



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Acts 2: 42-47;
Psalm 117;
1 Peter 1: 3-9;
John 20: 19-31

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

This Week 16th April – 23rd April (Psalter Week 2)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 16th April Second Sunday of Easter Year A	8.30 am Jean Grieves (LD) 10.30 am Private Intention (P & CI) 6.00 pm People of the Parish	Divine Mercy Sunday: After Each Mass there will be Divine Mercy Prayer After 8.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall
Monday 17th April Easter Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Barbara Watters RIP	
Tuesday 18th April Easter Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Annamma Mathew RIP (SA)	
Wednesday 19th April Easter Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Fr. Ted Simpson SCJ RIP	10.00 am until 6.00 pm: Adoration 7.00 pm: Diocesan Vision Meeting
Thursday 20th April Easter Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am For the Souls in Purgatory	
Friday 21st April Easter Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 Brenda O'Keeffe (JC)	6.30 pm: Youth Group
Saturday 22nd April Easter Feria	11.00 am Pam & Mike Jennings RIP (BB)	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confession
Sunday 23rd April Third Sunday of Easter Year A	8.30 am For the Living & Deceased of the Larkin and McNeil Family (KL) 10.30 am Clare Booth 70th Birthday (SB) 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 SVP Update at all Masses

“This is beautiful: when we proclaim the Lord, the Lord comes to us...Every time we announce it, not by propaganda or proselytizing, but with respect and love, as the most beautiful gift to share, as the secret of joy, then Jesus dwells in us even more.”

(Pope Francis, 10th 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

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Primary School,
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HEAD TEACHER

Mrs. Cath Bryan

PARISH SECRETARY

Kate Dalgleish

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**PARISH SAFEGUARDING
REPRESENTATIVES**

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Kate Dalgleish

Clare Tomlinson

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**Archdiocese of
Birmingham
Safeguarding Team**

Tel.: 0121 230 6240

Email: safeguarding
@rcaob.org.uk

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am & 10.30 am: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.

6.00 pm: The stone which the builders rejected has become
the corner stone. Alleluia, alleluia, has become the
corner stone (Laudate 258).

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.

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.**

READERS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

The new rota for the Readers and the Eucharistic Ministers has been
distributed via email. For those of you would like to have a hard copy, it is
available to collect from the back of the church.

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 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://2023tclondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/michael-maccourt> if you would like to support this fundraiser. Thank you!

CAFOD: A WORD OF THANKS

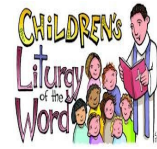
Shukla is a mum in Bangladesh who has been very worried about her children's nutrition. After joining a community project in Bangladesh, which is supported by CAFOD, Shukla has a productive garden and can grow food for her son. Shukla says, "worry has completely disappeared now." People support us in so many ways – giving in church, giving to us by direct debit, or leaving us a gift in their will. This generosity and compassion reaches hard-working mothers like Shukla. Thank you. To read Shukla's story, go to cafod.org.uk/GiftInWill

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.

COMMUNITY MEAL

The next Community Meal is on Monday 22nd 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.

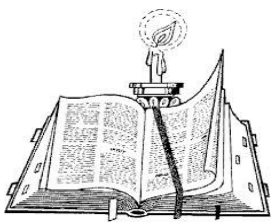
Registered as a Charity, Birmingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Registered Charity Number 234216.

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 374**



**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 14th May 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: 14, 22-23;

Psalms 15;

1 Peter 1: 17-21;

Luke 24: 13-35

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.

"I am love and mercy itself. There is no misery that could be a match for My mercy, neither will misery exhaust it, because as it is being granted – it increases. The soul that trusts in My mercy are most fortunate because I Myself take care of it." St Faustina's Diary (No. 1273). Dear sisters and brothers, today we celebrate the feast of DIVINE MERCY. On the Second Sunday of Easter of the Jubilee Year 2000, at the Mass for the Canonization of St. Faustina Kowalska, Pope John Paul II declared the Sunday after Easter be called "Divine Mercy Sunday". St. Faustina was a Polish nun who received visions from Jesus, including one of Jesus wearing a white garment with beams of red and white coming from His heart, which came to be known as the image of Divine Mercy. She wrote in her diary that He said, "I want the Image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it...My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy". According to the vision, those who receive Communion and attend confession on the Feast of Mercy receive total forgiveness of sins. Therefore, Divine Mercy Sunday focuses on the gift of mercy and love given through Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. As Pope John Paul II stated, "Divine Mercy reaches human beings through the heart of Christ crucified."

The first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, explains how the risen Lord continued to show His Divine Mercy to the sick through the healing and preaching ministry of the apostles in the early Church. The faith of the apostles enabled them to minister to the people, giving them the Lord's healing love in "signs and wonders". These healings illustrate how the power of the Resurrection can work miracles, even through ordinary people. We know that this power of the Resurrection still operates today because we have seen how a friendly smile, a gentle touch or a willingness to forgive can heal a broken spirit, and how the challenging words of a parent, a teacher or a friend can quicken the mind and heart. In today's gospel, Jesus visited his timid disciples. This gospel teaches us that our faith is distinct from mere sensible knowledge. This visit to his disciples was very significant, first to convince them that he was real. Second, to restore their faith and peace. Hence, he said to them: "Peace be with you". Third, it was to empower them spiritually. So, "He breathed on them saying: Receive the Holy Spirit". Christ's visit restored their courage and faith. However, it took time for Thomas to believe that Christ had risen. Doubt and fear make it difficult for one to believe the wonders that God has worked by resurrecting Christ. Therefore, we must expel the spirit of doubt and fear from our lives in order to experience the power of the resurrected Christ. Let us embrace the peace that Christ brings us this Easter. The power of Christ's resurrection brings healing and peace to our body and soul. It also restores us to life. This was the reason why Jesus rose from the dead. Paul says of this power, "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies" (Rom. 8, 11). Today, Jesus reassures us of His living presence with us in a more tangible, powerful, and glorified way. We, therefore, need to tap from His power to live as he lives. However, before we can experience this power and witness it as the apostles did, we must first cast away all doubts and fears. Hence, our situation must shift from doubting to the manifestation of a living and active faith in the risen Christ. May the Risen Christ envelop us in His Divine Mercy. Fr. George Mathew SCJ.