



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

208 Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa,
WR9 8AZ, Tel: 01905 773258
Email: sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk
Web: www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk



Today's Mass Readings

Acts 4:8-12;
Psalms 117;
1 John 3:1-2;
John 10:11-18

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

This Week: 21st April –28th Apr 2024 Psalter Week 4	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 21st April Fourth Sunday of Easter Year B Second collection for Clergy Training Found	8:30 am Eileen Dalton RIP (MM) 10:30 am Private Intention for a speedy recovery. 6:00 pm People of the Parish	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am Mass
Monday 22nd April Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Catherine & Charles McGlinchey RIP (M)	
Tuesday 23rd April Solemnity of St George, Martyr, Patron of England	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Private Intention for speedy recovery (MM)	11:00 am Funeral of John Henry Darby
Wednesday 24th April Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Holy Mass	10:00am until 6:00pm Adoration 7:00 pm Journey in Faith
Thursday 25th April Feast of St Mark, Evangelist	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Mr. Francis McCabe RIP (M)	After Mass: Church cleaning
Friday 26th 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 27th April Easter Feria	11.00 am Harry Remedios RIP(AK)	9:30 am FHC Meeting in the Hall 10:15 am-10:45 am Confession
Sunday 28th April Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B	8:30 am Bill Drury (sick) (LD) 10:30 am Michael William Hopley RIP (JH) 6:00 pm People of the Parish	After 8:30 am Mass: Tea & Coffee in the Hall Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am Mass

"Let us Pray Together for millions of children who live in conditions bordering on slavery. Every child who has been abandoned, marginalized, or left without healthcare or schooling is a cry that rises up to God!"

Pope Francis via Twitter 16th 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-
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 The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

6.00 pm The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone Alleluia, alleluia,
has become the corner stone 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, 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 Rex Langford and John Henry Darby who died
recently. May their soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through
the mercy of God rest in peace. The Funeral Service for John Henry Derby
will be on Tuesday, 23rd April at 11.00 am. Please keep the family and
friends of Rex Langford and John Henry Darby in your prayers.

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 4th May at 12 Noon, followed
by light refreshments. Please visit www.vocations.org.uk/marriage-mass.

JOURNEY IN FAITH– 24TH APRIL AT 7PM

On this day we will be discussing the topic: The direction of Pope Francis

DROITWICH COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

Droitwich CVS invited you to Droitwich Community Showcase on Saturday
11th May 2024 10am – 2pm Droitwich Baptist Church, Ombersley Street
East, WR9 8QS, Free entry

Please see poster at the back of the Church

RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF CREATION APRIL 2024

Please see poster at the back of the Church

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.

PARISH NOTICE BOARD

The notice boards at the back of the church and the narthex are the traditional way of communicating information about the parish and the life in the community. So, there should be enough room for such information to be displayed. For this reason, please do not put any leaflets or notice on the notice board or at the back without the consent of the parish office. We always appreciate your good intention. So, if you want to leave a leaflet or a notice on the noticeboard or at the back of the church please send them to the parish office.

NEWSLETTERS

We have been trying to reduce the number of newsletters we print each week. Please could you consider taking only one newsletter per family group, returning newsletter after Mass if you do not need it and/or, if possible, joining the distribution list to receive the newsletter via email. To be added to this email distribution list, please contact the parish office. The newsletter can also be found at <http://www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk/>

Thank you for your understanding and support.

FOUNDATION GOVERNORS

ST PETER'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL BROMSGROWVE

St Peter's Catholic First School, Bromsgrove is in need of three Foundation Governors to support its Local Governing Board. (A Foundation Governor must be a practicing Catholic.) This is a voluntary role and the school welcomes applicants from all age groups, backgrounds and ethnicity. There is no requirement to have an educational background, just a passion to support and challenge the school to ensure our young children achieve the best that their abilities allow. If you are interested, please pick up a leaflet from the back of church for more detail. Thank you.

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 25th April soon after morning Mass.

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.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
£292.15
Gift Aid: £146.50

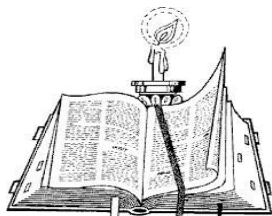
Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.

Mass attendance
last Sunday: 241



**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 12th 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 9:26-31;
Psalms 21;
1 John 3:18-24;
John 15:1-8

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.

We began the Gospel today with quotation "I am the Good Shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep". In the today's Gospel, Jesus twice describes himself as the Good Shepherd. This clearly indicates that the thrust of these verses is on the relationship of the shepherd and his sheep and the qualities of the Good Shepherd. Those of us who live in towns and haven't had a chance to explore the pastoral countryside life, may not be able to fully appreciate this allegory. Perhaps, some of our experience of sheep leads us to see them as dumb creatures who are good only for their wool and as food on our tables. However, if we go beyond this stereotype understanding and attempt to understand instead the deeper meaning then we will be able to appreciate more fully what Jesus means.

The adjective 'good' used here can also be read as "model" or "true" and so Jesus is saying that he is the model or true shepherd. This is a reference to the image of God as the good shepherd in the prophet Ezekiel. There God is described as the shepherd who cares for the sheep, rescuing them from danger, feeding them, tending to the weak sheep, healing the wounds of those who are injured and going after those who are lost. Jesus as the model or true shepherd does all this and more. He even willingly, and of his own accord, lays down his life for his sheep. He does this not to earn a reward, but as an expression of the love that he has for the sheep which is an expression of love for the Father. Even though it appears otherwise, in reality, he is in control of even his own death. No one can take his life because he gives it up freely and without reserve. However, his death is lined inextricably with his resurrection and ascension, and it is through all three events that he completes his work as good and true shepherd.

There is an intrinsic relationship between sheep and the shepherd. Hearing the distinctive voice of the shepherd from all other noises is an important part of this relationship. The good shepherd gathers the sheep and keeps them together. He is concerned not only with the sheep that belong to his fold but there are other sheep also, who though not of the fold will listen to the shepherd's voice of unconditional love. So, His voice is not exclusive. Some may find being compared with sheep derogatory. However, if we understand the metaphor for what it is and capture its essence, we will find that this need not be so. In a world in which we hear so many voices, to discern the voice of the true shepherd is not that easy. The challenge to the sheep is to listen to the voice of the true shepherd and not the hired hand. This means that in a world in which we hear so many voices, to discern the voice of the true shepherd is not easy. The voice of the shepherd calls first to unity. This unity is manifested in community living, in which each is concerned about the other much like the shepherd who is concerned about each and all. It is also manifested in imitating the true shepherd's qualities of self-giving and self-sacrificing love. Such imitation of the shepherd will draw all sheep into one-fold, in which differences in individuals will not be points of contention but will be celebrated instead. In the first reading St. Peter invite us all to this unity to join this community of love with one head, one true shepherd, Jesus Christ. So today each one of us are invited to live out our lives according to the model of community envisioned here by Jesus. It is a model where the needs of the other take precedence over my own. It is a model in which there is a profound unity even in diversity. God Bless you all.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ