



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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### Today's Mass Readings

2 Chronicle 36: 14-16, 19-23;

Psalm 136;

Ephesians 2: 4-10;

John 3: 14-21

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

This Week 14th March - 21st March (Psalter Week 4)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
<b>Sunday 14th March</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> <b>Year B</b> Retiring Collection for St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School	8.30 am Colum MacCourt RIP 10.30 am Baby Rowan Finch (MM) 6.00 pm Johanna Jay RIP (P & PG)	Mothering Sunday Dementia Prayer Week
<b>Monday 15th March</b> Lent Feria	9.15 am Colum MacCourt RIP (AM)	
<b>Tuesday 16th March</b> Lent Feria	9.15 am Johanna Jay RIP (BB)	
<b>Wednesday 17th March</b> Feast of St. Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland	9.15 am Harry Remedios RIP (KA)	
<b>Thursday 18th March</b> Lent Feria	9.15 am George Hancock (AM)	
<b>Friday 19th March</b> Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.15 am Mildred Paling RIP (MB)	
<b>Saturday 20th March</b> Lent Feria	11.00 am Thelma Davies RIP	<b>10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions</b>
<b>Sunday 21st March</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b> <b>Year B</b>	8.30 am Colum McCourt RIP & Family (SVP) 10.30 am Colum McCourt RIP (J & GP) 6.00 pm Colum McCourt RIP (T & CP)	

*"In recent years, the words "populism" and "populist" have invaded the communications media and everyday conversation. As a result, they have lost whatever value they might have had...Nowadays it has become impossible for someone to express a view on any subject without being categorized one way or the other, either to be unfairly discredited or to be praised to the skies."*

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 156)

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.00 pm:

**O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!**

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### 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, Sheila Manion, Sally McCool, Andrew McDermott, Stella McDermott, Jackie McLean, Michael Sheridan, Jacky Smith, Paul Smith, Margaret Steward, Angela Wardle, Breda Wightman, Mark Wightman, Richard Wightman & Monsignor Graham Wilkinson.

**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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### SACRED HEART COMMUNITY

Fr. George Mathew SCJ  
(Parish Priest)

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,

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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

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sacredheartdroitwich  
@hotmail.co.uk.

### SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

Gerry Ceclich

Kate Dalglish

Clare Tomlinson

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for **Margaret Walton** and **Peter Doran** who died recently. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. The Requiem Mass for Margaret Walton will be on Tuesday 6th April at 10.45 am followed by a cremation at Worcester Crematorium. Please keep their family and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

### EASTER SERVICES

Due to the restrictions on numbers in church, booking will be required for the following Masses over the Easter period: Maundy Thursday (7.30 pm), Good Friday (3.00pm), Easter Vigil (Saturday, 8.00pm) and Easter Sunday (8.30 am and 10.30 am). Booking will open from Sunday 7th March and close on Palm Sunday. Currently 51 places have been booked for Maundy Thursday, 75 places have been booked for Good Friday, 27 places have been booked for the Easter Vigil, 31 places have been booked for Easter Sunday 8.30 am Mass and 35 places have been booked for Easter Sunday 10.30 am Mass.

### COVID-19—UPDATE

Mass continues to be open to the public. In light of cases of the South African variant of Covid-19 being identified locally, we would like to remind all parishioners to ensure that you fully observe the rules that are in place at the Sacred Heart Church. It is especially important that you keep your distance from those not in your household or bubble and leave promptly after Mass. We appreciate your co-operation in helping us keep those who attend Mass safe from Covid-19.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS: LENT 2021

Due to the pandemic we are advised not to have the traditional Stations of the Cross in the church. In place of this each week we will make available a copy of the Stations of the Cross with different themes so that you can reflect and meditate about it by yourself at home. These will be sent by email and made available at the back of the church to take home.

## ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Following the fire at the school, a retiring collection in aid of St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School will be held on Sunday 14th March. Please keep the whole school community in your prayers.

### MASS INTENTIONS

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 a phone number or email address so that we can contact you if needed. Due to GDPR regulations, with the exception of deceased individuals, we are unable to publish names unless the Request for Mass Intention Form at the back of church is completed. If we do not have a form the Intention will be listed in the newsletter and stated at Mass as Private Intention. Please note that the next available date for Mass Intentions is currently Tuesday 27th April.

### 200 CLUB

200 Club ticket holdings have contracted yet again and stand at some sixty less than the maximum achieved in 2010. If, as a fresh face in our parish family, you are reading this, the parish 200 club offers monthly prizes of £75, £50, £25; in return we ask for an annual subscription of £26. With 200 tickets in the draw, we look to provide the parish with £3000 a year; your contribution can bring you an occasional reward and you can be sure that it is valued by the parish. Interested in joining? Please contact Kevin and Elizabeth Larkin on 01905 776122 or at [kevin.elizabeth@btinternet.com](mailto:kevin.elizabeth@btinternet.com).

### REDDITCH CARMELITE SPIRITUALITY GROUP

Redditch Carmelite Spirituality Group warmly invites you to join its Zoom meeting on Saturday 20th March from 11.00 am until 1.00 pm. The Zoom will be dedicated to St Joseph, Principal Protector of the Carmelite Order. Devotional prayers will include an optional Consecration to this great role model for us all, and conclude with Lectio Divina (meditation on a Gospel passage). For further details, please contact your parish secretary.

### ALTAR SERVERS

Please note that, with Easter Triduum services being much less complex this year, and in line with the requirement that we employ only the bare minimum of servers, you will only be asked to serve if we actually have a role for you. Your presence will be missed and we look forward to the time when we can, once again, see a full complement of servers on the sanctuary. Thank you.

### ST. PETER'S BROMSGROVE MINI VINNIES

St Peter's Church, Bromsgrove is currently closed but they have an SVP Mini Vinnie's group aimed at children aged 7-11 years. This is a St Vincent de Paul Society group operating within the parish. The leaders have organised YouTube Lent talks for the children in lieu of Children's Liturgy. The YouTube presentations can be found using the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdCalDCMoP1awbk9Dsif5PQ>.

### ADVENT JOURNEY

The "Walk with Me" booklet for the Lenten journey is available at the back of the church. This booklet is to help focus on our relationship with God and with people during Lent. Please consider taking a copy home to help prepare for Easter. These are free but donations would be gratefully received and given to the Missions in India. Thank you.



## MOTHERING SUNDAY

We would like to wish all mothers a Happy Mother's Day. We hope you enjoy your special day.

### COUNTING THE SUNDAY COLLECTION

If you can count and if you can spare half an hour once a month, you would be a great help to us if you'd join the rota of counters.

The task is not onerous and becomes even less so when there are more of us and the half hour comes around only once in six or seven weeks.

For more information contact Kevin Larkin on 01905 776122 or at [kein.elizabeth@btinternet.com](mailto:kein.elizabeth@btinternet.com)

### GIFT AID ENVELOPES

Gift Aid envelopes for the 2021/2022 Tax Year are now available to collect from the back of church.

## *God Loved us First*

**Main Collection  
(Sunday 28th  
February): £241.52**

**Gift Aid (Sunday 7th  
March): £151.50**

**Mass Attendance  
Last Sunday (church  
capacity with social  
distancing 1m + = 80)**

**8.30 am: 58**

**10.30 am: 44**

**6.00 pm: 50**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

**Retiring Collection for  
Cathedral  
Maintenance**

**Gift Aid: £70.00**

**Retiring Collection for  
CAFOD**

**Gift Aid: £128.65**

**Thank you for your  
generosity.**



**Next Sunday's Mass  
Readings**

*Jeremiah 31: 31-34;*

*Psalms 50;*

*Hebrews 5: 7-9;*

*John 12: 20-33*

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

One word that is overused, sometime misused other time abused is the four-letter word 'LOVE'. These were the words spoken by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in his encyclicals called *Deus Caritas Est* first paragraph. Why did he use the word 'misused'? perhaps we human persons may not have understood the real meaning of the word LOVE. The perfect form of love is God's love. God is defined as love; God's love is perfect. Where do we find this love expressed? In the bible. The Gospel reading today speaks about that; "God Loved the world so much that He gave His only son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not be lost but may have eternal life" (John 3:16). What a perfect expression about God's love. The whole Gospel message is compacted into this one single sentence.

In the first reading the Israelites with their political and religious leaders all rebelled against God and defiled God's dwelling place. Out of love for them, God constantly sent messengers to direct and teach them, but their messages were treated with scorn. God did not abandon them, but kept on watching them as they neglected His Love and continued with their sinful lives. Being vulnerable for being outside of God's love, they were attacked and taken into captivity by the Babylonians, Assyrians etc. When they suffered and learnt their lessons, God had to intervene because of the love He had for them by raising up a king who will proclaim their liberty, offer them treasures and help them rebuild the Temple as we see in book of Ezra chapter 1.

The second reading also confirms this love of God not just for the Israelites alone but for all of us. It says that because of God's love for us, He was generous to us with His mercy, to the extent that even when we were spiritually dead, because of our sins, He had to look for us and gave us life. This is very clearly expressed in the manifesto of St. Michael Garicoits our founder. "It has pleased God to make Himself loved, and while we were still his enemies, He loved us so much that he sent his only son: He gave Him to us to be the magnet which draws us to divine love, to be the model which shows us the laws of love, and to be the means of attaining divine love: the Son of God became man. He did nothing on His own; His actions were always directed by the Spirit of God; His disposition was one of constant abandonment to the orders of God, to suffer and do whatever He wanted: He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross". This is how God loves us..." (Manifesto of St. Michael Garicoits). God gives his most cherished beloved son. Any parent knows that the love for one's child is so great one might sacrifice oneself for a child. In this human experience we grasp God's self-giving love for us, giving us the precious gift of salvation, life forever through his beloved Son.

How should I respond to God's love? I need to take my personal prayer seriously by which I will truly see experience how God loves me and then receive that love. We need to be in the Lord's presence and let Him love us. We will then, recognize more and more all the blessings the Lord constantly gives us each day and give it out to everyone else. To do this, we may need to die to our desires. This concept of dying to our desire to please God was the starting point for St. Michael Garicoits. The Lord calls us to constantly put the needs of others and the world before our own. In doing that we will experience true joy which the world cannot give. God's love within us will challenge us to make a difference to the world. May God bless us to be the carriers of God's Love.