



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

208 Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa,
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Email: sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk
Web: www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk



Today's Mass Readings

Isaiah 50:4-7;

Psalms 21;

Philippians 2:6-11;

Mark 14:1-15:47

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

This Week: 24th Mar – 31st Mar 2024 (Psalter Week 2)	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Year B	8:30 am Margaret Allen RIP (PW) 10:30 am People of the Parish 6:00 pm Maureen Weaver RIP (CL)	Blessing of Palms in the Hall at each Mass After 8:30am Mass : Tea & Coffee in the Hall 10:30 am Children Liturgy
Monday 25th March Monday of Holy Week	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am KC Andrews RIP (TJ)	9.45 am Confession on request
Tuesday 26th March Tuesday of Holy Week	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Jean Turner RIP (BB)	After morning Mass Cleaning for Easter 7:00pm Reconciliation Service, Individual Confession
Wednesday 27th March Wednesday of Holy Week	8:40 am Morning Prayer 9:00 am For the Catechumen and Candidates	11:30 am Chrism Mass at St. Chad's Cathedral 10:00am until 6:00pm Adoration
Thursday 28th March Thursday of Holy Week	7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper Pray for all the Priests	
Friday 29th March GOOD FRIDAY	12:00 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 30th March HOLY SATURDAY	8:00 pm Vigil Mass of Easter	Easter offering for the Parish Clergy
Sunday 31st March Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord Year B	8:30 am Holy Mass 10:30 am Holy Mass No Evening Mass	6:15 am Sunrise Prayer Service at St. Augustine's Church Easter offering for the Parish Clergy

" Let us ask the Lord to help us grow in the virtue of prudence so that, amid the storms and winds that buffet our lives, we may remain anchored in Christ, our cornerstone. "

Pope Francis via Twitter 20th March 2024

**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

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

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

Bogusia Koniszewska-
Fijolek

Tel.: 01905 773258

Email:
sacredheart.droitwich@
rcaob.org.uk

**PARISH HALL
BOOKINGS**

Please contact Sally at
volunteers.

sacredheart.droitwich
@rcaob.org.uk or
07891144870

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30am & 10.30am **May God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**

6.00pm **My God, my God why have you forsaken me?
Why have you forsaken, forsaken me? 12 AK**

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, Beryl Hill, Alan Hurst, John
Jennings, Andrew McDermott, Jackie McLean, Michael Sheridan, Jacky
Smith, Paul Smith, Margaret Steward, Breda Wightman, Richard Wightman
& Msgr. Graham Wilkinson, Fr. Brian Boyle, Mrs. Roma, Pamela
Wojciechowski

**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 the Parish Office Please note that the newsletter
is also placed on the parish website. Thank you for your understanding.**

EASTER OFFERTORY

The Easter offertory collection will be for the Parish Clergy.

LENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Our Lenten Reconciliation Service will be on Tuesday the 26th March at
7pm. At the end of the service there will be an opportunity for individual
confession. Priests from the deanery will be helping to hear confession.

JOURNEY IN FAITH– 10TH APRIL AT 7PM

On this day we will be discussing the topic: Living with the Saints

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED

Readers and the ministry of Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are
the two important ministers in the church. Due to illness, few of our Readers
and Eucharistic ministers could no longer help in the church. So, we are
desperately in need of Readers and the Eucharistic Ministers, especially for
10.30 and 6pm Mass. If you would like to render your help to the church by
being a Reader or a Eucharistic Minister, please speak to Fr. George.

EASTER SERVICES

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

CHURCH CLEANING

The church will be given a clean for Easter after morning Mass on
Tuesday 26th March. Any volunteers to help with this would be very
much appreciated.

GIFT AID

If you are a taxpayer please consider signing a Gift Aid Form (blanks are at the back of the Church). The Church can receive the tax back on your donation. This is a very important part of the funding of the Parish.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES

Gift Aid envelopes for 2024-2025 are available for collection from the back of church.

If you are considering a one off charitable donation as part of your tax planning before the 5th April please be aware that donations to the church do qualify for charitable giving and would be a great help to parish funds.

JOB VACANCY

The Birmingham Diocesan Trust (BDT) is looking to appoint an experienced Administration Support Officer for our Safeguarding Team, which is based at Cathedral House, St Chad's, Queensway, Birmingham. Applications including a CV and supporting statement to be submitted to the HR department to julia.hale@rcaob.org.uk by **Monday 8th April 2024**. **Shortlisting: 9th April 2024**
Interviews: w/c 15th April 2024

Please see poster at the back of the Church

FOODBANK

As a parish we have supported the local Foodbank for many years. When Covid arrived this disrupted our collections and deliveries to the Foodbank.

As poverty is still with us, we would like to relaunch this project and continue our commitment to the town. In the entrance porch is a new box, prominently labelled. This will now be emptied weekly. We hope you will leave tinned and dried goods, toiletries and pet food – but no perishable items or items past their sell by date. We can't feed 5000, but we can make a contribution. Thank you.

REFUGEE KNITTING

Thank you so much for the beautiful items left recently, they will bring such joy to the recipients. The variety of sizes and styles we're incredible and obviously made with such love and care. A special thank you also to the person who left the brand new, warm, winter ladies' coat, that was so very kind and thoughtful.

Donations of wool to help the knitters can be left in the cupboard at the church entrance. Please continue Knitting and store the items at home until the next collection is announced because of storage limitations. Once again thank you for your continual support of this project. The organisers tell me they always look forward to seeing your exquisite donations.

CATHOLIC HERALD MAGAZINE

Catholic Herald Magazine has resumed its monthly subscription. If you would like to purchase a copy, these are available at the back of the Church at a cost £5.

COMMUNITY MEAL

Monday 29th April at
12.30 pm in the
Parish Hall.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be
Children's Liturgy
during 10.30 am mass
on 24th March

PARISH YOUTH GROUP

Runs during term time
on Friday evenings from
6.30 pm for children
aged 9-14 years.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING

The Parish operates
in accordance with
Statutory
Safeguarding
Guidance and the
National and
Archdioceses policies
& procedures at all
times. Our Parish
Safeguarding
Representatives are
Gerry Ceclich, Clare
Tomlinson and Carla
Tucker. They can be
contacted on 01299
851188 or email:
sg.sacredheartdroitwich@rcaob.org.uk or
alternatively the
Diocesan
Safeguarding team
can be contacted on
0121 230
6240/safeguarding@
rcaob.org.uk if you
have any concerns.

Main collection:
£330.42
Gift Aid: £1192

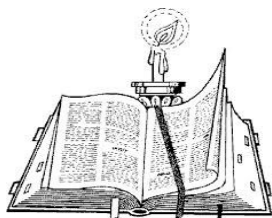
**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 292**



**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 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**

Acts 10:34.37-43;

Psalms 117;

1 Corinthians 5:6-8;

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.

Today we celebrate the Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday. When the 'Unsinkable' Titanic sank in the abyss of the Atlantic Ocean on April 15, 1912, 1517 people lost their lives. However, 705 people escaped death thanks to the radio communication established between Titanic and Carpathia. When the radio message was received by RMS Carpathia, a transatlantic passenger steamship, it raced at high speeds to pick up the survivors in lifeboats. When Carpathia arrived in New York, Marconi who had invented and introduced radio communication, was at the port to receive the survivors. When the survivors heard that Marconi was there, they sang his praises saying he was their 'saviour' and they thronged to see him. Two thousand years ago people sang the praises of Jesus in Jerusalem and they thronged to see him when they found out he had come to save them from their sins and give them new life. On this Palm Sunday the Church stops us 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.

The first reading, Isaiah's Servant Songs, foreshadows Jesus' own life and mission. The Refrain for today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 22), "My God, My God, why have You abandoned Me?" plunges us into the heart of Christ's Passion. The Second Reading, taken from Paul's letter to the Philippians, is an ancient Christian hymn representing a very early Christian understanding of who Jesus is, and of how his mission saves us from sin and death. The first part of today's Gospel describes the royal reception Jesus received from his admirers, who paraded with him for a distance of the two miles between the Mount of Olives and the city of Jerusalem. A key element of understanding the connection between the Palm Sunday reception given to Jesus and Good Friday is to recognize that the actions, words, and symbols of Palm Sunday indicated a religious and political Messiah who would save the Jews from foreign rule and regain for them religious and political freedom. The occasion of this reception was carefully chosen by the Lord God to coincide with the Passover feast which celebrated the Jewish liberation from Egyptian rule and slavery. On this day the Jews all over the world, celebrate this festival as Hanukkah which is the best time for Jesus to reveal himself to the world. The palms used in the procession and the slogan used ("Hosanna!" meaning "Save us, God!") were probably used by Judas Maccabaeus and his men December 14, 164 BC, when they purified the Temple from the pagan Greek desecration by order of Antiochus IV Epiphanes, and in the June 3, 141 BC victory parade to the Temple of Jerusalem.

Today, we receive palm branches at the Divine Liturgy. Let us take them to our homes and put them in a place where we can always see them. Let the palms remind us that Christ is the King of our families, that Christ is the King of our hearts, and that Christ is the only true answer to our quest for happiness and meaning in our lives. And if we do proclaim Christ as our King, let us try to make time for Him in our daily life. Attentive participation in the Holy Week liturgy will deepen our relationship with God, increase our Faith, and strengthen our lives as disciples of Jesus. Let us prioritize and place Christ the King as the primary concern in our lives. It is only when we have done this that we will find true peace and happiness in our confused and complex world.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ