



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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### Today's Mass Readings

Isaiah 43: 16-21;  
Psalm 125;  
Philippians 3: 8-14;  
John 8: 1-11

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

This Week 3rd April - 10th April (Psalter Week 1)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
<b>Sunday 3rd April</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b> <b>Year C</b> Retiring Collection for Aid for Ukraine	8.30 am Sheila Manion RIP (EK) 10.30 am Mr & Mrs Wareham RIP & Bob Turner RIP (ST) 6.00 pm People of the Parish	During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy 12 Noon: Baptism 5.15 pm Stations of the Cross
<b>Monday 4th April</b> Lent Feria	9.15 Sheila Manion RIP (AM)	
<b>Tuesday 5th April</b> Lent Feria	9.15 am Bernadette Violet Duffy RIP (PD) 7.00 pm Reconciliation Service	
<b>Wednesday 6th April</b> Lent Feria	9.15 am Anthony Gilroy RIP	10.00 am until 7.00 pm: Adoration
<b>Thursday 7th April</b> Lent Feria	9.15 am Biju and Jesse	
<b>Friday 8th April</b> Lent Feria	9.15 am Alan Remedios RIP (KA) 9.45am: Novena to the Sacred Heart (soon after Mass)	10.00 am: Day of Recollection 6.30 pm: Youth Group
<b>Saturday 9th April</b> Lent Feria	11.00 am Denis Regan RIP (BB)	<b>10.15 am -10.45 am: Confessions</b>
<b>Sunday 10th April</b> <b>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</b> <b>Year C</b>	8.30 am People of the Parish 10.30 am Sheila Manion RIP (BB) 6.00 pm Holy Mass	During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy 12 Noon: Baptism 5.15 pm Stations of the Cross

*"We need to reject war, a place of death where fathers and mothers bury their children, where men kill their brothers and sisters without even having seen them, where the powerful decide and the poor die... War does not devastate the present only, but the future of a society as well... War should not be something that is inevitable... Instead, we need to convert today's anger into a commitment for tomorrow, because if, after what is happening, we remain like we were before, we will all be guilty in some way. Before the danger of self-destruction, may humanity understand that the moment has come to abolish war, to erase it from human history before it erases human history."*

Pope Francis, 27th 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**

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**Archdiocese of  
Birmingham  
Safeguarding Team**

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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

8.30 am & 10.30 am: What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad.

6.00 pm: They go out they go out full of tears, carrying the  
seed for the sowing. They come back, they come  
back full of song, carrying their sheaves.

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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, 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 **Anthony Gilroy** and **Sheila Manion** 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 Sheila is at 10.00 am  
on Tuesday 12th April, followed by a burial at St. Mary's Churchyard. Please  
keep their family and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

**LIVE SIMPLY THIS LENT**

Lent is a time to make changes in our daily lives as we prepare for Easter.  
Committing to live simply, sustainably with creation and in solidarity with  
those in poverty can help us deepen our relationship with God, ourselves  
and one another.

- Share more of your ideas on our living simply tree and strengthen the  
bonds of our community.
- Sign up to be part of our community garden team and care for God's  
creation.
- Challenge yourself to a parish 'unplugged' day – without your phone,  
TV or radio.

**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.

**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.

## **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.

## **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**

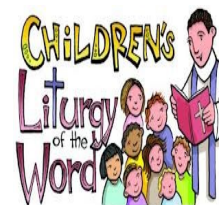
The Droitwich Volunteer Bureau staff have asked if we at the Sacred Heart Church can collect the following for the Asylum Seekers who are in a hostel in Droitwich (all the items are for men): moisturising body lotion and shave gel, razors, shaving foam, pants (small-medium) and laundry washing pods non-biological

## **FAITH AT WORK IN WORCESTERSHIRE**

Faith at Work in Worcestershire is an ecumenical charity, supported by churches across Worcestershire that sends chaplains into workplaces of all types across the county. We are launching a supporters' group which we hope individuals, churches and businesses will join. We hope supporters will help by praying for the world of work and our role in it. There will be a free Launch Event for Supporters of Faith at Work entitled *Re-engaging with the Economy* on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 7:00pm for 7:30 at Droitwich Methodist Church. Further information is on the noticeboard at the back of church.

## *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.*



## **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

There will be Children's Liturgy for two groups (4 to 7 year olds and 8 to 11 year olds) at the 10.30 am Mass. All children are welcome.

## **COMMUNITY MEAL**

Thank you to all those who have volunteered their time to help with the Community Meal. There will be a coffee meeting for all volunteers after the 8.30 am Mass on Sunday 1st May .

## **WORCESTER PASSION PLAY**

The Worcester Passion Play is taking place on Good Friday, 15th April, at 10.30 am in Cathedral Square Worcester. For more information visit <http://www.onegoodfriday.com/Worcester> Flyers are available at the back of church.

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

**Gift Aid: £111.00**

**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 50: 4-7;*

*Psalm 21;*

*Philippians 2: 6-11;*

*Luke 22: 14 –23: 56*

*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.*

***"Neither do I condemn you"!***

We are getting almost to the end of the Lent season. As we draw closer to the Holy Week, the liturgical readings brings hope. In the first reading, God tells us of the new things he has started doing among us and for us. This means that despite the difficulties of this present moment and season, the Lord will put a smile on our faces soon. St. Paul in our second reading tells us that he decided to count everything as a loss for the sake of Christ. This was to gain the future glory that God wishes to reveal in Christ. He understood the worth of the new life offered by God in Christ. So, he remained resolute in his faith. He did this even to the point of "reproducing Christ's death in himself".

The Gospel text of today speaks not of God's forgiveness but of non-condemnation. The Pharisees brought an adulterous woman to Christ. They thought that Christ would condemn her immediately. Instead of condemning her, Jesus restored her life and offered her a new chance to live. He simply told her: "Go and sin no more". It is also important to note that Jesus does not condemn the Pharisees either. He condemns no one. The merciful face of God is manifested in Jesus. A true father who always wishes the wellbeing of His children amidst their rebellion against Him. This is also made explicit in the words Jesus spoke to the woman caught in adultery, He said, "Do not sin again". This unconditional love has become the starting point for a new life for this woman. Even though He did not condemn the woman He made very clear and strongly warned that "Do not sin again". God does not condemn the sinner but sin, from which He urges us to keep ourselves away. The readings of today are thus a consolation to everyone, no matter to which category we may belong. We have been forgiven for our sin and forgiven unconditionally. If we identify with the woman in the Gospel story, then to us, too, the message is that our sin has been erased and that we have been forgiven, unconditionally, However, no matter with whom we identify, the next step after having experienced the forgiveness of God in Jesus is, like Paul, to forget what lies in the past and to press on to what lies ahead. And, what lies ahead is only unconditional forgiveness, mercy, and love.

This Gospel has got 5 important messages to communicate to us this Sunday. 1) God can transform bad things into good. 2) We need to let Jesus change us. 3) We need to have an awareness of our own sinfulness. 4) This awareness will lead us to a new beginning. 5) As a result of the new beginning we need to allow our past to let go. Finally, as we approach the glorious season of Easter, the Lord equally says to us: "Go and sin no more". This is an injunction we must believe and put into practice. He promises us a better future and a share in his glory if we remain faithful to this command. Therefore, we must constantly run to Jesus irrespective of our situation. This is because he is ever ready to acquit us of all the charges against us. So, let us shout for joy: "What marvels the Lord worked for us. Indeed, we are glad!"

Fr. George Matthew SCJ