



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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### Today's Mass Readings

Jeremiah 31: 31-34;  
Psalm 50;  
Hebrews 5: 7-9;  
John 12: 20-33

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

This Week 21st March - 28th March (Psalter Week 1)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
<b>Sunday 21st March</b> Fifth Sunday of Lent Year B	8.30 am Colum MacCourt RIP & Family (SVP) 10.30 am Colum MacCourt RIP (J & GP) 6.00 pm Colum MacCourt RIP (T & CP)	
<b>Monday 22nd March</b> Lent Feria	9.15 am Paulose Varghese Edathala RIP (MF)	
<b>Tuesday 23rd March</b> Lent Feria	9.15 am Siwan Smith RIP (CP) 10.00 am - 12 Noon: Individual Prayer and Adoration	National Day of Reflection for Covid-19: 8.00 pm Two Minutes Silence
<b>Wednesday 24th March</b> Lent Feria	9.15 am Gladys Remedios RIP (KA)	
<b>Thursday 25th March</b> Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord	9.15 am David Veale RIP (AM)	
<b>Friday 26th March</b> Lent Feria	9.15 am Parish Wardens for Healing (BB)	
<b>Saturday 27th March</b> Lent Feria	11.00 am Pat Smith RIP (AM)	<b>10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confessions</b>
<b>Sunday 28th March</b> Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Year B	8.30 am George McClenhaghan RIP (MM) 10.30 am Alan Remedios RIP (KA) 6.00 pm Ron Hancock (AM)	

*“The biggest issue is employment. This is the finest help we can give to the poor, the best path to a life of dignity. Hence my insistence that, “helping the poor financially must always be a provisional solution in the face of pressing needs. The broader objective should always be to allow them a dignified life through work”. In a genuinely developed society, work is an essential dimension of social life, for it is not only a means of earning one’s daily bread, but also of personal growth, the building of healthy relationships, self-expression and the exchange of gifts. Work gives us a sense of shared responsibility for the development of the world, and ultimately, for our life as a people.”*

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 162)

**SACRED HEART  
COMMUNITY**

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(Parish Priest)

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**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**

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**SAFEGUARDING  
REPRESENTATIVES**

Gerry Ceclich  
Kate Dalglish  
Clare Tomlinson

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.00 pm:

A pure heart create for me, O God.

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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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**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. Places are still available at the Maundy Thursday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday Masses. On Good Friday, places are now only available in the Parish Hall.

**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.

## 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. This form can also now be found on the parish website at the following link: <http://www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk/services/request-for-mass-intention-form/>. 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 Monday 3rd May.

## 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.

## PARISH YOUTH GROUP

The Parish is aiming to start a youth group in the summer. The purpose of the group will be to create a community where young people can enjoy themselves, develop new skills and further their spiritual development. There are many ways that we can contribute towards the creation of this group. This could range from helping with admin., finance and fundraising to being present at meetings and overseeing some of the activities. All contributions will be most welcome. If you would like to be a volunteer Youth Worker, the Archdiocese has also offered to provide a six week (2 hours per week) intensive course into Youth Ministry. If you are interested in contributing please leave your name and email address on the sign up sheet at the back of the Church.

## SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

Spring is nearly here! Let us celebrate, have some fun and grow a sunflower! A competition for everybody young and old, for all the family. No experience needed, just a patch of soil, water and love. All you have to do is register the growers name, contact number or email address and donate your £1 towards St. Joseph's building fund. You will be supplied with sunflower seeds and growing instructions. Updates on progress/growth can be given by using the email address supplied and I will update a chart located at the back of church. On Wednesday 1st September you will submit the height of your sunflower and diameter of the seed head. A prize, donated by the Droitwich Catenians, will be awarded to the tallest sunflower and the biggest seed head. The judges verdict will be final. Everyone will receive the same variety of sunflower so it's fair for all. Please Contact Paul Clancy at church or by phone on 01905 771716.

## 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/UCdCaIDCMoP1awbk9Dsif5PQ>.

## GIFT AID ENVELOPES

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

## 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 [kevin.elizabeth@btinternet.com](mailto:kevin.elizabeth@btinternet.com)

## 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.

**Main Collection  
(Sunday 7th March):  
£846.75**

**Gift Aid (Sunday 14th  
March): £466.00**

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

**8.30 am: 53**

**10.30 am: 38**

**6.00 pm: 35**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

**The Retiring  
Collection for  
Cathedral  
Maintenance raised:  
£111.00**

**Additional Gift Aid:  
£5.00**

**Thank you for your  
generosity.**

### **FOODBANK**

There is a new wish that has been distributed with this newsletter and is on the website. Small Easter Eggs would also be appreciated. Donation points are listed on the poster. Thank you for your generosity.

**Next Sunday's Mass  
Readings**

*Isaiah 50: 4-7;*

*Psalms 21;*

*Philippians 2: 6-11;*

*Mark 14: 1 - 15:47*

As we continue our journey through the Season of Lent, today, the 5th Sunday of Lent, Jesus reminds us of a great paradox - the paradox of life through death, success through failure. To understand this paradox better, he invites us to look at nature. "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (Jn 12:24). The lowest, the darkest, and the most painful hour in the life of a seed is the hour in which it dies. Yet this is precisely the hour in which new life is born. It's an amazing contradiction—life coming from death. The great statesman, Sir Winston Churchill, once said, "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." Our highest life does not consist in self-expression but in self-sacrifice.

Jesus spoke about 'his hour' several times during his public ministry. But he always spoke of it as not having yet come. However, in today's Gospel passage we hear Jesus say, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified". It was an hour of supreme self-giving in which he made a complete sacrifice of himself for us. From a worldly point of view that hour was an hour of failure. Worse, it was an hour of shame and humiliation. But by raising him from the dead, God turned it into an hour of triumph for Jesus, and an hour of grace for us.

It is the same with our life. Our lowest moments can prove to be turning points. Just as the grain of wheat has to die in order to bear fruit, so must we die to self if we are to live fully and fruitfully. A grain of wheat may love being a grain of wheat. It may be the best grain of wheat in the world. But what happens to a grain of wheat if it is neither planted nor milled for flour? It just dries up and shrivels and precisely achieves none of its potential or purpose. But if it is planted in the ground then, yes, the grain will disappear, but it will be transformed into something else entirely, a stalk bearing many grains. If the original grain had loved its life so much that it had resisted falling into the ground and dying to itself then it would have achieved nothing but by holding its current existence lightly it achieves its full potential – life and life in abundance.

Indeed, by dying to some of our old attitudes and forms of behaviour we will discover a new way of life. We have to die to our self-centredness to other centredness to make room for a happy life with our family. We have to die to familiar routine to make room for a new job, a new direction in life. All these daily deaths bring fresh energy into our life – a sense of newness so to say! Dying to self would mean, sacrificing one's self-will for the sake of God's will, which is "placed within us and written in our hearts" as pointed out by Jeremiah (31:33). By dying to our self-seeking and vain ambitions, we come closer to God and to one another. But for all this to be possible, we need to have the courage of our convictions to let go! – Let go of the past, let go of all that keeps us from advancing in the Faith. We need to have complete trust in God to transform us into a new creation. Our faith is the fruits of the sacrifices of many people in the past. Therefore, let us safe guard this gift of faith the best way we can. God bless us.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ