



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

*Isaiah 50: 4-7;*

*Psalm 21;*

*Philippians 2: 6-11;*

*Mark 14: 1 - 15:47*

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

This Week 28th March - 4th April (Psalter Week 2)	Mass Intentions	Other Events
<b>Sunday 28th March</b> <b>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</b> <b>Year B</b>	8.30 am George McClenhaghan RIP (MM) 10.30 am Alan Remedios RIP (KA) 6.00 pm Ron Hancock (AM)	
<b>Monday 29th March</b> Monday of Holy Week	9.15 am Johanna Jay RIP (AM)	After morning Mass: Confession
<b>Tuesday 30th March</b> Tuesday of Holy Week	9.15 am Peter Albuquerque RIP (KA)	After morning Mass: Confession
<b>Wednesday 31st March</b> Wednesday of Holy Week	9.15 am Elsie & Adrian Wall RIP (BB)	After morning Mass: Confession
<b>Thursday 1st April</b> Thursday of Holy Week	<b>7.30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper</b>	
<b>Friday 2nd April</b> <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	<b>3.00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion</b>	
<b>Saturday 3rd April</b> <b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>	<b>8.00 pm Vigil Mass of Easter</b>	
<b>Sunday 4th April</b> <b>SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION</b> <b>OF THE LORD</b> <b>Year B</b>	8.30 am Holy Mass 10.30 am Deceased members of Whiteman family <b>No Evening Mass</b>	Easter Offering for the Sacred Heart Fathers and Brothers

*“Education and upbringing, concern for others, a well-integrated view of life and spiritual growth: all these are essential for quality human relationships and for enabling society itself to react against injustices, aberrations and abuses of economic, technological, political and media power.”*

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 167)

## 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,  
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

Mob.: 07927 145040

Email:  
sacredheartdroitwich  
@hotmail.co.uk.

### SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

Gerry Ceclich  
Kate Dalglish  
Clare Tomlinson

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.00 pm:

**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**

---

### 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.**

---

### 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 Tuesday 4th 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.

## CATHOLIC UNIVERSE & CATHOLIC TIMES

To our Catholic Universe and Catholic Times readers in the parish, at the moment you are unable to collect your paper at Mass, but you can get it delivered direct to your home every week with free postage. Please call 0161 820 5722 or visit [www.thecatholicuniverse.com](http://www.thecatholicuniverse.com) and they will arrange this for you. The annual cost for the print copy only is £99.00 with free postage and the annual cost for the digital copy only is £55.00.

## COLUM MACCOURT RIP

The family of Colum MacCourt would like to thank every parishioner for their prayers and support and the Masses offered for him and for the family.

## 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).

## 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.

## *Saving Us Through Suffering*

**Main Collection  
(Sunday 14th March):  
£201.50**

**Gift Aid (Sunday 21st  
March): £135.10**

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

**8.30 am: 59**

**10.30 am: 47**

**6.00 pm: 52**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

**The Retiring  
Collection for  
St. Joseph's raised:  
£684.20**

**Additional Gift Aid  
donation for  
Cathedral  
Maintenance: £5.00**

**Thank you for your  
generosity.**

### **GIFT AID ENVELOPES**

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



**Next Sunday's Mass  
Readings**

*Acts 10: 34, 37-43;*

*Psalms 117;*

*1 Corinthians 5: 6-8;*

*Mark 16: 1-7*

Passion Sunday or Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week in which the church commemorates the Last Supper and the first Eucharist on Holy Thursday and Christ's Death on Good Friday and the glorious Resurrection on Easter Sunday. The Holy week is an experience of mixed feelings. It's a moment to rejoice as well as a moment of sadness. My dear brothers and sisters, we know through human experience that life is a mixture of joys and sorrows, ups and downs. Life is a blend of everything. The Passion and the Resurrection of Jesus must enlighten our minds to understand the meaning and the facts of life in total perspective.

The Liturgy of the Word invites us to reflect on the suffering of Christ our Saviour, which unfolds into our human salvation. The Cross which was once the sign of suffering and shame, has become a sign of Victory and Grace. The suffering and crucifixion of Jesus is specifically called Passion because no part of the life of Jesus evokes so much emotion, passion and compassion. The Sorrowful mysteries of the Holy Rosary provide a good summary of the Passion narrative. These five mysteries: the agony in the garden; the flogging (scourge); crowning with thorns; carrying of the cross and crucifixion were all moments of intense struggle and emotion. Mel Gibson's film, *The Passion of the Christ*, in 2004 attracted millions of viewers because of the graphic presentation of the Passion of Christ. The movie demonstrates the intensity of the suffering and anguish of Jesus. The Passion of Jesus is also an eloquent story of betrayal by a trusted friend and confidant. His Passion tells us that suffering is not reserved for sinners but that the innocent also suffers. John Piper, author of the book *The Passion of Jesus Christ*, says: "Christ did not die to make good works merely possible or to produce a half-hearted pursuit. He died to produce in us a passion for good deeds." Therefore, the ultimate lesson of the Passion story is positive: the tree of death (the cross) is transformed into the tree of life.

We can make the Holy Week more spiritual and meaningful through a Metanoia experience, change of heart and mind. We are called to respond positively and constructively for our own good and for the good of others. We are invited to make the difference by sharing Jesus' love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness with our brothers and sisters. The Holy Week which is the most important week in the Catholic Liturgical Calendar must assist us to reach the peak of our Christian living. The Holy Week which will culminate through the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday, must empower us to be the carriers of Gospel values which is the need of the hour in the present society we live in. Let us thank God for not being the carriers of Coronavirus which has brought the entire humanity stand still and on its knees. The Lock Down the world is facing today must deepen our Faith and Trust in the Lord as a family for He is our Shield and Protector. Let us strive to make the Holy Week more meaningful, though we are all wrestling with testing and uncertain moments caused by Coronavirus. Let us not forget that it was Jesus' suffering that gave us Victory and Salvation.

God remains silent when evil and sin shout, scream and destroy. When the life of the Son of God is snuffed out, it is then that God speaks. He speaks loud and clear. He speaks not in vengeance, counter-attack and destruction. God does not retaliate Pilate, the Roman soldiers, the high priests and the passers-by. Instead, he splits a curtain and makes himself open and available! Jesus "emptied himself" totally and became filled with the Spirit of his Father. He clung to nothing; he let go of everything. Do we have the courage to do likewise?

May God bless you to have a Jesus filled Holy Week. Fr. George Mathew SCJ

4