



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

*Joshua 5: 9-12;*

*Psalms 33;*

*2 Corinthians 5: 17-21;*

*Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32*

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

This Week 27th March - 3rd April (Psalter Week 4)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
<b>Sunday 27th March</b> Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C	8.30 am George McClenaghan RIP(MM) 10.30 am Thanksgiving Mass (BB) 6.00 pm People of the Parish	12 Noon: Baptism 5.15 pm Stations of the Cross
<b>Monday 28th March</b> Lent Feria	9.15 Jean Griever (LD)	
<b>Tuesday 29th March</b> Lent Feria	9.15 am Sheila Manion RIP	
<b>Wednesday 30th March</b> Lent Feria	9.15 am Peace in the World	10.00 am until 7.00 pm: Adoration
<b>Thursday 31st March</b> Lent Feria	9.15 am Holy Mass	
<b>Friday 1st April</b> Lent Feria	9.15 am Patricia Ceclich RIP (GC) 9.45am: Novena to the Sacred Heart (soon after Mass)	6.30 pm: Youth Group
<b>Saturday 2nd April</b> Lent Feria	11.00 am H Johnes RIP (BB)	10.00 am FHC Meeting (Parish Children) <b>10.15 am -10.45 am:</b> <b>Confessions</b>
<b>Sunday 3rd April</b> Fifth Sunday of Lent Year C Retiring Collection for Aid for the Ukraine	8.30 am Sheila Manion RIP (EK) 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Holy Mass	During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy 12 Noon: Baptism 5.15 pm Stations of the Cross

*“All this is inhuman! Indeed, it is also sacrilegious because it goes against the sacredness of human life, especially against defenseless human life, which must be respected and protected, not eliminated, and this comes before any strategy! Let us not forget it is inhuman and sacrilegious cruelty! Let us pray in silence for those who are suffering.”*

Pope Francis, 20th March 2022

## SACRED HEART COMMUNITY

Fr. George Mathew SCJ  
(Parish Priest)  
fr.george.mathew@  
rcaob.org.uk

**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 Catholic  
Primary School,  
Droitwich

Tel: 01905 773572

Email: office@st-josephs-  
droitwich.worcs.sch.uk

### HEAD TEACHER

Mrs. Cath Bryan

### PARISH SECRETARY

Kate Dalgleish

Tel.: 01905 773258

Email:  
sacredheart.droitwich@  
rcaob.org.uk

### PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

Gerry Ceclich

Kate Dalgleish

Clare Tomlinson

Email:  
sg.sacredheart.droitwich  
@rcaob.org.uk

**Archdiocese of  
Birmingham  
Safeguarding Team**

Tel.: 0121 230 6240

Email: safeguarding  
@rcaob.org.uk

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**8.30 am & 10.30 am:** Taste and See that the Lord is good.

**6.00 pm:** I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise always on my lips. In the Lord my soul shall make its boast; the humble shall hear and be glad.

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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, Barbara Coomber, Finbarr Cronin, Eileen Dalton, Delores Delaney, Frank Fawcett, Tony Gilroy, Joan Graham, Bev Griffiths, Beryl Hill, Alan Hurst, John Jennings, Sally McCool, Andrew McDermott, Jackie McLean, Michael Sheridan, Jacky Smith, Paul Smith, Margaret Steward, Angela Wardle, Breda Wightman, Mark Wightman, Richard Wightman, Monsignor Graham Wilkinson & Phil Yates.

**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 Dalgleish. 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 **Sheila Manion** who died recently. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. The Requiem Mass is at 10.00 am on Tuesday 12th April, followed by a burial at St. Mary's Churchyard. Please keep her family and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

### LIVE SIMPLY - THE NEXT CHAPTER

The Pope is urging us to Live Simply; the bible urges us to help others. The parish is proposing to combine the two by setting up a Community Garden to grow vegetables for those in need, the Foodbank and the presbytery. We need to start quickly for this season and above all we need a Garden Leader and a bunch of helpers – the more hands the lighter the work! If you would like to help with this project please give your name to Fr George or the Parish Office or write your name on a card and put it in the box provided at the back of church. We will get in touch with you. Thank you for your support.

### RECONCILIATION SERVICE

As part of the spiritual preparation for Holy Week and Easter, the Reconciliation Service is on Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of April at 7.00pm. Priests will be available to hear individual confessions.

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2022

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 2022, the deadline for receipt of names is today. The first meeting for parents and children will take place on Saturday 2nd April at 10.00 am in the Parish Hall. This year the First Holy Communion Mass will be on Saturday 11th June at 11.00 am.

## SAFEGUARDING - DBS CHECKS

It is the responsibility of the parish to ensure that individuals volunteering in the following roles have a current DBS check in place: Altar Servers (over 18s only), Catechists, Children's Liturgy Leaders, Eucharistic Ministers (home visitors only), SVP and Youth Group Leaders (over 18s only). If you currently volunteer in one of these roles and have not had a DBS check in the last 3 years or are unsure please could you contact [sg.sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk) as soon as possible. Many thanks, the Safeguarding Team.

## DAY OF RECOLLECTION FOR READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

The annual Day of Recollection will be on Friday 8th April from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm. Coffee, tea and sandwiches will be provided.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - REMINDER

Please note that the deadline for items to be included in the weekly newsletter is 11.00 am on Wednesday mornings for the following Sunday. This gives time for the newsletter to be drafted and reviewed prior to the newsletter being published and printed on Friday mornings. Many thanks for your understanding and co-operation.

## COVID-19 GUIDANCE: UPDATED 27TH FEBRUARY

The Archdiocese have recently updated their Covid-19 guidance. Please note that the wearing of face covering is now advised rather than mandatory. Please sanitise your hands on entrance and exit. Holy Communion will continue to be under one kind. Social distancing is not required but please be sensitive to the needs of others in church. As has always been good practice during pandemic, please **avoid** attending church if you, or someone in your household, has symptoms of COVID. A big thank you to all of you for your cooperation and understanding.

## ASYLUM SEEKERS - REQUEST FOR DONATIONS

The Droitwich Volunteer Bureau staff have asked if we at the Sacred Heart Church can collect the following for the Asylum Seekers who are in a hostel in Droitwich (all the items are for men):

- Moisturising body lotion and shave gel
- Razors
- Shaving foam
- Pants small-medium
- Laundry washing pods non-biological

## *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.*



## MOTHERING SUNDAY

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

## COMMUNITY MEAL

Caroline is looking for volunteers to help with the Community Meal, which she is hoping to start at the end of March or the first week in April. Thank you for your support.

## THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM: DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2022

We have a few copies of the 2022 Diocesan Directory available for parishioners. These are £2.75 each and are available from the Parish Office.

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

**Gift Aid: £131.00**

**Thank you for supporting your Parish.**

### **GIFT AID ENVELOPES**

Gift Aid envelopes for the 2022/2023 Tax Year are now available to collect from the back of church.

### **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

If you know of anyone in need please do not hesitate in contacting us on 0777 292 7535 or at droitwichsvp@gmail.com.



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

#### **Readings**

*Isaiah 43: 16-21;*

*Psalms 125;*

*Philippians 3: 8-14;*

*John 8: 1-11*

*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.*

### ***Come Back to Me!***

The 4th Sunday of Lent is known as Laetare Sunday. The word laetare comes from the Latin laetari: "to rejoice". This is a time to rejoice because we are closer to the Easter the greatest celebrations of the liturgical year. There is great rejoicing when the prodigal son returns home to rediscover his father's mercy and unconditional love. The story of the prodigal son is one of the most famous and well-known stories in the New Testament. We have heard it so many times during our lifetime.

So why did Jesus tell this story? The opening lines of the gospel give us the clue. The Pharisees and Scribes complain that Jesus is welcoming and dining with tax collectors and sinners. That means something that was happening in the local church community at that time when the Gospel was being written. Maybe those who were already members were scandalised by the way sinners were being reconciled. Maybe they were offended that less than desirable people were being invited to participate in the Eucharistic celebration. They had forgotten Jesus' approach to sinners, it's possible that we too have forgotten. So what is the story of the prodigal son about? Is it about the ungrateful younger son? Is it about the grudgingly obedient elder son? Is it about the extravagance of the Loving Father? It's all of the above and more...It is about God himself. The errant son's dramatic change from grief and guilt to forgiveness and restoration symbolically expresses the resurrection from the dead which Jesus makes possible to everyone who believes in him, a rebirth to new life from death.

We need to accept the fact that we are all prodigal children who have squandered our inheritance from our Father. There is a spiritual famine even in countries with a booming economy. Because of this spiritual famine, we resemble the younger son who lived with pigs. The modern spiritual famine can be seen in drug and alcohol abuse, fraud and theft, murders, abortions and violence against defenceless, sexual obscenities, marital infidelity and priestly infidelity, as well as hostility among and between people and nations. Sometimes this "spiritual famine" exists in our own families and can be seen when we condemn some of our family members to "survival-level" existence, and even contribute to the death of some of them by refusing to associate with them. Let us accept the fact that we have been squandering God's abundant blessings not only in our society and in our families, but also in our personal lives. Humanity chose to distance themselves from God, but God now stands at heaven's doors with open arms, waiting for us to return. The parable also contrasts mercy and unforgiveness. The father who had been wronged, was forgiving. But the eldest son, who had not been wronged, was unforgiving. His unforgiveness turns into spiteful pride and contempt for his brother. In this parable, Jesus gives us a vivid and dramatic picture of what God is like. He is kinder than any of us. He is full of mercy and forgiveness. He does not give up on us even when we have given up on Him. He squanders on us when we come home to Him. This acknowledgement should enable us to make a detour in our life, turn around, and run back to Him; and that is why we rejoice. Lent is a time to "pass over," from a world of vice to a world of reconciliation. It is a time to transform hatred into love, conflict into peace, death into eternal life. The message of Lent then, is, "We implore you, in Christ's name: be reconciled to God," as St. Paul tells us.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ