



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

208 Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa,
WR9 8AZ, Tel: 01905 773258
Email: sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk
Web: www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk



Today's Mass Readings

Exodus 17: 3-7;

Psalm 94;

Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8;

John 4: 5-42

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

This Week 12th March – 19th March (Psalter Week 3)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 12th March Third Sunday of Lent Year A Retiring Collection for CAFOD	8.30 am Abolition of the Death Penalty (MM) 10.30 am Patricia Fahy RIP (JL) 5.15 pm Stations of the Cross 6.00 pm People of the Parish	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall 2.30 pm: SVP Afternoon During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy
Monday 13th March Lent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am George Conway RIP (BB)	12.30 pm: Community Meal
Tuesday 14th March Lent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Patricia Fahy RIP (MS)	
Wednesday 15th March Lent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Private Intentions (C & GP)	10.00 am until 6.00 pm: Adoration 7.00 pm: Diocesan Vision Meeting
Thursday 16th March Lent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Catherine Sekovski RIP (BS)	2.00 pm: Church Tour
Friday 17th March Feast of St. Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland	9.00 am Stations of the Cross followed by Holy Mass (Margaret Parfrey RIP, C & GP)	6.30 pm: Youth Group
Saturday 18th March Lent Feria	11.00 am Patricia Fahy RIP (C)	9.30 am FHC Meeting 10.15 am -10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 19th March Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A Appeal & Retiring Collection for St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School	8.30 am Bob Grant RIP (DG) 10.30 am Special Intentions of Elizabeth (AM) 5.15 pm Stations of the Cross 6.00 pm People of the Parish	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy 10.30 am Mass led by children from St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

“How many luminous faces, how many smiles, how many wrinkles, how many tears and scars reveal love around us! Let us learn to recognize them and to fill our hearts with them. And then let us set out in order to bring the light we have received to others as well, through concrete acts of love.” (Pope Francis, 5th March)

**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 & 6.00 pm:

**O that today you would listen to his voice: "Harden not
your hearts".**

PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for all our parishioners, and/or their friends and relatives, who
are unwell:

Barbara Conway, Finbarr Cronin, Eileen Dalton, 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 & Msgr. 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 Dalgleish. Please note that the newsletter is also
placed on the parish website. Thank you for your understanding.**

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for **Delores Delaney & George Conway** 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 George Conway will
be on Monday 20th March at 11.00 am. Please keep their families and
friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

THE DIOCESAN VISION: UNFOLDING GOD'S PLAN FOR THE PARISH

The Diocesan Vision, published at Pentecost 2021, laid out the Archbishop's
vision and dream for the future of our Diocese. In continuation of this a
series of six sessions has been designed to help parishioners, parish leaders
and small groups engage with the Vision, and think about how we can take
practical steps to renew the mission and ministries within the parish. We
plan to begin these sessions during Lent and continue during the Easter
season. We invite the parishioners and parish groups to come along in a
friendly manner to reflect and discuss about our parish life in line with the
Diocesan Vision. The first session will begin on **Wednesday 15th March**
at 7.00 pm in the Parish Hall. The remaining 5 sessions will follow every
Wednesday. Each session will start with an opening prayer, excerpt from
the Diocesan Vision document, short reflection, questions/activities and
conclusion. The sessions will be 90 minutes each.

GIFT AID

As we approach the end of the tax year, please consider donating via Gift
Aid so that the church can claim the tax back from the Government on your
donations. Gift Aid forms are available from the parish office, or you can
select the Gift Aid option when donating via the cashless device in the
Narthex. **Making a gift aid declaration will not cost you anymore than you
donate.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023

The First Holy Communion Mass will be on Saturday 17th June at 11.00 am with the Commitment Mass on Sunday 21st May at 10.30 am.

NEWSLETTERS

In line with Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudate Si'* and the LiveSimply initiative, we have been trying to reduce the number of newsletters we print each week. At the moment, we print approximately 100 paper versions (down from 200 before Covid). This is 5,200 a year and accounts for a large percentage of parish printing. To try and maintain (or even reduce) these levels, please could you consider taking only one newsletter per family group, returning your newsletter after Mass if you do not need it and/or, if possible, joining the distribution list to receive the newsletter via email. Thank you to all parishioners who are currently on this email distribution list (over 100 people). To be added to this email distribution list, please contact the parish office. The newsletter can also be found at <http://www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk/>. Thank you for your understanding and support.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: FASHION SHOW & SUPPORTING PRISONERS AT LONG LARTIN PRISON

SVP are holding a fundraising fashion show on Saturday 22nd April at 4.00 pm. Tickets are now on sale after each Sunday mass priced £6.00 to include a glass of alcohol-free bubbly. We need to have final numbers of those intending to attend by the end of March. For more information please see the poster at the back of church or contact DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk or 0777 292 7535.

The chaplaincy at Long Lartin Prison has asked if we can collect puzzle books, word searches, colouring books and colouring pencils/crayons for the prisoners to use in their own rooms. If you are able to donate any of these items they would be very much appreciated. Please leave in the SVP donations box at the back of church. Thank you for your support.

LENT 2023 ONLINE RETREAT

There will be an online Lent Retreat (produced by the Jesuits) starting on Ash Wednesday (22nd February) and running until Easter Sunday (9th April). Each day, the website/daily emails provide a piece of Scripture, a thought for the day, a picture to ponder on and a piece of music. The idea is to pray by oneself for around 15 minutes using these prayer materials. There is also a little bit on 40 different saints, one for each day of Lent. If you want, you can join in weekly online meetings in small groups to see how our prayer has been going. These meetings are really encouraging and helpful, but are voluntary. These will be on Mondays at 7.30 pm starting on 27th February. If you are interested or for more details, please contact Max and Cecilia Jourdier on 01886 812259 or mandcjourdier@gmail.com or go direct to the Retreat website <https://www.iscglasgow.co.uk/lent23.html>

REFUGEE KNITTING

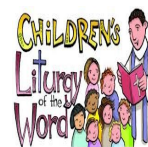
Thank you once again for the wonderful variety of exquisite items recently donated. What joy they will bring to the recipients in Syria, Turkey and Ukraine! Please keep knitting and store at home until requested, which hopefully will be during April. Please avail yourselves to wool, needles, patterns and buttons which are available in the cupboard at the back of the church. Donations of the same will also be gratefully accepted.

HOUSE MASSES DURING LENT

On Thursdays during Lent there will be House Masses celebrated in your own homes. If you would like to host a House Mass in your home, please let Fr. George know. The House Masses will start from Thursday the 2nd of March at 7.00 pm.

COMMUNITY MEAL

The next Community Meal is on Monday 13th March at 12.30 pm in the Parish Hall.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will next take place today during the 10.30 am Mass and on Sundays 19th & 26th March.

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

Main Collection:
£311.91

Gift Aid: £422.50

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 231**

**The retiring
collection for
Cathedral
Maintenance
raised: £36.60**

Gift Aid: £86.65

**Thank you for your
generosity.**

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

If you would like some company, a drink, chat and cake then please come and join us today from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm in the Parish Hall. Please see the notice at the back of church for more information. You can contact us at DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk or on 07772 927535 or on Facebook, SVP Sacred Heart Droitwich.



Next Sunday's Mass

Readings

1 Samuel 16: 1, 3-7,

10-13;

Psalms 22;

Ephesians 5: 8-14;

John 9: 1-41

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.

Today's Word of God pictures Jesus as the Messiah of all humanity. Throughout the Gospel of John, this theme appears in a variety of ways. One such story is that the encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan woman at the well. First, this story shows that Salvation is possible for everyone, it is not retained for certain people, but is for all humanity. In the story we can see that although Jesus was tired and thirsty, He was more focused on sharing His living water with the woman at the well. Even though the Pharisees and the rest of the Jewish society branded her a public sinner and a person to be avoided. In the multi-season series about the life of Jesus called 'The Chosen', the American film director Dallas Jenkins portrays the Samaritan woman at the well as a victim of sin of circumstances. When everybody hated her because who she was, Jesus knew her innermost longing to encounter God. The director Dallas Jenkins beautifully brought out this inner longing of the woman at the well in series.

The point of this remarkable story in the Gospel is that absolutely nothing stands in the way of our salvation, except not knowing our need of it. That same assurance is given to all of us, that whatever our past maybe we are saved by our encounter with Jesus from whatever weighs us down or holds us back. This is a wonderfully encouraging story of hope and a reminder that the Gospel of Christ isn't primarily a moral code, but rather it is a story of God's unconditional love for His children. The story also reminds us, and this is especially important to remember during Lent, that the Christian gospel isn't primarily about discipline and detachment. Detachment doesn't mean not owning anything, but not being owned by anything. And discipline isn't mere self-restraint, imposed from without, but the ordering of our lives in the direction of God that we desire above everything else. Therefore, to reduce Christianity to good behaviour is to miss the point: it is much more than good behaviour. What Christian life means, primarily, is living and being "in Christ": and that's not a matter of effort, merit or achievement, but sheer gift. Christian life means living with the life Jesus shares with us, his life: seeing, speaking, loving, as he did. St Paul expresses it perfectly. "I live", he says, "now not I, but Christ lives in me". "For me, to live is Christ", says St. Paul. That's where we find ultimate meaning, where everything in our lives comes together.

Once she recognises Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman ran to tell everyone that she encountered the Messiah. Our testimony about Jesus is a powerful tool in leading others to believe in Him: "Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I ever did.' They themselves came to see Him and listened to Him and more became believers. They said to the woman, 'We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world'" (John 4:39-42). Therefore, three things we need to remember from this gospel. 1) Salvation comes only to those who recognize their desperate need for the spiritual life they do not have. Living water can be obtained only by those who recognize that they are spiritually thirsty. 2) Salvation comes only to those who confess and repent of their sin and desire forgiveness. Before the woman could embrace the Saviour, she had to concede the full burden of her sins. 3) Salvation comes only to those who take hold of Jesus as their Messiah. For the absolute truth is that salvation is found in no one else (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). Fr. George Mathew SCJ