



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Acts 5: 12-16;
Psalm 117;
Apocalypse 1: 9-13, 17-19;
John 20: 19-31

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

This Week 24th April - 1st May (Psalter Week 2)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 24th April Second Sunday of Easter Year C	8.30 am Kathleen O'Toole-Healy-Hannon (CH) 10.30 am Special Intention (Mrs MC) 6.00 pm Dennis O'Hara RIP (BO)	Divine Mercy Sunday 12 Noon: Baptism
Monday 25th April Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist	9.15 am Tony & Marjorie Coyne RIP (BB)	
Tuesday 26th April Solemnity of St. George, Martyr, Patron of England	9.15 am Carmel & Mel Hughes RIP (BB)	
Wednesday 27th April Easter Feria	9.15 am Sheila Manion RIP (BB)	10.00 am until 7.00 pm: Adoration
Thursday 28th April Easter Feria	9.15 am Michael Hopley RIP (JH) 12 Noon: Requiem Mass	
Friday 29th April Feast of St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe	9.15 am Patricia Ceclich RIP (GC)	6.30 pm: Youth Group
Saturday 30th April Easter Feria	11.00 am Harry Remedios RIP (KA)	10.15 am -10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 1st May Third Sunday of Easter Year C	8.30 am Tony Allen RIP (MR) 10.30 am Doreen RIP (P & CI) 6.00 pm People of the Parish	

“May the grace of the Risen Lord give comfort and hope to all those who are suffering: may no one be abandoned! May quarrels, wars and disputes give way to understanding and reconciliation. Underscore this word always: reconciliation, because what Jesus did on Calvary and with His resurrection is to reconcile us all with the Father, with God and with each other.”

Pope Francis, 18th 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

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Primary School,
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HEAD TEACHER

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PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

Gerry Ceclich

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**Archdiocese of
Birmingham
Safeguarding Team**

Tel.: 0121 230 6240

Email: safeguarding
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RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am & 10.30 am: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.

6.00 pm: The stone which the builders rejected has become
the corner stone, alleluia, alleluia, has become the
corner stone.

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,
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 **Fr. Edward (Ted) Simpson SCJ, Dominic
Chapman, Angela Wardle** and **Anthony Gilroy** 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 Anthony Gilroy will be on Thursday
28th April at 12 Noon. The Requiem Mass for Fr. Ted will be at 11.00 am on
Monday 2nd May at Olton Friary with the Reception of the Body on Sunday
1st May at 7.30 pm. Following the Requiem Mass the body will be brought
to the Sacred Heart Church, Droitwich at 1.30 pm with the burial at
2.30 pm. After the burial there will be a reception in the hall in honour of
Fr. Ted. Details of the other funerals will be announced in due course.
Please keep their family and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

LIVE SIMPLY

Creator and ruler of the universe, You entrusted your world to us as a gift.
Help us to care for it and all people, that we may live in right relationship –
with You, with ourselves, with one another and with creation.

We share a communal responsibility to build a present and future that is
sustainable and just. Do you -

- Turn off the water when you are brushing your teeth?
- Eat local and seasonal food?
- Plant fruit trees?
- Join our community garden?
- Stop using plastic bottles of water?

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS - NEW ROTA

The new rota for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers from Sunday 24th April
until Sunday 12th June was emailed to all on Tuesday 19th April. Copies are
available from the Sacristy for those without email addresses.

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.

FAITH AT WORK IN WORCESTERSHIRE

Faith at Work in Worcestershire is an ecumenical charity that brings Christian care and support to people in workplaces across our county. They are launching a Supporters' Network to give support through prayer. The free Launch Event is on Wednesday 27th April at 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm at Droitwich Methodist Church. The event is free but it would help us to plan for seating and refreshments if people would book online via <https://sfww.eventbrite.co.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.

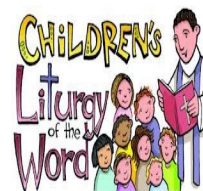
200 CLUB WINNERS 2022 QUARTER 1

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.*



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.

CAFOD

CAFOD have thanked all parishioners for your generous donations to their Lent Family Fast Day.

JOB VACANCY - WARDEN & CLERK, ST. SCHOLASTICA'S RETREAT

Full details have been emailed with this newsletter. For details of the role and how to apply, see: www.stscholasticas.co.uk/warden-clerk-vacancy

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

Main Collection (10th April): £324.64

Thank you for supporting your Parish.

The retiring collection for Holy Places raised: £136.35

Gift Aid: £61.00

Thank you for your generosity.

Mass Attendance Last Sunday: 294

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

If you would like some company a drink, chat and cake then please come and join us on Sunday 8th May from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm in the church hall. Please see the notice at the back of church for more information.

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 5: 27-32, 40-41;

Psalms 29;

Apocalypse 5: 11-14;

John 21: 1-19

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 is not here! He is risen! Alleluia!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, One of the things that makes the stories of the first Easter so believable is just that sense of unexpectedness – the disciples came to the tomb never having really believed that their Lord would return from death, and now they find themselves in a disturbing new world where anything is possible. What was it like for those first few hours after the empty tomb had been found, after Mary Magdalene had delivered her breathless message? It must have been a period of alarming doubt, half hope, half terror.

It is interesting to note that Easter is the least commercialised Christian feast. Perhaps the message of Easter is not so easily domesticated as Christmas and the other feast days. It is a story that now spans nearly two millennia and features men and women who have been stunned by joy. Christian joy, the joy of Easter, is also offered to the world not to guarantee a permanently happy society, a society free from tension, pain or disappointment, but to affirm that whatever happens in an unpredictable world - sometimes wonderfully unpredictable, sometimes horribly unstable – there is a deeper level of reality. A new creation that is a sort of world within the world, where love and reconciliation are ceaselessly at work, a world with which contact can be made so that we are able to live honestly and courageously with the challenges constantly thrown at us. And on the first Easter morning we are allowed to see, like Peter and John at the empty tomb, into the darkness for a moment – and find our world turned upside down, joy made possible. This joy is not simply the confident expectation of life after death, our deaths. If that is all Easter means, then Karl Marx was correct in condemning religions, especially Christianity, as the opiate of the people. What makes the joy of Easter resist domestication? The wounds, the scars. The risen body of Jesus contained the scars from nail and spear, and these scars identified the risen One to his followers. And yet, the wounds of Jesus took on new significance considering his Resurrection. While still reminders of the violence of crucifixion his wound-marked risen body demonstrates God's power over evil and death. His Resurrection is not a disembodied spiritual reality for life after the grave; it bears the marks of his wounded life here and now, yet with new significance. The Resurrection of Christ is central to our faith and gives profound value to what we do in this world. The struggle for justice and mercy, acts of love and the creation of communities of kindness and forgiveness all these all matter, and they matter forever. Take away the Resurrection, and these things are important for the present but irrelevant for the future and hence not all that important after all even now.

The vocation to holiness to the fully human life, reflecting the image of God, that is made possible by Jesus' victory on the cross and that is energized by the Spirit of the risen Jesus present within communities and persons. The Resurrection demonstrates that cynicism, despair and death do not have the final word either for human beings or for God's creation. God's last word is Resurrection amidst our human, often-wounded lives now. Pope Francis celebrates Easter Sunday with thousands of pilgrims in St. Peter's. He asked them to return home repeating the words, "Christ is risen." We no longer look for Jesus among the dead, in fairy tales or comforting fables, for Christ is risen, wounded yet glorious. Christ is risen, so our lives and the witness of our communities matter. Christ has risen, our joy is complete.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter. Fr. George Mathew SCJ