



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Web: www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk



Today's Mass Readings

Acts 10:34.37-43;
Psalm 117;
1 Corinthians 5:6-8;
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: 31st Mar –7th Apr 2024	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
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	6:30 am Sunrise Prayer Service at St. Augustine's Church Easter offering for the Parish Clergy
Monday 1st April Easter Monday, Solemnity	10:00 am George McClenaghan RIP (MM)	After Morning Mass: Divine Mercy Chaplet
Tuesday 2nd April Easter Tuesday, Solemnity	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Special Intention (C&PI)	After Morning Mass: Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday 3rd April Easter Wednesday, Solemnity	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Holy Mass	After Morning Mass: Divine Mercy Chaplet 10:00am until 6:00pm Adoration
Thursday 4th April Easter Thursday, Solemnity	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Shaji & Aley 30th Wedding Anniversary (S&A)	After Morning Mass: Divine Mercy Chaplet
Friday 5th April Easter Friday, Solemnity	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Special Intention (C&PI)	After Morning Mass: Divine Mercy Chaplet
Saturday 6th April Easter Saturday, Solemnity	11.00 am Alan Remedios RIP(AK)	10:15 am-10:45 am Confession After Morning Mass: Divine Mercy Chaplet
Sunday 7th April Second Sunday of Easter Year B	8:30 am Ruth Smallwood (SR) 10:30 am Patrica Fahi (GF) 6:00 pm Maureen Weaver RIP (CL)	Divine Mercy Sunday After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall

“ Let us pray for peace. May the Lord grant peace to martyred Ukraine, as it suffers heavy bombardment, and to Israel and Palestine. May the Lord grant all of us His gift of Peace this Easter. ”

Pope Francis via Twitter 27th 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

**This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad.**

6.00pm 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, 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.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ, Fr. Brian Boyle SCJ, Fr. Tom Kelly SCJ, Bro. Patrick SCJ and the Parish Council wish everyone in our Parish Community and all the Staff, Children, Parents at St. Joseph's School a Blessed and Joyful Easter. May the Risen Lord strengthen your soul and grant you happiness and success at this Easter & always. A big thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all your support in the parish especially during this year.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for Eileen Dalton who died recently. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Please keep the family and friends of Eileen in your prayers.

EASTER OFFERTORY

The Easter offertory collection will be for the Parish Clergy.

STELLA MARIS MASS

We are delighted to invite you to Stella Maris Mass celebrated by Archbishop Bernard Longley on Wednesday 10 April at 12:15 at the Cathedral Church of St Chad, St Chad's Queensway, Birmingham B4 6EU Should you be able to join on that day please RSVP by phone 0207 901 1931, or email Roland.Hayes@stellamarisemail.org

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.

MODERN SLAVERY

Father Hudson's Care are partnering with Medaille Trust to hold two in person sessions exploring modern day slavery, more information is written onto our poster in the back of the Church. Including addresses and times.

JOURNEY IN FAITH– 17TH 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.

COMMUNITY MEAL

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

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy
will resume after the
half term .

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:

£405.37

Gift Aid: £3318.28

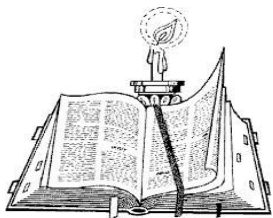
**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 283**



**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 4:32-35;

Psalms 117;

1 John 5:1-6;

John 20:19-31

The opening chant of Easter Sunday is an extraordinary song. So simple, so surprising, its melody is the soul of discretion: no soaring flights of fancy, just a serene restraint that conveys an atmosphere of intimacy and contemplation. It breathes the paschal mystery. The agony and suffering of Good Friday are present, the silence and seeming finality the resurrection. "I have risen, and I am still with you, alleluia; you have placed your hand upon me, alleluia; your knowledge has become wonderful". This song of resurrection is a song for the three people we meet in today's gospel: Mary Magdalene, Peter and the Beloved Disciple. As they make their way to Jesus' tomb in the predawn darkness of that first Easter morning, they are on a journey of faith, each with their own path to follow, each having to change so as to see anew and believe. And all the time they are sought by the risen Lord who knows them intimately, reaching out to each according to their need. This song of resurrection is our song too.

First is Mary Magdalene. Her love for Jesus was as strong as death, emboldening her to stand by the cross and remain with him to the very end. But now that Jesus is gone, Mary is overwhelmed by her loss, absorbed in her grief and blinded by her tears. She sees many things – the stone rolled away, the empty tomb, the burial clothes, the angels, even Jesus whom she supposes to be the gardener – but doesn't see what they mean. And the Lord reaches out to her in her need and tenderly speaks her name, 'Mary'. It's as if he puts a new song into her heart: I have risen, and I am still with you. And Mary is emboldened to change. She must let go, not cling to the old ways of seeing and relating to Jesus. A new day has dawned, and the apostle to the apostles can truly proclaim, 'I have seen the Lord.'

Next comes Peter. Impetuous, imperfect, inconsistent but lovable Peter. He got things so wrong. Fear got the better of him and he denied Jesus, not just once but three times. The one nicknamed the Rock crumbled. He ran away and wasn't to be seen at the cross. Now at the empty tomb he is even more confused than ever. Guilty and ashamed, he realises how deeply he misses Jesus and how much his self-protecting denial had hurt himself. Later in the gospel we will see how the risen Lord reaches out to Peter to bring healing, forgiveness and reconciliation into his life. He will lift the rock from the mire and on it build his church. You have placed your hand upon me, is Peter's song as he journeys in faith and service to his risen Lord and Master.

Finally, there is the beloved disciple. He is the model disciple who shared a bond of deep intimacy with Jesus. He stood by the cross and was entrusted with the care of Jesus' mother. On Easter morning he not only outran Peter in the race to the tomb but surpassed him in belief. 'He saw and he believed', we are told. We may not identify as easily with him as we do with Peter. But he, above all, foreshadows the faith of subsequent generations of believers who do not see Jesus and yet believe. God in his wisdom has arranged it so. Your knowledge has become wonderful to me, sings the Beloved Disciple. No one, faltering or steadfast, has an easy journey to the risen Lord. We all take wrong turns. We all make mistakes. Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the Beloved Disciple were no different. On this Easter day they are our companions on our journey to faith in the risen Lord. They assure us that there is room for each of us for one who sees and believes, for another who sees and is confused, and yet another who needs to hear her own name. These three companions give us hope that despite our weaknesses and failings we too can come to fullness of life and proclaim the joyful news of the Resurrection. With them we sing this Resurrection song. Have a Blessed Easter.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ