



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

Isaiah 50: 4-7;

Psalm 21;

Philippians 2: 6-11;

Matthew 26: 14 - 27: 66

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

This Week 2nd April – 9th April (Psalter Week 2)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 2nd April Palm Sunday of the Passion of Lord Year A	8.30 am Mary Pope RIP (EK) 10.30 am Patricia Fahy RIP 6.00 pm The Walker Family (L & MR)	Blessing of Palms in the Hall at each Mass After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall
Monday 3rd April Monday of Holy Week	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Special Intention (MG)	12.30 pm: Community Meal (Easter Lunch) Confessions by Appointment
Tuesday 4th April Tuesday of Holy Week	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Anne McCall RIP (KL)	After Morning Mass: Church Cleaning for Easter Confessions by Appointment
Wednesday 5th April Wednesday of Holy Week	8.45 am Morning Prayer 9.00 am Bernadette Violet Duffy RIP (PD)	10.00 am until 6.00 pm: Adoration 11.30 am Chrism Mass at St. Chad's Cathedral
Thursday 6th April Thursday of Holy Week	7.00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper (For the Clergy of the Diocese)	
Friday 7th April GOOD FRIDAY	12 Noon: Stations of the Cross 3.00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion	10.15 am Walk of Witness Retiring Collection for the Holy Places in the Holy Land
Saturday 8th April HOLY SATURDAY	8.00 pm Vigil Mass of Easter	
Sunday 9th April SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD Year A	8.30 am Holy Mass 10.30 am Holy Mass No Evening Mass	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall Easter Offering for the Parish Clergy 2.30 pm: SVP Afternoon

"I urge you to walk together as brothers and sisters, because fraternity makes people freer and happier. The world does not end with ourselves, please! Community is not made in front of the mirror, the mirror and myself, no! We truly discover the world only when we walk together with others, day by day. Therefore, the parish is important: because it is the place where, following Jesus, we meet, we get to know each other, we enrich each other, people of different generations and different cultural and social conditions, all with something unique to give and to receive." (Pope Francis, 25th 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 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:

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.**

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, another three 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 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 remaining 3 sessions will take place
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.

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.**

EASTER SUNDAY 10.30 AM FAMILY MASS

All children are asked to make and bring shakers to the 10:30 am Mass on
Easter Sunday. These can be easily made by putting some rice or similar in a
dry plastic bottle.

CHURCH CLEANING

The church will be given a clean for Easter after morning Mass on Tuesday 4th April. Any volunteers to help with this would be very much appreciated.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Thank you for supporting the Fashion show on Saturday 22nd April. We now have five tickets only available at £6 each. If you wish to come please phone on 0771 362 3997 to secure a ticket. We continue to collect colouring books and pencils for Long Lartin prisoners. Thank you for your support. We can also be contacted at DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk or on 0777 292 7535

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 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 to confirm your attendance.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

St Peter's, Bromsgrove are organising a coach to go on the annual diocesan pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, the second most important pre-reformation shrine in England, on Saturday 13th May 2023. It's a full day pilgrimage costing approximately £25.00 per person and will leave Bromsgrove at approximately 7.00 am. There will be Mass, prayers and also time to visit the shrine shop and cafe. It's been many years since parishioners from this part of Worcestershire travelled to this shrine so this is a wonderful opportunity for us all. If you are interested, please contact John Smart on jsmart.sptr@gmail.com or 07875 507 104 before Tuesday 11th April.

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.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: TEA & COFFEE AFTERNOON



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.

EASTER SERVICES

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

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 resume after Easter on Sunday 23rd April.



PARISH YOUTH GROUP

The youth group runs during term time on Friday evenings from 6.30 pm for children aged 9-14 years. All young people are welcome to attend.

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

**Main Collection:
£254.00**

Gift Aid: £110.00

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 189**

**The retiring
collection for
Easter Flowers
raised: £73.60**

**Thank you for your
generosity.**



Next Sunday's Mass

Readings

Acts 10: 34, 37-43;

Psalm 117;

Colossians 3: 1-4;

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.

With Palm Sunday or the Passion Sunday we begin Holy Week. The week when we all stop for a week in a special way so that we can remember and relive the events which brought about our redemption and salvation. What we commemorate and relive during this week is not just Jesus' dying and rising, but our own dying to sin and selfishness and rising in Jesus, which will result in our healing, reconciliation, and redemption. Attentive participation in the Holy Week liturgy will deepen our relationship with God, increase our Faith, and strengthen our lives as disciples of Jesus. Today's liturgy combines contrasting moments, one of glory, the other of suffering: the royal welcome of Jesus in Jerusalem, and the rigged trial, culminating in the crucifixion, death, and burial of Christ. During the Holy Week we see a different Jesus who goes through fear, anxiety, loneliness, rejection, betrayal.

Today we reflect on Jesus' glorious entry to the city of Jerusalem. In the Jewish calendar there are three important feasts; namely: Feast of the Tabernacle, Pentecost Feast and the Feast of the Passover. During these three festivals, Jews would come to Jerusalem to celebrate. It was one of these festivals Jesus chose for His glorious entry into the city of Jerusalem. Jesus did not have many friends and followers in the city of Jerusalem. He knew that many of his friends and followers would come to the Holy City for the Feast so He had chosen this day. The solemn entry of Jesus to the city of Jerusalem fulfils the prophesy in the Old Testament, that the Messiah would come on a donkey "Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey" (Zachariah 9:9). As Jesus enters the city the people shouted, "Hosanna to the Lord" Hosana means, "Lord Save us", lead us into victory. This event led to a chain of events that eventually lead to the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus. There were three reasons for the arrest and the crucifixion of Jesus. Firstly, political reasons: Palestine was infamous for its rebellion against the Roman Government. A possible Messianic rebellion under the leadership of Jesus could overthrow the Roman rule. The second reason was religious: A rebellious and unorthodox, yet popular Jesus was dangerous to the current establishment. So, the insecurity and jealousy fuelled among Pharisees, Scribes priests and elders of the Jewish society. Thirdly, economic reasons: soon after the triumphant entry to Jerusalem, he drives out the dealers and money changes from the temple which caused a significant disruption to business. Anyone who stand on the way of business must be eliminated. The readings for today are an invitation to reflect on how the passion of Jesus can change our outlook on suffering. Our Saviour may be seen in these texts as a model of patient endurance and of faithfulness. We are not asked to believe that suffering is good in itself, but to see that good can come of it and to recognise in Jesus God's solidarity with all those who endure suffering for doing what is right. During the week ahead, let us resolve to meditate on the Passion of Jesus; let it become a source of healing for us also. Do not waste this week. Spend this week with Jesus meditating on his Passion. Come to the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday and the triumph of the resurrection at Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night. Let us pray for mercy: 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom' and we too will hear Jesus say "this day you will be with me in paradise'. It is never too late to find the mercy of God. Fr. George Mathew SCJ