



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Acts 2: 14, 22-23;
Psalm 15;
1 Peter 1: 17-21;
Luke 24: 13-35

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

This Week 23rd April – 30th April (Psalter Week 3)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
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 Robin and Doreen Edwards (JD)	After 8.30 am & 10.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy SVP Update at all Masses
Monday 24th April Solemnity of St. George, Martyr, Patron of England	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Edward Champness (Dr. HC)	
Tuesday 25th April Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Pamela Peacock - 89th Birthday (LM)	
Wednesday 26th April Easter Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Annette RIP (C & PI)	10.00 am until 6.00 pm: Adoration 7.00 pm: Diocesan Vision Meeting
Thursday 27th April Easter Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Dominic Chapman RIP	
Friday 28th April Easter Feria	8.55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Michael William Hopley RIP (JH)	6.30 pm: Youth Group Soon After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart
Saturday 29th April Feast of St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe	11.00 am Patricia Ceclich RIP (GC)	10.15 am - 10.45 am: Confession
Sunday 30th April Fourth Sunday of Easter Year A Retiring Collection for the Clergy Training Fund	8.30 am Holy Mass 10.30 am People of the Parish 6.00 pm Holy Mass	World Day of Prayer for Vocations After 8.30 am & 10.30 am Mass: Tea and Coffee in the Hall During 10.30 am Mass: Children's Liturgy

"We, where do we seek the Risen One? In some special event, in some spectacular or amazing religious manifestation, solely at the emotional or sensational level? Or rather in the community, in the Church...Let us ask ourselves, however, if in the name of this love, in the name of Jesus's wounds, whether we are willing to open our arms to those who are wounded by life, excluding no one from God's mercy, but welcoming everyone...like God welcomes everyone. God welcomes everyone." (Pope Francis, 16th 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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Email: office@st-josephs-
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HEAD TEACHER

Mrs. Cath Bryan

PARISH SECRETARY

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**PARISH SAFEGUARDING
REPRESENTATIVES**

Gerry Ceclich

Kate Dalglish

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: Show us, Lord, the path of life.

6.00 pm: Keep me safe O God I take refuge in you. 40 Laudate
Psalm 15(16).

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 on
Wednesday 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.

SACRED HEART CHURCH: JOB VACANCY

After serving in the parish for over 8 years, Kate Dalglish is leaving us. So,
we are seeking a Parish Secretary to assist in the parish office with finance
administration, maintaining parish databases, updating the parish website,
answering queries and providing general support to the parish priest and
parishioners as required. The normal working hours will be 12 hours a
week. Any applicants should have an adequate knowledge about
computing and use of information technology. There will be an interview
with the applicants and the date of the interview will be announce in due
course. For further information and an informal chat about the role, please
contact Fr. George on 01905 773258. We take this opportunity to thank
Kate for her dedicated service in the parish and wish her all the very best
for her new job.

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.**

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

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.

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.

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://2023tcsllondonmarathon.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 today during the 10.30 am Mass.



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:
308.64**

Gift Aid: £144.00

**Thank you for
supporting your**

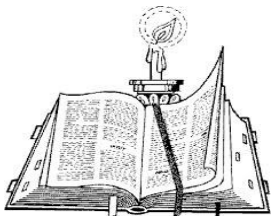
**The retiring
collection for
Holy Places raised:
£38.60**

**Gift Aid: £86.50
Thank you for your
generosity.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 261**

**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, 36-41;

Psalms 22;

1 Peter 2: 20-25;

John 10: 1-10

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.

The story begins with Cleophas and his companion travelling from Jerusalem to Emmaus. It had been three days from the crucifixion of Jesus and they were grieving, confused and frightened. They had hoped that Jesus was their saviour, redeemer but all seemed in ruins. Their outward journey is a symbol of their inward search but they are travelling in the wrong direction. They are walking away from Jerusalem, the symbol of God's presence in the scriptures and in the midst of the paschal events they are going towards Emmaus. For them it seems Jerusalem is their place of pain. Jerusalem is a place of failure for them and they want to leave it, get away from it but in trying to move away from it they cannot leave it behind as they are still trying to make sense of it, discussing it with each other. This is part of the human condition; life is a process of moving away from something and moving towards something. It is a process that involves a letting go, a process of dying and rising. In life we are faced with many contradictions and suffering that we cannot make sense of on our own.

On their journey something very interesting takes place and it is very important for us too. Jesus joins them on the road and travels with them. He walks no faster or no slower, He walks with them. He meets them where they are, not where He thinks they should be or where they ought to be and journeys with them even though this journey is away from Jerusalem. The disciples did not recognise Jesus because of the turmoil they were going through themselves, but Jesus does not judge them but asks them to recount their story. Jesus meets them not in any extraordinary way but in the normal circumstances of their journey. So, the question of God is not a question about the absence or presence of God, it is a question about the absence or presence of the individual to a God who is already there. The role of a Christian is to enable others to experience God who is always present in our experience. Just as the disciples on the road to Emmaus did not recognise Jesus and Jesus walked with them, asked them to recount their experience, listened, journeyed with them – am I present or absent to the God who is already there?

Throughout his ministry, Jesus associated with the poor, the marginalised and the sinners. He stood shoulder to shoulder in the muddy waters of the Jordan with those seeking forgiveness through the baptism of John; on many occasions He ate and drank with disreputable types; at the end of his life, He was crucified between two thieves. Jesus was constantly willing to move into our world and journey with us and to engage with us on our terms. It was in the sharing of this meal, in the 'breaking of the bread' that the disciples at Emmaus recognised Jesus with them. Before this they were unable to recognise Jesus who was right there in their midst. Today, at this Eucharistic table, we are going to encounter him just like the disciples did. Therefore, we as a Eucharistic people, become Christ present in the world, sharing in the paschal mystery, sent forth to make present the kingdom of God – a kingdom of justice, peace, compassion, mercy and love. "In the humble signs of bread and wine, changed into his body and blood, Christ walks beside us as our strength and our food for the journey, and He enables us to become, for everyone, witnesses of hope." Jesus now disappears as the disciples now become Christ for others. This is what we are all called to. The church as an extension of Christ's mission on earth, we are called to continue the mission of Christ through our sharing of His life.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ