



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 9: 26-31;  
Psalm 21;  
1 John 3: 18-24;  
John 15: 1-8

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

This Week 2nd May - 9th May Psalter Week 4	Mass Intentions	Other Events
<b>Sunday 2nd May</b> <b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> Year B	8.30 am Mr. Diarmuid O'Regan (BB) 10.30 am Mrs. Pat Snelling (PW) 6.00 pm Mary Tomnie RIP (P & PG)	
<b>Monday 3rd May</b> Feast of Ss. Philip & James, Apostles	10.00 am Barbara Sandel RIP (CS)	
<b>Tuesday 4th May</b> Feast of the English Martyrs	9.15 am Peter Doran RIP (BB)	
<b>Wednesday 5th May</b> Easter Feria	9.15 am Mr. & Mrs. Garvey - Thanksgiving (BB)	6.00 pm: Adoration & Benediction (Live Streamed only)
<b>Thursday 6th May</b> Easter Feria	9.15 am Mr. & Mrs. Varney - Thanksgiving (BB)	
<b>Friday 7th May</b> Easter Feria	9.15 am Kay Bellingham RIP (BB)	6.30 pm: Novena to the Sacred Heart (Live Streamed only)
<b>Saturday 8th May</b> Easter Feria	11.00 am David Thompson RIP (JM)	<b>10.15 am - 10.45 am:</b> <b>Confessions</b>
<b>Sunday 9th May</b> <b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> Year B	8.30 am Chris & Sylvia Padden RIP (MJ) 10.30 am Peter Doran RIP (SVP) 6.00 pm Bernadette Violet Duffy RIP (PD)	Retiring collection for the Clergy Training Fund

*"We are still far from a globalization of the most basic of human rights. That is why world politics needs to make the effective elimination of hunger one of its foremost and imperative goals...Often, as we carry on our semantic or ideological disputes, we allow our brothers and sisters to die of hunger and thirst, without shelter or access to health care. Alongside these basic needs that remain unmet, trafficking in persons represents another source of shame for humanity, one that international politics, moving beyond fine speeches and good intentions, must no longer tolerate. These things are essential; they can no longer be deferred.*

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (paragraph 189)

**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:

**You Lord are my praise in the great assembly.**

---

**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 **Zita McConnell** who died recently. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace Please keep her family and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

**VOCATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD**

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May Fr. Michael Dolman, the Vocation Director from Oscott College, will be visiting our parish to speak about Vocation to Priesthood and promote this to our young people. Fr. Michael will be speaking at all Masses and this will include an appeal for the Clergy Training Fund. We appreciate that many have already given generously to the Clergy Training fund in the recent collection. Thank you for your kind donations.

**LIVE STREAMING**

Live streaming from the Sacred Heart Church has been installed. Please make use of this to participate in Mass and other events if you are unable to attend church. The live stream can now be viewed via our own website on the homepage. For those who are helping in the Sanctuary, your images will be visible via the live stream. Consent forms have been distributed via email and are also available from either Fr. George or the parish office. These will need to be completed prior to the first Mass you help at. Please could those involved in helping at Masses please let Fr. George know as soon as possible if you are not happy to give your consent. The front pew may be visible, if you do not want your image to be part of the live stream then please sit further back in the church. The pandemic has resulted in a significant fall in parish income. The cost of installing the live streaming technology was around £5,000.00. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the live streaming camera, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you to those who have already made a donation.<sup>2</sup>

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2021

If your child is in Year 3 or above and you wish for your child to be prepared to receive this Sacrament in the summer 2021, please would you contact Fr. George SCJ as soon as possible. The first meeting for parents and children will take place in May, date and time will be announced in due course. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions in place, this year the children being prepared by the parish will receive their First Holy Communion separately from the children at St. Joseph's. The First Holy Communion Mass for children prepared in the parish will take place sometime before the school summer holidays.

## REPORT ON THE ONLINE LENT RETREAT 2021

During Lent two groups of people met weekly online for an hour, 13 of us on Tuesday afternoons and 15 on Thursday evenings. We came from different churches, different denominations and different places – including several from Sacred Heart. The Jesuits at ISC in Glasgow sent daily emails with a Scripture reading, a short reflection, a picture and a piece of music all on the day's theme. We all prayed individually for 20 to 30 minutes each day with whatever parts of that day's material that seemed to speak to us. At the weekly online meetings, we shared what we wanted to of our felt experience during or after our prayer, though without further discussion. It was a listening group. Right from the start we were surprised how deep and open was this sharing and we all felt that that Spirit was moving strongly amongst us and there was a strong feeling of community in the groups. Again surprisingly, it seemed that doing this all on Zoom, rather than being physically present, made it easier for people to take part and to share so easily and deeply. We felt it a really blessed retreat.

## MASS INTENTIONS

We make every effort to accommodate Mass Intentions on the dates requested unless there are prior bookings. Due to GDPR regulations, with the exception of deceased individuals, we are unable to publish names unless the Request for Mass Intention Form 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 1st June.

## COVID-19

Mass continues to be open to the public. 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.

### *Act of Spiritual Communion Prayer*

*My Jesus,  
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,  
come spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself completely to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*

## WORCESTER CATHSOC PLUS

Are you 18-35 years old and interested in meeting like-minded Catholics? This group for Catholic young adults meets weekly to grow together in faith, prayer and fellowship. Due to social distancing restrictions, the group is currently meeting outside, but as restrictions lift, meetings will be held inside. Together they explore what it means to live out our Christian faith, do bible studies and prayer. If you are interested in attending and for more details about it, please join the Worcester CathSoc Plus group on Facebook or contact Martina at 07407 114014.

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

**Main Collection**  
**(Sunday 18th April):**  
**£229.67**

**Gift Aid (Sunday 25th**  
**April): £101.00**

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

**8.30 am: 57**

**10.30 am: 58**

**6.00 pm: 41**

**Thank you for**  
**supporting your**  
**Parish.**

**The Retiring**  
**Collection for**  
**the Clergy Training**  
**Fund raised:**

**Gift Aid: £81.40**

**Thank you for your**  
**generosity.**

### **FOODBANK**

There is a new wish list that is on the website and has been distributed via email. Fortnightly collections from the Sacred Heart Church resumed on Tuesday 20th April. Thank you for your generosity.



### **Next Sunday's Mass**

#### **Readings**

*Acts 10: 25-26,*

*34-35, 44-48;*

*Psalms 97;*

*1 John 4: 7-10;*

*Welcome to everyone at Mass today, especially if you are new to our church or haven't been to Mass for some time. If you are of another Christian denomination or non-Christian you are warmly invited to approach the priest or minister and ask or signify your wish for a blessing.*

### ***You are the branches!***

You must have heard about the Great Grapevine in Hampton Court near London that is about 250 years old. It has but one root which is at least two feet thick. Some of the branches are 200 feet long. Because of skillful cutting and pruning, the vine produces several tons of grapes each year. Even though some of the smaller branches are 200 feet from the main stem, they bear much fruit because they are joined to the vine and allow the life of the vine to flow through them. The discourse of Jesus on the vine and the branches seems to make this very point. It also gives us a beautiful image of Church and in doing so, states emphatically that Christian existence and life is never merely an individual life, but always a life lived in and through community of faithful.

In today's Gospel, Jesus uses the metaphor of the vine to express the relationship with His father and His disciples. Thus, the focus of the metaphor is interrelationship. If God is the vine dresser, Jesus is the vine and the disciples are the branches. While it is easy for most of us to understand God as the vine dresser and Jesus as the vine, it is important for us to understand our role as branches. If one branch cuts itself off from the vine not only will that branch wither and die and not be able to produce any fruit, but it will also result in the incompleteness of the vine. This means then that all positions in the Church are only functional and not to be used to dominate or oppress. It also means that each of us is responsible for the welfare of the other.

All too often Christianity has been understood as a religion that has only the individual dimension. The communitarian dimension has been neglected. This is seen in so many of the Sacraments (which are both individual and communitarian) being treated and regarded as private devotions. The metaphor of today makes explicit that mutual indwelling is at the heart of the preaching of Jesus, and that Christianity, while it surely has an individual dimension, just as surely it has a communitarian dimension. I am, as a Christian, my brother's and sister's keeper. Their joys and sorrow, their trials and tribulations, their successes and failures, have to be as real to me as my own if I am to be a Christian in the true sense of the word. The Christian does make an individual commitment and choice to follow Jesus, but he/she makes it in and through a community. This is seen clearly in the first reading of today, in which Saul who became Paul made such a choice. While Paul did have a personal experience of the Lord and was called by him though they were initially afraid because of his past, dared to directly, he also had to be accepted by the community who accept him as one of the branches of the vine. They not only did this, but also made his trial and tribulations their own, protecting him when his life was in danger. In doing so, the community showed in practice what it meant to be part of the vine.

If we, the branches, are not bearing much fruit, it may be that we are not feeding as we ought upon the life-giving flow from the vine. The great truth that Jesus is trying to tell us is that if we want life in all its fullness, then we must be connected to the "true vine," the very source of life. "Abide in me as I abide in you," Jesus said. We draw our life from him.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ