



## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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

### Today's Mass Readings

*Acts 10:34,37-43;*  
*Psalms 118(117)*  
*1 Corinthians 5:6-8*  
*John 20:1-9*

This Week: 20th-27th April 2025	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
<b>Sunday 20th April</b> <b>Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord, Year C</b>	8:30 am People of the Parish 10:30 am Patricia Fahy (GF) No Evening Mass	Easter offerings for the Parish Clergy
<b>Monday 21st April</b> Easter Monday, Solemnity	<b>10.00 am</b> Larry Healy RIP (GF)	
<b>Tuesday 22nd April</b> Easter Tuesday, Solemnity	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Iain Martin RIP (MM)	Mosaic Restoration starts.
<b>Wednesday 23rd April</b> Easter Wednesday, Solemnity	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Denise Grant (MM)	After Mass– Adoration till 6.00 pm.
<b>Thursday 24th April</b> Easter Thursday, Solemnity	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Paul & Catherine Ingram (MM)	After Mass– Church cleaning
<b>Friday 25th April</b> Easter Friday, Solemnity	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Norah O'Leary RIP(MD)	
<b>Saturday 26th April</b> Easter Saturday, Solemnity	11.00 am Gladys Remedios 12.00 noon Memorial Mass of Richard Arthur John Radford	12:00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall 2.00 pm Public Church Tour NLHF
<b>Sunday 27th April</b> <b>Second Sunday of Easter Year C</b>	8:30 am Ann Cully (BD) 10:30 am Joan Bond RIP (M&LR) 6.00 pm Brendan McCollum (EM) speedy recovery	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall

**“ The Gospel offers us a message of hope. It tell us that God will always come looking for us whenever we are lost, no matter how we may have gone astray!”**

Pope Francis via Twitter 16th April 2025

## SACRED HEART COMMUNITY

Fr. George Mathew SCJ  
(Parish Priest)

fr.george.mathew@  
rcaob.org.uk

**In an emergency, please  
contact: 07448 042484**

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:  
jod\_office@emmausmac.  
com

## PRINCIPAL

Mr A Carry

## 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

8.30 am

This is the day the Lord has made,  
Let us rejoice in it and be glad.

10.30 am

Alleluia, alleluia.

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## PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for all our parishioners, and/or their friends and relatives, who  
are unwell:

Beryl Hill, Alan Hurst, John Jennings, Andrew McDermott, Michael Sheridan,  
Jacky Smith, Paul Smith, Margaret Steward, Richard Wightman, Mrs. Roma,  
Judy Lynam Pyper and Peggy Garvey.

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*Fr. George Mathew 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 Norah O'Leary who died recently. May her soul  
and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in  
peace. The Requiem Mass of Nora O'Leary will take place on 29th April at  
12.00 noon.

Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.

## EASTER OFFERTORY

The Easter offertory collection will be for the Parish Clergy.

## JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

The next Journey in Faith will take place on 7th May and the topic will be  
'The direction of Pope Francis'.

## GIFT AID

If you are a UK taxpayer, the Church can receive the 25% of tax back on your  
donation. This is a very important part of the funding of the Parish, so  
please consider signing a Gift Aid Form (blanks are at the back of the  
Church) and bring back to the parish office.

## JOBS VACANCY

Pastoral Support Administrator required at Blessed Edward Oldcorne  
Catholic College. Please see the Blessed Edward Oldcorne website for  
details and an application form:

<https://www.blessededward.co.uk/about-us/vacancies/>

### **SVP REQUEST**

One of our beneficiaries is in need of a replacement mobility scooter. Does anyone have a mobility scooter that is no longer in use and is still in working order, that they could kindly pass over to us?

You can contact us on 0771 3623997 or [droitwichreferrals@svp.org.uk](mailto:droitwichreferrals@svp.org.uk)

### **SVP**

St Vincent de Paul Society is requesting help please.

Are you Kind, Caring and Compassionate and would like to put your faith into action? We are looking for volunteers to join SVP specifically to support the Bereavement Cafe we run - a simple hospitality task. This is on the second Tuesday of each month, 9.30-12.30, at Rotary House, Corbett Avenue. If you feel you could help please contact Gina on 0771 362 3997 or [droitwichreferrals@svp.org.uk](mailto:droitwichreferrals@svp.org.uk)

### **PRAYER VIGIL FOR LIFE**

Sunday, 27th April. PRAYER VIGIL for LIFE @ 7.00pm Victoria Square, Birmingham  
March for Life UK are holding a candlelight vigil to mark the passing, 57 years ago, of the Abortion Act. It is a timely reminder of what we face with the impending legalisation of assisted suicide: a death clinic awaiting us at both the beginning and end of life.

See poster in porch for information. Please try to attend. Make it a thanksgiving for Easter

### **MOSAIC RESTORATION**

The cleaning and restoration of the mosaics is scheduled to start on Tuesday 22nd April and is planned to be completed in early July. Whilst there will inevitably be some disruption, daily Masses will continue to be held as usual. Further details are available in the Visitor Centre – open every Saturday afternoon. This work is funded thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

### **POP-UP CAFE**

The next public church tour is on Saturday 26th April. There will also be a pop-up café, open to everyone, from 1-4:30pm, serving hot drinks and home-made cakes at very reasonable prices. All proceeds go towards parish hall funds. Even if you are not coming on the tour please do come along. Please note that it is cash only.

### **PUBLIC CHURCH TOUR**

As part of our National Lottery Heritage Fund project we continue to run activities for the local community. Church tours will be conducted on one Saturday each month. To book, visit the website:

<http://www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk/the-church/church-tours/>

One Saturday a month children's mosaic workshops and mini tours will run. To book, visit the website:

<http://www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk/news-and-events/upcoming-events/>

Thanks to all our volunteers who continue to make this work possible.

### **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

Children's Liturgy will resume after 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 Clare Tomlinson, Carla Tucker and Bogusia Koniszewska-Fijolek. They can be contacted by email: [sg.sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/[safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.

**Main Collection:**

**£310.31**

**Gift Aid: £177.50**

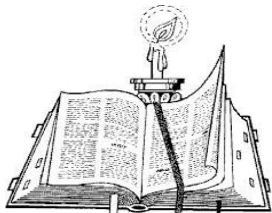
**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

**Mass attendance  
last Sunday: 303**



**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 11th 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](mailto:DroitwichReferrals@svp.org.uk) or on 07772 927535 or on Facebook, SVP Sacred Heart Droitwich.



**Next Sunday's Mass**

**Readings**

*Acts 5:12-16;*

*Psalms 118(117);*

*Apocalypse 1:9-13;*

*John 20:19-31*

If you're looking for a theological description of the Resurrection, you won't find it most thoroughly in the Gospels but in St. Paul Letter to Corinthians:15. Paul, of course, has this searching theological mind, and Resurrection was so central to his life. When Paul comes into these various cities to preach, he's not preaching a moral message. Even though there are moral implications and ethical teachings in his message, that's not his primary focus. The word that echoes like a refrain in Paul's preaching is *Anastasis* (ἀνάστασις) which means in Greek, Resurrection. In fact, one of the crowds listening to Paul heard the word so often they thought he was declaring a new God called *Anastasis*. It was the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead that Paul correctly took as the hinge, the central teaching of Christianity. And it wasn't just a matter of intellectual conviction.

The Resurrection changed Paul's life. He meets the risen Christ on the road to Damascus. He's full of murderous zeal, persecuting the Church, and he sees the risen Christ, and then everything changed. That's the Paul who can now say, "It's no longer I who live. It's Christ who lives in me." That's the Paul who can now look at everything he'd been trained in: "the Law and Covenant and prophecy, all these become insignificant compared to the resurrected Christ who's been revealed to me". It was of revolutionary importance. So, what do we mean by "Resurrection"? How do we theologize and make sense of it? The Resurrection of Jesus should never be read as some purely subjective experience on the part of the apostles. It is not something that went on inside the psyches and consciousness of the first disciples and they expressed that in symbolic terms as a resurrection from the dead. No, not at all. Listen now as Paul speaks: (Corinthians 15:5-8). This is not a man trading in vague abstractions. He's not talking about subjective experiences, but real people and real experiences. Sometimes we get the impression that all these people who knew Jesus simply disappeared. No, they were all around. "You can talk to them", that is what Paul says. Or we some say, "just a few people hallucinating." Not 500 at one time having, what, a mass hallucination? Some say, "Well, one can be a Christian without believing the truth of the Resurrection, right"? that means I can follow the teachings of Jesus and I'm trying to live like a Christian. Or I'm a good Christian because I believe in the ethical teaching of Jesus. Isn't that enough?" I can believe in all kinds of ethical theories. It doesn't make me a Christian. Listen to Paul: "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins." It's a very interesting observation to make. If he's put in his grave and he's still there, we're still living in the old world of sin and death, and the dominance of weak by the strong.

The whole point of the Resurrection is that a new world has appeared. Sin is no longer dominant even though it appears to be. Sin has been conquered by the Resurrection of Jesus. "The risen Jesus is the first fruits of those who have died. "If death is the ultimate end of human life, what is the meaning of our life? It doesn't make any sense to us. The innocent suffer and the evil is victorious. If there is no resurrection and life after death, the world is an unjust place to live in. Paul says, "What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed". So it is with the resurrection of the dead. The seed goes into the ground and then it explodes outward to give rise to a richer and higher life. Our body, which is perishable, goes into the ground, but what bursts forth from that is imperishable. What's sown is a physical body, but it's raised as a spiritual body. The resurrection of Jesus is the proof that, once our perishable life is ended, our imperishable life will begin with the one who has conquered sin and death. Now we understand that pain and suffering and injustice happen in the world and that they are perishable, but, for those who follow Christ, there is an imperishable life waiting for them. May the Risen Christ be our beacon of hope in the Year of Hope.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ