



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

208 Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa,  
WR9 8AZ, Tel: 01905 773258  
Email: sacredheartdroitwich@hotmail.co.uk  
Web: www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk



### Today's Mass Readings

Acts 12: 1-11;

Psalm 33;

2 Timothy 4: 6-8

Matthew 16: 13-19

**Welcome to this House  
of God:**  
**Talk to God before Mass**  
**Listen to God during Mass**  
**Talk to others after Mass**

This Week 28th June - 5th July (Psalter Week 1)	Mass Intentions (Mass will be said privately by the Parish Priest)	Other Events
<b>Sunday 28th June</b> Solemnity of Ss. Peter & Paul, Apostles Year A	Vincenza Eaton RIP (MF)	1.00 pm - 4.00 pm Private Prayer
<b>Monday 29th June</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	John and Lesley Ashton RIP (KA)	
<b>Tuesday 30th June</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	Dame Vera Lynn RIP (BB)	10.00 am - 12 noon Private Prayer
<b>Wednesday 1st July</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	Intentions of Jithin Jhony	
<b>Thursday 2nd July</b> Feria in Ordinary Time		10.00 am - 12 noon Private Prayer
<b>Friday 3rd July</b> Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle	Intentions of the Stewards	
<b>Saturday 4th July</b> Feria in Ordinary Time	<b>10.30 am Holy Rosary</b> 11.00 am Holy Mass <b>Holy Rosary and Holy Mass subject to change</b>	
<b>Sunday 5th July</b> Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	Sick and Housebound of the Parish Sunday Masses to resume - <b>Times to be confirmed</b>	

*“It is in the Eucharist that all that has been created finds its greatest exaltation...In the Eucharist, fullness is already achieved; it is the living centre of the universe, the overflowing core of love and of inexhaustible life.”*

Pope Francis, Laudato Si' (paragraph 236)

## 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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## RESUMPTION OF COLLECTIVE ACTS OF WORSHIP FROM SATURDAY 4TH JULY

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales said: "I welcome the statement by the Prime Minister...that places of worship are now able to resume collective acts of worship from Saturday 4th July. This is welcome news for members of all religions in England. I thank all who have worked hard to bring this about, not least my fellow religious leaders." The full statement can be found at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/cardinals-statement-on-resumption-of-collective-acts-of-worship/>. A letter to all parishioners from the Archbishops of England can be found on the parish website and was distributed with this newsletter.

## CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

The church is open for private prayers from 1.00 pm until 4.00 pm today and from 10.00 am until 12 Noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed during this time. Following the announcement that collective acts of worship can resume, on Saturday 4th July there will be the Holy Rosary at 10.30 am followed by Holy Mass and the three Sunday Masses will resume on Sunday 5th July. **Please note that the arrangements for Saturday 4th July and Sunday 5th July are provisional and subject to change pending receipt of the guidance from the Archdiocese of Birmingham. We will distribute further information when it is available.** When you come to the church you will find some new arrangements made. There will be stewards at the entrance to welcome you and at the exit to help you. To ensure the Government guidelines are followed you will have to sanitise your hands before entering the church and at the exit. Seating arrangements and directions are in place to maintain social distancing. There will only be limited seating available in the church at any one time. Hand gloves and/or a face mask can be worn to limit the spread of infection. The benches and church premises will be regularly cleaned after use to prevent infection. Please avoid touching walls, door handles etc. as much as possible. Please follow the instructions from the stewards; they are there to help you. These regulations may look rather strange, but they are there to keep you safe. Fr. George Mathew SCJ

## APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR STEWARDING

The church is now open for private prayer and will hopefully be opening for Mass soon. We always need at least two volunteers as stewards in the church. Are you or members of your family or friends (must be over 18 years and under 70 years) able to be a steward in the church for an hour or two at a given time to help us? If you can help us please contact the parish office via email or by phone for more details. The opening of the church is completely dependent on the availability of the volunteers so please help us. We still need more to join our team. Thank you very much to those who have already offered their time.

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### USEFUL LINKS

#### BDES: CATHOLIC EDUCATION

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

#### CAFOD

[www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk)

#### CTS BOOKS

[www.ctsbooks.org](http://www.ctsbooks.org)

#### VATICAN WEBSITE

<http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>  
<https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>

#### ALIVE PUBLISHING

<https://www.alivepublishing.co.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

#### PATHWAYS TO GOD

<https://www.pathwaystogod.org/resources>

#### THE TABLET

<https://www.thetablet.co.uk/>

### 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.

### THE CATHOLIC CHURCH BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Please visit [www.cbcew.org.uk/](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/) for resources including news articles, links to streamed Masses, podcasts and prayers. This includes the podcast and transcript *How to pray and re-connect with the church as places of worship re-open for private prayer.*

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### CAFOD

We have received the following message from CAFOD:  
"Thank you to all parishioners at Sacred Heart & St Catherine of Alexandria for your generous support for CAFOD this year and for your latest donation of £397.93 which we received on 29th May 2020. It means so much to us that you have reached out to our brothers and sisters around the world, when life here at home is quite changed. The support of parishes like yours is also the reason why we can be there when an emergency strikes and reach people in urgent need. Thank you so much for being there for our global family."

### TRUST SECRETARY

The Archdiocese is seeking a voluntary part time Trust Secretary to assist the Trustees in good "corporate practices". Details can be found on the parish website.

*"Let us, then, feel very sure that we can come before God's throne where there is grace. There we can receive mercy and grace to help us when we need it.*

Hebrews 4: 16

### DROITWICH CATENIANS

**Fellow Catholic parishioners – please come and join us!**

The Catenians are a Catholic association for men and their families, strengthening family life through friendship and faith. Our Droitwich Circle welcomes new members. For further information, contact **Mike Nott** on **07756 876269**.

## **DROITWICH SVP**

Sacred Heart SVP can be contacted on 0777 292 7535 or at droitwichsvp@googlemail.com.

## **FOODBANK**

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

## **ONLINE DONATIONS**

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. Thank you for your generosity.



## **Next Sunday's Mass**

### **Readings**

*Zechariah 9: 9-10;*

*Psalm 144;*

*Romans 8: 9, 11-13*

*Matthew 11: 25-30*

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

## ***Peter & Paul: Denier & Persecutor.***

There is an old story about the death of St. Peter in Rome during the persecution of Nero. Peter heard about Nero's plan to burn the city and blame the Christians. He figured that as he was the leader of the local Church, he would be arrested and put to death. So he did the sensible thing - Peter was always a sensible 'man' - he got out of town at night. The Appian Way was dark. However, as the night wore on the sky was illuminated by the flames rising from the city. Peter hurried on and eventually was far enough from the city that it was dark again. Then he saw someone coming in the opposite direction, someone who, even at night, seemed familiar. It was the Lord himself. What was he doing out at night and walking towards Rome? "Where are you going, Lord?" Peter asked him. "To Rome", Jesus replied, "to be crucified again in your place". Peter turned around and returned to Rome and according to tradition was crucified there.

Though this story does not agree with what is narrated in the first reading of today from the Acts of the Apostles, in which we are told that Peter was imprisoned, it does agree with what the Gospels narrate about Peter's denials, and brings out an important facet of the meaning of the feast: Jesus did not choose strong, brave and courageous individuals to continue the work that he had begun. He chose weak, frail and cowardly humans. He chose individuals who would falter and fail. This is the Peter who confessed Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the Living God" and to whom Jesus handed over the "keys" of the Church, knowing full well that there would be a time when the lofty confession would turn into a base denial. Paul's conversion story is narrated twice in the Acts of the Apostles and Paul himself speaks of it in some of his letters. As an apostle of Christ, his commission began with a divine revelation of the identity of the Lord Jesus. He talks of the events surrounding his recognition of Jesus as the Lord of glory and his appointment as apostle to the gentiles. Felled to the ground by a brilliant light, he wanted to know who it was who broke into his life with such awe-inspiring power. Just as Jesus told Peter that he would assign to him the charge of leading his Church when Peter recognized his master's true identity, so also Paul's task was given to him only after Jesus revealed himself as the glorified Lord.

The apostles' mission thus grew out of their loving knowledge of the person of Jesus, the Son of the living God. Their work, indeed, their whole life, was to follow from this surpassing knowledge of Christ which became the basis of all their dealing with others. They were given to the whole Church to teach us not only what Christ revealed and taught but also how to live as he himself had. Today we marvel at the transformation of these previously weak human leaders. Peter's newfound passionate commitment to his Lord and to the fledgling Church resulted in his imprisonment. Paul too was jailed. He did not see this as failure, but his destiny, the consequence of his commitment to the Gospel. He had fought the good fight, he had run the race, and he had kept the faith. He faced death, and he knew it. That was the price these two had to pay for their commitment and fidelity to the Lord.

Their personalities were very different, their approaches to spreading the faith were very different, and their relationships with Christ were very different. Although the two were both great apostles, there were moments of disagreement and conflict between them. And yet, they are bound together on this single feast, as they were bound together by one faith and one mission and their love for their Lord, for whom they gave their lives. The Church has been tossed to and fro in storms of controversy in many countries. It has been the target of fierce persecution from without, and it has also allowed evil to corrupt it from within. The lives of many have been diminished, their confidence undermined, and their faith tested. We should remember that dire trials are not new to the Church. From its very beginning it has faced opposition. The first reading today describes one such situation.

Despite its trials, however, the Church has survived and even flourished. This is not due to the strength and holiness of its members. The Church may have been built on Peter, the former denier, and spread by Paul, the former persecutor, but it is the Church of Jesus Christ, and it will endure because of his promise. Today we celebrate the fidelity of Peter and zeal of Paul, sinners like us all. Their eventual victory is evidence that the gates of hell shall not prevail. Their victory is evidence that we shall indeed overcome.

God bless you all. Hope to see you all next Sunday. Fr. George Mathew SCJ