



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

1 Samuel 16: 1, 3-7, 10-13;
Psalm 22;
Ephesians 5: 8-14;
John 9: 1-41

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

This Week 19th March – 26th March (Psalter Week 4)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
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 10.30 am Mass led by children from St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Monday 20th March Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Bob Turner (ST), Fred & Dorothy Wareham RIP (JL) 11.30 am Requiem Mass	
Tuesday 21st March Lent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Paulose Varghese RIP (J & M)	
Wednesday 22nd 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 23rd March Lent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mary Cecilia Nicklin (AH)	
Friday 24th March Lent Feria	9.00 am Stations of the Cross followed by Holy Mass (Brenda O'Keeffe, JC)	6.30 pm: Youth Group
Saturday 25th March Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord	11.00 am Liz (BB)	9.30 am FHC Meeting 10.15 am -10.45 am: Confessions
Sunday 26th March Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A Retiring Collection for Easter Flowers	8.30 am George McClenaghan RIP (MM) 10.30 am Edward Sykes RIP (BS) 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

"With the joy of having met the Lord, we will quench others' thirst, giving meaning to someone else's life, not as masters, but as servants of that Word of God who has thirsted for us, who continually thirsts for us. We will understand their thirst and share the love he has given to us."

(Pope Francis, 12th March)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am & 10.30 am: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

6.00 pm: The Lord is my shepherd. Hymn 948.

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 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 **George Conway** who died recently. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. The Requiem Mass will be on Monday 20th March at 11.30 am. Please keep his families and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

10.30 AM MASS

Today the 10.30 am Mass will be led by children from St. Joseph's School. A big thank you in advance to all the children and the staff from St. Joseph's School for leading the liturgy beautifully.

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

As part of Unfolding God's Plan for our Diocese and the Parish with the Diocesan Vision, we had our first session last Wednesday. Around 20 people attended the session and they all felt that these sessions are very much needed for the overall growth of our parish. So, in continuation of this, another five sessions have been designed to help more parishioners, parish leaders and small groups to engage with the Vision and think about how we can take practical steps to renew the mission and ministries within the parish. We invite more 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 second and third sessions will be on **Wednesday 22nd March and Wednesday 29th March** at 7.00 pm in the Parish Hall. The remaining 3 sessions will follow after Easter. 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.

LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE

As part of the spiritual preparation for the Easter, we have our Lenten Penitential Service on Monday 27th March at 7.00 pm. After the service priests from the deanery will be available to listen to individual confessions. Kindly take us this opportunity to receive the sacramental grace of reconciliation and to fulfil the second and third commandments of the church.

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,
Droitwich

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HEAD TEACHER

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Archdiocese of Birmingham

Safeguarding Team

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Email: safeguarding
@rcaob.org.uk

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.**

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. JOSEPH'S PRE-SCHOOL

St Joseph's have spaces in our wonderful pre-school from September 2023 for 3 year olds. Please contact us on 01905 773572 to arrange to come and see our learning environment and to meet the team.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

We are currently working with the Droitwich Spa CVS to set up a Bereavement Cafe in Droitwich. If you feel that you are compassionate, a good listener and would like to help bereaved people in the community please come along to the meeting on Thursday 23rd March at the Old Library from 10.00 am until 12 noon or contact SVP or Lucy Bird on 01905 779115. Tickets for the Fashion show are still on sale after each mass and we are still collecting puzzle books and colouring books and pencils for Long Lartin prisoners. Thank you all for your support and prayers. You can contact us at DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk or on 07772927535.

LENT 2023 ONLINE RETREAT

There is currently an online Lent Retreat (produced by the Jesuits) 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. You can also join in weekly online meetings on Mondays at 7.30 pm to see how our prayer has been going. 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>

BEING A WELCOMING CHURCH

On Monday 20th March from 7.30 pm - 8.30 pm there is an online Zoom session for anyone interested in how parishes can support older people and those who experience dementia. It has been prepared by Father Hudson's Care working with a number of local parish groups. The session is free. Please sign up at <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/a-welcoming-church-1741579>



MOTHERING SUNDAY

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

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 3rd April at 12.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will next take place on Sunday 26th March and will resume after Easter on Sunday 23rd April.

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

Main Collection:

£219.00

Gift Aid: £167.00

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 214**

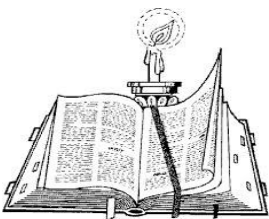
**The retiring
collection for
CAFOD raised:
£189.17**

**Additional Gift Aid
donation for
Cathedral
Maintenance: £2.00**

**Thank you for your
generosity.**

NEWMAN ASSOCIATION

Dr Mary McCaughey,
Director of Studies and
Lecturer in Theology,
Oscott College, will
give a talk on "A
Synodal Church: What
might Newman think?"
on Thursday 30th
March at 7.30 pm at St
George's Parish Hall,
Sansome Place,
Worcester.



Next Sunday's Mass

Readings

Ezekial 37: 12-14;

Psalms 129;

Romans 8: 8-11;

John 11: 1-45

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.

We are on the 4th Sunday of Lent. We crossed halfway through the Lenten journey. What are our experiences of the Lenten journey so far? How far have we reached with the spiritual preparation to celebrate Our Lord's Resurrection? As we celebrate today Laetare Sunday, meaning, rejoice, the liturgy calls us to rejoice in the Lord as we move closer to the celebration of the Easter. As we continue our spiritual preparation, through prayer, abstinence and works of charity - the spiritual pillars of lent, the liturgy of the word today invites us to introspect ourselves and make a paradigm shift from our spiritual blindness to the life of Christ's light. We can see when we see with our eyes but when we fail to see with our hearts, we become spiritually blind. Therefore, we are invited to put on the mind and heart of Jesus Christ to see life as He sees.

In the first reading, from the book of Samuel, the Lord instructs Prophet Samuel not to look at external appearances in the process of anointing a King for the Israelites. He exhorts Samuel to anoint David - a small, shepherd boy, the youngest son of Jesse, as the first king of Israel and the Spirit of the Lord shall be poured upon David from that day forward so that he will rule the people of Israel with God's wisdom and grace. The manner in which David was chosen to be the king reminds us that, God looks at the heart of the person, not the external appearance. My dear friends this how the Lord works. The Lord sees not as man sees and His ways are not our ways.

In the Gospel according to John 9: 1-14, we see the personal encounter of the blind man with Jesus. Last Sunday we saw the Samaritan woman had a similar personal encounter at the well of Jacob and she recognized Jesus as the Messiah the Anointed One as the source of Living Water. Jesus anoints the eyes of the blind man with a New Sight - a sight to see from the heart with positive outlook with the same vision as Jesus would see. Remember, both Jesus and the blind man had to face criticism from the Pharisees and others because of their spiritual blindness and their reluctance to see truth even though it was clear as in the day light. They failed to see goodness in others because they themselves were living in darkness of spiritual pride and mere observance of the Law, without looking at the essence of the Law to which it was intended to. Jesus Christ the anointed, anoints the eyes of the blind man with a new and deep sight to see the beauty of God's creation from new angle which had changed the entire life of the blind man.

My dear friends, as we continue our Lenten journey, we pray to Christ the Anointed One, to anoint us once again with His Holy Spirit and heal us from our spiritual blindness. May we become more positive in our outlook towards life, appreciate the goodness in others and thus become a source of Light to enlighten those who still live in darkness. Let us pray, that as we celebrate the Laetare Sunday today, may this celebration facilitate us spiritually with more reasons to rejoice in the Lord always as the disciples of Jesus Christ.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ