



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;

Luke 22: 14 –23: 56

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

This Week 10th April - 17th April (Psalter Week 2)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 10th April Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Year C	8.30 am Mary Pope RIP (EK) 10.30 am Sheila Manion RIP (BB) 6.00 pm David Blakey's Recovery (WB)	Blessing of Palms in the Hall at each Mass 5.00 pm Stations of the Cross
Monday 11th April Monday of Holy Week	9.15 Sheila Manion RIP (C & JS)	Confession by Appointment
Tuesday 12th April Tuesday of Holy Week	9.15 am Mini Francis 10.00 am Requiem Mass	Confession by Appointment
Wednesday 13th April Wednesday of Holy Week	9.00 am Sheila Manion RIP (P & CI)	10.00 am until 7.00 pm: Adoration 11.30 am Chrism Mass at St. Chad's Cathedral
Thursday 14th April Thursday of Holy Week	7.30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper	
Friday 15th April GOOD FRIDAY	3.00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion	12 Noon: Stations of the Cross Retiring Collection for the Holy Places in the Holy Land
Saturday 16th April HOLY SATURDAY	8.00 pm Vigil Mass of Easter	
Sunday 17th April SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD Year C	8.30 am Holy Mass 10.30 am Holy Mass No Evening Mass	Easter Offering for the Parish Clergy

"I would like to say a word to the young, who are your future. Dear young friends, I want to share with you the most beautiful thing in life. Do you know what it is? It is the joy of giving ourselves completely in love, which makes us free. That joy has a name: it is Jesus. I wish you the beauty of falling in love with Jesus, who is the God of mercy...and who believes in you, dreams with you, loves your lives and will never disappoint you. Keep going forward always with Jesus."

Pope Francis, 3rd April 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 Dalglish

Tel.: 01905 773258

Email:
sacredheart.droitwich@
rcaob.org.uk

**PARISH SAFEGUARDING
REPRESENTATIVES**

Gerry Ceclich

Kate Dalglish

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

6.00 pm: **My God, my God why have you forsaken me? Why
have you forsaken, 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, 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 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 **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.

- Have two meat free days every week.
- Sign up to be part of our community garden team and care for God's
creation.
- Check your wardrobe: could you challenge yourself to buy no new
clothes for 12 months and discover new outfits from your existing
clothes and accessories?

CASHLESS GIVING DEVICE

If you notice any issues with the cashless giving device in church, please
could you contact the parish office as soon as possible. This will enable any
issues to be resolved swiftly. Many thanks. Parish Secretary.

EASTER SERVICES IN DROITWICH

The Salvation Army Band and Songsters will be in Droitwich on Good Friday
morning at 11.00 a.m. to conduct a short service. All are welcome. You are
also invited to join in the "Sonrise" service at St Augustine's (Dodderhill) on
Easter Sunday at 6.30am. Further details have been emailed with the
newsletter.

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 as soon as possible. Many thanks, the Safeguarding Team.

CARITAS SOCIAL ACTION NETWORK (CSAN)

POVERTY CHALLENGE - SEE, JUDGE, ACT

Following the pandemic, many households now also face new hardships as prices rise. Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN), the Catholic agency addressing poverty and injustice in England and Wales, has released a new free booklet to increase awareness of Catholic Social Teaching on poverty, and to inform local responses. This can be downloaded from www.csan.org.uk.

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.

200 CLUB WINNERS 2022 QUARTER 1

Month	Prize	Ticket No.	Initials
January 2022	£75.00	88	PWe
	£50.00	32	GNLy
	£25.00	117	GPI
February 2022	£75.00	18	VBa
	£50.00	200	FHo
	£25.00	21	PBe
March 2022	£75.00	68	KLa
	£50.00	193	BR-B
	£25.00	109	MO'R

More members are required please. The 2021 200 club accounts have been distributed with this newsletter.

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.*

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Details of Holy Week services at the Sacred Heart Church have been emailed with this newsletter.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will resume on Sunday 8th May.

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.

**Main Collection:
£206.79**

Gift Aid: £486.00

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**The retiring
collection for
Aid for Ukraine
raised: £606.20**

**Thank you for your
generosity.**

**Mass Attendance
Last Sunday: 194**

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

Acts 10: 34, 37-43;

Psalm 117;

1 Corinthians 5: 6-8

John 20: 1-9

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.

"He saved us through his suffering"

Today is Passion Sunday. Generally, we associate the word passion with strong emotions of fear, love, hatred and anger. Passion is also unlimited zeal and enthusiasm and this enthusiasm can be negative or positive. In the expression of emotions, we hear stories of passionate lovers such as Romeo and Juliet of Shakespeare and in the expression of enthusiasm we recall stories of passionate leaders like Nelson Mandela. We also read stories of leaders who had destructive passions such as Adolf Hitler, Idi Amin, etc. Scriptures warn against negative passions such as anger, lust and hatred and encourages crucifying passions of the flesh (Galatians 5: 24). Today's liturgy combines both a sense of "triumph" and "tragedy". At the beginning, we commemorate the triumph of Christ our King. This is done through the blessing of palms, the procession and the singing. In the Liturgy of the word, we hear the story of the sufferings and indignities to which Jesus was subjected. However, we keep in mind that even in this "tragedy" there is "triumph", because Christ came for precisely this purpose, to save in and through His death.

So, if passion is about emotion and enthusiasm, then what has passion got to do with the suffering and death of Jesus? The entire life of Jesus was full of passion. He carried out his mission with passion and zeal for his work consumed him (John 2:17). Nevertheless, 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 scourging at the pillar; 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 guilty 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.

The Passion narration we heard in the gospel brings us vivid emotions in us because in it we find God coming to us in his triumphant glory and in utter vulnerability. The Father seems absent and silent in both situations. He does not act, does not use his might and power to stop sinful people from doing their worst to Jesus his Son. It looks as if the Father has abandoned his own beloved Son. Why doesn't he do something? Where is God when the righteous Son is gasping for air on a Roman cross? 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 revenge 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? God bless us.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ