



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Acts 10: 34, 37-43;
Psalm 117;
Colossians 3: 1-4;
John 20: 1-9

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

This Week 9th April – 16th April	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
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
Monday 10th April Easter Monday	10.00 am Sr. Mary Thomas (P & CI)	After Morning Mass: Novena & Divine Mercy Chaplet
Tuesday 11th April Easter Tuesday	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Nora Hayes RIP (GH)	After Morning Mass: Novena & Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday 12th April Easter Wednesday	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Private Intention (P & CI)	After Morning Mass: Novena & Divine Mercy Chaplet 10.00 am until 6.00 pm: Adoration
Thursday 13th April Easter Thursday	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am For Persecuted Christians	After Morning Mass: Novena & Divine Mercy Chaplet
Friday 14th April Easter Friday	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am James Thomas & Mary Cecilia Nicklin (AH)	After Morning Mass: Novena & Divine Mercy Chaplet
Saturday 15th April Easter Saturday	11.00 am For Sick Parishioners (Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing)	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confession After Morning Mass: Novena & Divine Mercy Chaplet
Sunday 16th April Second Sunday of Easter Year A	8.30 am Jean Grieves (LD) 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Holy Mass	Divine Mercy Sunday After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall

"Brothers and sisters, a love like this, embracing us totally and to the very end, can turn our stony hearts into hearts of flesh, and make them capable of mercy, tenderness, and compassion", continued Pope Francis. He explained that Christ, in his abandonment, "stirs us to seek him and to love him and those who are themselves abandoned".

(Pope Francis, 2nd April)

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

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HEAD TEACHER

Mrs. Cath Bryan

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PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

Gerry Ceclich

Kate Dalgleish

Clare Tomlinson

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**Archdiocese of
Birmingham
Safeguarding Team**

Tel.: 0121 230 6240

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@rcaob.org.uk

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am & 10.30 am: This day was made by the Lord; we
rejoice and are glad.

6.00 pm: No Evening Mass

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.**

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 on
Wednesdays 19th and 26th April and Wednesday 3rd May. 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.

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

As preparation for the Divine Mercy Sunday, after morning Mass, there will
be Novena and Divine Mercy Chaplet from Monday 10th April until Divine
Mercy Sunday (16th April).

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.**

REFUGEE KNITTING

Thank you once again for the wonderful variety of exquisite items recently
donated. Please keep knitting and store at home until requested. Please
avail yourselves of 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

Thank you for supporting our fashions show. We have now sold out of tickets and we hope that those who are lucky enough to have tickets will have a fun filled afternoon on Saturday 22nd April.

If you have any complete but unwanted jigsaw puzzles the prisoners at Long Lartin prison would love to have them along with the puzzle and colouring books. Donations can be left in the box at the back of church. Thank you all for your support. Contact for SVP is DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk or 0777 292 7535.

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.spnr@gmail.com or 07875 507 104 before Tuesday 11th April.

DIOCESAN SCHOOL SINGING PROGRAMME

The Archdiocese of Birmingham is seeking up to five enthusiastic Choral Directors to work with the Programme Director to implement, deliver and develop the National Schools Singing Programme within the Archdiocese. The positions are suitable for new graduates, offering a permanent contract, based in Coventry/Warwickshire and in Staffordshire. To start this September. To find out more please visit the Jobs page of the Diocesan website: www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Category/jobs

LONDON MARATHON FUNDRAISER IN MEMORY OF THE LATE COLUM MACCOURT

Colum died in February 2021 from Cortico Basal Degeneration, a rare but terminal brain disease. His death occurred during the times of strict Covid regulations where visiting was highly restricted. Mikey MacCourt (19), Colum's grandson is running this year's London Marathon (23rd April) to raise funds for Brain Research UK. Mikey and his family would be very grateful if you are able to sponsor him and therefore support BRUK in their vital work. Your prayers for the repose of Colum's soul and for Mikey's efforts would be very much appreciated. Thank you. Please visit Mikey's BRUK page at <https://2023tcsllondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/michael-maccourt> if you would like to support this fundraiser. Thank you!



COMMUNITY MEAL

The next Community Meal is on Monday 8th May 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.

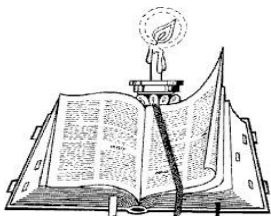
**Main Collection:
Gift Aid: £353.00**
Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.



**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 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

Acts 2: 42-47;

Psalms 117;

1 Peter 1: 3-9;

John 20: 19-31

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.

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, in one of his homilies titled 'Spectators on and about the Cross', presents three kinds of spectators, namely, the spectators of the indifferent or the fallen away, the spectators of pain and the spectators of love. The first group of spectators is represented by the crowd of bystanders. They are totally uninvolved, what is going on making no difference to them. The second group is represented by thieves who were crucified along with Jesus. One of them recognizes who Jesus is, also importantly, what Jesus can do for him. He knew that Jesus' suffering was a redemptive act and so he prays, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom' (Lk 23:42). The third category is represented by Mary, Jesus' Mother and Mary Magdalene. They accompanied Jesus till the end, shared in his passion and ultimately experienced the resurrection of Jesus in their lives.

The resurrection of Christ is neither a movie that we can watch and remain unaffected by nor some fiction that we can read and remain uninfluenced by. The Resurrection of Christ will be understood, accepted and lived in our lives only when we become aware of the depth of our sins and the extent of our longing to be saved from them. Treating the resurrection of Christ as 'cold truth' or something 'not meant for me' will leave us sinking in our sins and ignorance of Christ. Jesus' Resurrection is not just about the forgiveness of our sins but is, more importantly, an invitation to us to leave our old ways and live a new life according to the pattern taught by Jesus. Through the power of his resurrection, Jesus has empowered his disciples to be ambassadors commissioned to act on his behalf, continue his mission on Earth and bear witness to his love and life. For Jesus, the resurrection is the Father's gift for his constant faithfulness to him. We too shall be awarded the resurrection and eternal life when we abide in him and observe his commandments. If the life of Jesus had ended on that fateful Friday, it would have made a terrible story - just another tragedy where death has taken another victim. But, providentially, God designed our salvation so perfectly that he also made Sunday to happen after the Friday! The life that Jesus gave up on Friday is taken back on Sunday. Jesus is alive! Alive for us, defeating our sin and death! Jesus' resurrection ensures the death of death and guarantees us eternal life with him.

The resurrection of Jesus invites us to be passionately loving and living his commandment of love for him and for humanity: We are called to seek to fulfil to the highest degree the command to love the Lord with all of one's heart, soul, mind and strength (Lk 10:27), to seek him as the "one thing necessary" (Lk 10:42), to choose him as the "pearl of great price" (Mt 13:45-46) and to envelope ourselves within the mystery of a total and exclusive love. YOU are MINE! Secondly, the resurrection of Jesus invites us to remain in his love and be his disciples. Thirdly, when we share in the resurrection of Jesus, the joy of Christ lives in us and makes us his witnesses here on Earth. And thus, in response to the absolute love of God, intimacy with the Word, we offer ourselves to become the Eucharist that is offered constantly to the Father (cf. Heb 7:25)." Wish you all a very happy and blessed Feast of Easter! May the Risen Lord make us all part of and participants in his resurrection!

Happy Easter to all.