



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

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 5:12-16;
Psalm 118(117);
Apocalypse 1:9-13;
John 20:19-31*

This Week: 27th April-4th May 2025	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 27th April Second Sunday of Easter Year C	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
Monday 28th April Solemnity of St George, Martyr, Patron of England	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Michael Hopley (JH)	
Tuesday 29th April Feast of St Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Patricia Ceclich RIP (GC) 12 noon Requiem Mass for Norah O'Leary	2.00 pm Private Church Tour
Wednesday 30th April Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Harry Remedios RIP (AK)	After Mass– Adoration till 6.00 pm.
Thursday 1st May Easter Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am For the labourers	
Friday 2nd May Memorial of St Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Norah O'Leary RIP	
Saturday 3rd May Feast of Ss Philip and James, Apostles	11.00 am Alan Remedios RIP (AK) 12 noon Baptism	10.15-10.45 am Confessions 12:00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall
Sunday 4th May Third Sunday of Easter Year C	8:30 am David Veale RIP (AM) 10:30 am People of the Parish 12noon Baptism 6.00 pm Annette Kelsall RIP 1st Anniversary (MD)	After 8.30 am Mass: Tea & coffee in the Hall 10.30am Mass Children Liturgy

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,
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Tel: 01905 773572

Email:
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PRINCIPAL

Mr A Carry

PARISH SECRETARY

Bogusia Koniszewska-
Fijolek

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rcaob.org.uk

PARISH HALL BOOKINGS

Please contact Sally at
volunteers.

sacredheart.droitwich
@rcaob.org.uk or
07891144870

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30 am & 10.30 am

**Give Praise to the Lord for he is good,
his mercy endures for ever.**

**6.00 pm The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone,
alleluia, alleluia, has become the corner stone.**

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.

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.

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'.

BIRMINGHAM DIOCESAN TRUST

"The Trustees of the Birmingham Diocesan Trust are looking to recruit a
skilled, Catholic volunteer with professional experience of safeguarding to
join the Board of Trustees and chair the Safeguarding Sub-Committee. We'd
welcome discussion with anyone interested in this important role - Further
details available here [Safeguarding | Birmingham Diocesan Trust](#) or copy
and paste this link

www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Category/safeguarding

THE THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

A Teaching Day hosted by the Catholic Medical Association, Youth branch.

Saturday 19th May in Birmingham: 'Join us for a day of exploring the
theology of the body, celebrating the unique creation of man and woman.
For healthcare workers and healthcare students, ages 18+'.

Registration now open. Please see poster in the back of the Church.

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/>

FATHER HUDSON CARE

For the Jubilee year, Father Hudson's Caritas are going to be providing online talks to discuss their work within the Archdiocese of Birmingham and how we provide hope to vulnerable people in our local area. The first talks will be based on our disability work and are on Monday, 28th April at 12:30-1:30, and Tuesday, 29th April at 6pm-7pm. The talks will be by the staff who work within our theme of disability. We will also be discussing how people can support Father Hudson's Caritas and also how you can support people with disabilities in your own communities. To register visit: <https://www.fatherhudsons.org.uk/news-and-events/events/>

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

REFUGEE KNITTING

The date for the next collection will be Sunday May 11th. Over the next three Sundays I will also be able to collect any other items you think will help the refugees. Thank you so much to the person who left some lovely new baby and toddler items recently, one can easily imagine the joy they will bring to the recipients. Thank you once again for your continual, uplifting support. If you would like to know more about the organisers have a look at their website to see the variety of incredible work they are involved in <https://globalaidnetwork.org.uk/>

MOSAIC RESTORATION

The cleaning and restoration of the mosaics started 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. Sometimes there may be scaffolding or cherry pickers at the back of the church. **Parents with small children, please make sure to keep children away from them.**

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

There will be Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am mass on **4th, 11th & 18th 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 Clare Tomlinson, Carla Tucker and Bogusia Koniszewska-Fijolek. They can be contacted by email: sg.sacredheart.droitwich@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 on
13.04.2025 for
Easter Flowers:
£134.95**

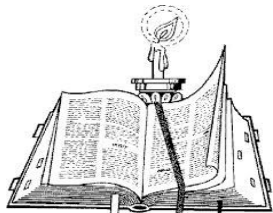
**Thank you for your
generosity.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 501**



**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 or on 07772 927535 or on Facebook, SVP Sacred Heart Droitwich.



**Next Sunday's Mass
Readings**

**Acts 5:27b-32, 40b-41;
Psalm 30(29);
Apocalypse 5:11-14;
John 21:1-19**

Dear Sisters and Brothers. Today we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. Once again we hear the resonance of this wonderful illuminating story of the Risen Lord. 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. 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 from age to age, even to this day. 'Wherever two or three are gathered in my name there I 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, 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 are the sign that all is not right with us. He shows us His hands and then He wishes us Shalom- שלום 'peace be with you'. He came back to those who had denied, betrayed and run from Him and for those still denying, betraying and running away from Him. For those who had contributed to His death He comes back with a word of Shalom. Shalom, peace: that's the offer of divine mercy.

In the year 2000 the then Holy Father St. John Paul II instituted the Feast of the Divine Mercy to be celebrated for the first time in the year 2001 on the second Sunday of Easter. It arises out of a series of apparitions that Jesus gave to the Polish nun Sr. Faustyna Kowalska. In its depth Jesus promised her that those who go to confession and receive Holy Communion on this day not only receive forgiveness for their sins but a total remission of the temporal punishments for their sins. This promise which is recorded in the diary of St. Faustyna three times, speaks to the significance of celebrating this feast in a worthier manner. In one of His promises Jesus says "My daughter, tell the whole world of my inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge for all souls, especially for poor sinners. On that day, the depths of my tender mercy are open; I pour out the whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of my mercy. Let no soul fear to draw near to me, even though its sins are as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or angel, will be able to fathom it throughout eternity. Everything that exist comes from the very depth of my most tender mercy". Beautiful words come from our Lord. The revelation that St. Faustyna received, telling her about Divine Mercy, is telling us the importance of celebrating this day invoking the mercy of Jesus. Today's readings show that divine mercy is not just a nice theoretical concept or devotion. It is experienced in the concrete circumstances of our lives. The disciples come to know it in their confusion and sense of having betrayed Jesus. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is based on the human experience that we need both to name our faults and hear the mercy of God proclaimed on the specific circumstances of our lives.

I love this story about Teresa of Avila. One day, while she was praying, the devil appeared to her in the guise of the Risen Christ. But she saw through it and she said, 'begone, Satan'. But, before he left, he said, 'How did you know that I wasn't the real Christ?' and she said, 'You have no wounds'. Yes, if Christ appears to you without his wounds, that's not the true Christ. It is the outpouring of the mercy of God upon us. It signals the greatest love story the world has ever known. "By His wounds you have been healed." These words must echo in our minds and hearts during the Easter Season. They remind us of the reality of the healing that Jesus accomplishes for us each day. Five Wounds: hands, feet, side, and sometimes wounds on His head and shoulders represent his suffering and sacrifice for humanity, offering a visual reminder of God's love and the healing power of Christ's Passion. These wounds are not just physical but also symbolic of the wounds of Original Sin, and they point to the restoration and redemption offered through Christ's death and resurrection. Let us always taste His Unconditional Love and Mercy in the Holy Eucharist.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ