



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Acts 4:32-35;
Psalm 117;
1 John 5:1-6;
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: 7th April –14th Apr 2024	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
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
Monday 8th April Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Dianna Street Family (Healing) (BB)	
Tuesday 9th April Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Special Intention (C&PI)	
Wednesday 10th April Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Mr. Langford RIP	10:00am until 6:00pm Adoration
Thursday 11th April Memorial of Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am For peace in the world	After Mass: cleaning Church
Friday 12th April Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Holy Mass	After Mass: Novena to the Sacred Heart 6.30 pm Youth Group
Saturday 13th April Easter Feria	11.00 am Fr. Ted Simpson SCJ RIP	10:15 am-10:45 am Confession
Sunday 14th April Third Sunday of Easter Year B	8:30 am Gill Mardell RIP (PW) 10:30 am Holy Mass 6:00 pm People of the Parish	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall 2.30 pm SVP Afternoon

“ Jesus was not risen only for Himself, but for all of us. He redeemed all the happiness which has remained unfulfilled in our lives. Faith casts out fear, and Christ's resurrection removes sadness, just as the stone was removed from the tomb.”

Pope Francis via Twitter 4th April 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-
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HEAD TEACHER

Mrs. Cath Bryan

PARISH SECRETARY

Bogusia Koniszewska-
Fijolek

Tel.: 01905 773258

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sacredheart.droitwich@
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**PARISH HALL
BOOKINGS**

Please contact Sally at
volunteers.

sacredheart.droitwich
@rcaob.org.uk or
07891144870

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30am & 10.30am & 6.00pm

**Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.**

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.

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.

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@stellamarismail.org

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.

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.

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.

CHURCH CLEANING

As you are all aware that we have beautiful church which is a gem in the town and in the country people of all faith and no faith admire its atmosphere of prayer and beauty. To preserve this richness of our church, we invite any parishioners of any age, skill, or level of mobility, with a little time to spare, to volunteer to join the Church cleaning group. Thanks to all those who came last time to clean the church. We need a few more hands. Would you like to help? That will be great appreciated. Next cleaning day is Thursday 11th April soon after morning Mass.

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 21st & 28 April,
5th, 12th & 19th May

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.sacredheartdroitwi
ch@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.

**Second collection for
Holy Places:**

£58.00

Gift Aid: £72.50

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 285**



**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 3:13-15.17-19;

Psalms 4;

1 John 2:1-5;

Luke 24:35-48

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.

On this second Sunday of Easter that we confront again this challenging wonderful illuminating story. The evening of that first day of the week when the doors were locked where the disciples were, Jesus came and stood in their midst. This is an icon of the church so here are the disciples still afraid still wondering still unsure and Jesus comes now despite the locked doors, and he stands in their midst one of the locked doors. They were afraid and for good reason; the same people that had hunted down and killed Jesus, they're probably going to hunt these people down. Despite their fear Jesus comes and stands in their midst. This is the same risen Christ who comes and stands in the midst of the church age to age even to this day, 'wherever two or three are gathered in my name there am, in their midst'. So, every time we gather for the Mass, the same risen Christ, despite the locked doors of our own fears and apprehensions, he comes and stands in our midst. He shows them his hands and his side - the wounds, lest they forget what the world did to Him. The wounds of Jesus is the sign that all is not right with us. He shows us His hands He wishes us then Shalom 'peace be with you'. He hasn't come back to take vengeance nor with retribution. He's not come back to show His anger, but he comes back to those who had denied, betrayed and run from Him. Those who had contributed to His death He comes back with a word of Shalom. Shalom, peace that's the offer of divine mercy.

This Divine Mercy Sunday I've got John Paul II who said, "The tender mercy of the God of the Old Testament is now fully disclosed, precisely as a mercy that envelops, that swallows up even the worst of our sin". There is a story of a soldier who in the times of Napoleon, fled from Napoleon's army but was caught very quickly and of course at those times if one deserts, the punishment is death. This man's mother heard about what had happened and went to Napoleon and pleaded for him be merciful to her son. She said to Napoleon, "have mercy on him" whereupon Napoleon replied, "your son doesn't deserve mercy" and she said, "if he deserved it, it wouldn't be mercy". St. Thomas Aquinas says, "Mercy is the spontaneous product of charity, it is the spontaneous product of love".

With His resurrection God starts all over again. "Faithful, patient mercy". In this way, we learn that God does not get tired of lifting us up when we fall. God is like a father who allows us to take tentative steps and picks us up every time we fall. "The hand", "that always puts us back on our feet is mercy". God knows we will continue to fall. But He will always pick us up because "He wants us to look to Him" rather than at our failings. All of the disciples had abandoned Jesus. They all felt guilty. But to their surprise, rather than giving them a long sermon, Jesus shows them His wounds. Once Thomas, who had not been there the first time, touches those wounds, he overtook the other disciples. He believed not only in the resurrection, but in God's boundless love as well. When Thomas's "wounded humanity enters into" Jesus's wounds, he became a new creation. Thomas helps us understand how precious we are to the Lord in our vulnerability, like beautiful, fragile, but precious crystals. If we are like that crystal, Jesus's "light of mercy will shine in us and through us in the world". This light will help us wait for other people, as Jesus waited for Thomas, so no one is "left behind".

Fr. George Mathew SCJ