



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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### Today's Mass Readings

Ezekiel 37: 12-14;  
Psalm 129;  
Romans 8: 8-11;  
John 11: 1-45

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

This Week 26th March – 2nd April (Psalter Week 1)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
<b>Sunday 26th March</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b> <b>Year A</b> 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
<b>Monday 27th March</b> Lent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Anthony Gilroy RIP (SG) 1.00 pm Funeral Service 7.00 pm Penitential Service	
<b>Tuesday 28th March</b> Lent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Desmond Ryan (L & MR)	
<b>Wednesday 29th March</b> Lent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Paul Corcoran (GF)	10.00 am until 6.00 pm: Adoration 7.00 pm: Diocesan Vision Meeting
<b>Thursday 30th March</b> Lent Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Special Intention (MD)	
<b>Friday 31st March</b> Lent Feria	9.00 am Stations of the Cross followed by Holy Mass (George Conway RIP, P & Cl)	6.30 pm: Youth Group
<b>Saturday 1st April</b> Lent Feria	11.00 am Living & Dead of the Sekovski Family RIP Michael Sekovski (BS)	<b>10.15 am -10.45 am: Confessions</b>
<b>Sunday 2nd April</b> <b>Palm Sunday of the Passion of</b> <b>Lord</b> <b>Year A</b>	8.30 am Mary Pope RIP (EK) 10.30 am Patricia Fahy RIP 5.15 pm Stations of the Cross 6.00 pm The Walker Family (L & MR)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall

*“Scripture tells us that only “the prayer of the humble pierces the clouds” (Sir 35:1), because only those who are poor in spirit, and conscious of their need of salvation and forgiveness, come into the presence of God; they come before him without vaunting their merits, without pretense or presumption Because they possess nothing, they find everything, because they find the Lord.”*

(Pope Francis, 17th 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**

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Primary School,  
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**HEAD TEACHER**

Mrs. Cath Bryan

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**PARISH SAFEGUARDING  
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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**8.30 am & 10.30 am: With the Lord there is mercy and  
fullness of redemption.**

**6.00 pm: My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on His word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord; more than watchman  
for daybreak.**

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**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.**

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**RECENTLY DECEASED**

Your prayers are asked for **Susannah Mary Donne** who died recently. May  
her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of  
God rest in peace. The Funeral Service will be on Monday 27th March at  
1.00 pm followed by a cremation at Worcester Crematorium Please keep  
her family and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

**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 third session will be on **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 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

## READERS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

We need readers and Eucharistic ministers during Holy Week so if you would like to read or do the Eucharistic ministry, please give your names in advance. A clipboard is available at the back of the church where you can print your name.

## GIFT AID - UPDATE

The new gift aid envelopes for the tax year commencing 6th April 2023 are available for collection at the back of church. 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. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

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

SVP are holding a fundraising fashion show on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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 is currently an online Lent Retreat (produced by the Jesuits) running until Easter Sunday (9th April). If you are interested or for more details, please contact Max and Cecilia Jourdier on 01886 812259 or [mandcjourdier@gmail.com](mailto:mandcjourdier@gmail.com) or go direct to the Retreat website <https://www.iscglasgow.co.uk/lent23.html>

## ANNUAL THANKSGIVING MASS FOR MARRIAGE

An invitation is extended to married couples, those celebrating a milestone anniversary and those preparing to marry this year, to our annual Mass for Marriage at St Chad's Cathedral on Saturday 29th April at 12 Noon, followed by light refreshments. Please visit [www.vocations.org.uk/marriage-mass](http://www.vocations.org.uk/marriage-mass) to confirm your attendance.

## EASTER SERVICES

Details of Easter Services are available to collect from the back of church.

## 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.

## 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 take place during the 10.30 am Mass today and then resume after Easter.

## 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.

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

**Main Collection:**

**£362.97**

**Gift Aid: £176.00**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

**The retiring  
collection for  
St. Joseph's Catholic  
Primary School  
raised: £140.61**

**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 on Sunday 9th April 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**

*Isaiah 50: 4-7;*

*Psalm 21;*

*Philippians 2: 6-11;*

*Matthew 26: 14 -  
27: 66*

*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.*

Why do we keep visiting the old and infirm and those in hospitals when we have no miracle drug to take away their pain? Why do we commit ourselves to the political process when there is so much cynicism and a malaise of despair in the political system today? Why does the Church, through her priests, religious and laity, continue to reach out to those in need despite the tremendous opposition by vested interests and the attempts at destruction of those works by those who cannot bear to see the poor get their due and rights? The prime reason is because we continue to believe that God is still in charge, and so we hope that with his help we will overcome. In the first reading we see Prophet Ezekiel felt puzzled, when the Lord challenged him to see, that He would open the graves of the dead of Israel and restore them to life again. Yet, the Lord did indeed act in accord with his word and life was restored. Death - the absence of the breath of God's spirit - was transformed to life by the life-giving spirit of God. He continued to give hope and communicated this hope to all of Israel. Even in exile in Babylon, Israel must not give in to despair, but hope.

Martha, the sister of Lazarus, despite her verbal acceptance of Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life, did not expect that her brother would be raised and brought back to life again. This is why when Jesus asks for the stone to be removed from the tomb, her focus is on the smell of death. As He stood by the tomb of Lazarus, Jesus was in great distress because the people did not believe that he, who stood among them, was *The Source of Life*. Also realising that which sin and death had done to humanity. Sin and death succeeded in robbing humanity of hope. Physical death is indeed difficult to accept, but it surely is not the end. Thus, we are not asked not to weep over the death, but only not to give in to despair, not to lose hope.

How painful our current circumstances, and how agonizing our honest questions about job loss, wayward children, financial disaster, chronic sickness, destruction of human life in still birth or after birth. But Christian faith believes that God in Christ will conquer and transform even death, the ultimate enemy. Paul's letter to the Romans talks about the same Spirit of God that gives life. He explains that the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us and is responsible for giving us life. As we near the end of Lent, we are being reminded that God's Spirit is the source of our life as a community. We are not only being prepared for Christ's resurrection but our own too. We need to choose to live as Jesus lived. We can live our call to be a community of faith focused on the strength of our unity. The choice rests with us.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ