the absence of Jesus and ultimately about the absence of God (14:1; 14:27). It does not deny the anxiety and distress, but offers a promise of presence and sense of meaning embedded in sharing God's life and participating in God's action in the world, recognizable by its 'Jesus-shape'. These parting words of Jesus are not merely for his immediate disciples but disciples of all times. This is why even after the death of Stephen by stoning and the general persecution of the Christian community, Philip, one of the seven chosen deacons, is aware of this presence of the Risen Lord and is bold to proclaim Christ. The Spirit working in and through him enabled him to both preach and act as Jesus himself had done. The result of Philip's actions through the guidance of the Spirit was that people were made whole. This combination of healing word and action resulted in great rejoicing, and many were drawn to Christ.

This presence, in which the disciples lived, continued to sustain them and make an impact on others. Since this was so, they are exhorted in the second reading of today to be willing to share that hope. It is not to be a sharing that smacks of condescension or a sharing which professes to have the whole truth, but a sharing that has to be done in humility, courtesy and reverence for the other. We are given as it were a starting point for inter-religious dialogue. This kind of sharing is the need of the hour in today's world. In a world that is already a global village but also where each community is becoming more closed in on itself and parochial, the task of the Christian community is evident. Convinced that the Risen Lord continues to accompany us on our journey in and through his Spirit which abides in each of us, we must be able to communicate this presence which is manifested in peace, joy, fellowship and justice for all.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ