



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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### Today's Mass Readings

1 Samuel 16:1b,6-7,10-13a;

Psalm 23(22);

Ephesians 5:8-14 ;

John 9:1-41

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

<b>This Week: 15th– 22nd Mar 2026 Psalter Week 4</b>	<b>Holy Mass &amp; Services</b>	<b>Other Events</b>
<b>Sunday 15th March Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>	8:30 am Tim Cree RIP (MT) 10:30 am Rene Johnson (KW) 6:00 pm Pat Whaley (AP)	After 8:30 am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall 10:30 am Mass led by St Joseph's School (Mother's Day)
<b>Monday 16th March Lent Feria</b>	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Judith Cussen RIP (AM)	10:15 am Private Church Tour
<b>Tuesday 17th March Feast of St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland</b>	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Katherine & Michael Sekovski, Edward Sykes RIP (BS)	10:30 am Private Church Tour
<b>Wednesday 18th March Lent Feria</b>	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Neville Howard RIP (AM)	After Mass, Adoration until 6.00pm
<b>Thursday 19th March Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Judith Cussen RIP (LH)	After Mass, Church cleaning 10:30 am Mass at St Joseph's School
<b>Friday 20th March Lent Feria</b>	No morning Prayer 9:00 am Stations of the Cross 9:30 am Nora O'Leary RIP (MD)	
<b>Saturday 21st March Lent Feria</b>	11:00 am Gina for healing (GS) 11:00 am Anointing Mass	9:30am FHC Session in the Hall 10:15-10:45 am Confessions 12:00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall 2:00 pm & 3:30 pm Public Church Tours
<b>Sunday 22nd March Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>	8:30 am Edward Sykes RIP(BS) 10:30 am Paulose Varghese Edathala RIP (JP) 6:00 pm Tim Cree RIP (J&PL)	After 8:30am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall

***"There is no energy better spent than that dedicated to freeing our hearts.  
For this reason, Lent is a gift."***

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 8th March 2026

**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

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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 Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

**6:00pm**

**The Lord is my shepherd.**

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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, John Jennings, Andrew McDermott, Michael Sheridan, Jacky Smith, Paul Smith, Margaret Steward, Richard Wightman, Mrs. Roma, Judy Lynam Pyper, Peggy Garvey, Josephine Gylee, Michael James, Denise Grant and Michael McCorry.

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**RECENTLY DECEASED**

In your charity, please pray for Neville Howard and Judith Cussen who have all recently died. Please also keep their families in your prayers. The dates for the Funeral Service of Neville and the Requiem Mass of Judith will be advised shortly. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)**

The next Journey in Faith session will take place on Monday 23rd March at 7pm. The topic will be 'Church, the Visible Body of Christ'.

**THANK YOU**

After five years of selfless service as President of the Sacred Heart SVP, Gina Pilley has stepped down. The position has been taken up by Angela and Cath, jointly. We thank Gina for her able leadership during which the Droitwich SVP has gone from strength to strength. We wish Angela and Cath success in their new roles.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

On every Friday during Lent there will be Stations of the Cross at 9:00am. There will not be a Novena to the Sacred Heart on Fridays during Lent.

**JOB VACANCY**

Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College is recruiting for a Site Assistant to undertake a variety of general work across the school site. Please see the school website for more information.

**FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND**

'Friends of the Holy Land would like to thank all parishioners for £262.54 raised for Christians in the Holy Land, at a time when they are most vulnerable. Please continue to remember our work in your prayers, giving our brothers and sisters strength to continue.'

**NEWMAN ASSOCIATION CIRCLE THURSDAY 9TH APRIL**

6.30 pm. Mass at St. George's RC Church Worcester for the repose of the soul of Kevin Down, a great stalwart of the Circle, followed by a glass of wine (or other refreshment) in the Hall in his memory. This will then be followed by a talk by David McLoughlin on "From Francis to Leo, continuity and change. On interpreting the first year of the new pontificate."

## RECOLLECTION FOR READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTER

A day of recollection for the Readers and Eucharistic Ministers will be on Saturday 28th March from 11:00 am to 4:00pm. Lunch time refreshment will be provided. Please, all Readers and Eucharistic Ministers mark this in your diary.

## EASTER CHOCOLATES COMPETITION

How many Easter Chocolates are there? During Lent you are invited to guess how many Chocolates are in the container. The chocolates weigh approx 5lbs (2.2kg), so this prize is very good value and you can make as many guesses as you want. Each guess will cost £1. The winner will be the person who accurately estimates the number of chocolates. In the event of a tie the prize will be split between the winners, and if there is no outright winner the prize will be given to the nearest number, higher or lower. The money raised will be donated to the Youth section of the Parish, meaning that with every guess you make you will be helping fund this

## SIDE CHAPELS RESTORATION

For the last 60 years the beautiful marble, mosaic and 'Cosmati' floors in the two side chapels have been covered with carpet. Now it is time to uncover and rediscover the real charm of the Chapels. Thanks to generous grants from the Droitwich Preservation Trust and The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the restoration of the floors and walls in the two side chapels will complete the Mosaic Restoration Project. The actual work is planned to take place during June & July and the carpets in both chapels will be completely removed at the end of March.

## WALK WITH ME - A JOURNEY OF PRAYER FOR LENT 2026

'Welcome to this special edition of *Walk with Me*. Special, because Lent is a sacred moment in the Church's year; a time of conversion and inner renewal. But special too because with this edition we celebrate *Walk with Me's* Twenty-Fifth Anniversary. During these weeks of Lent we will be drawing on St Paul's Letters, entering more deeply into the wonder of Jesus and living life in the Holy Spirit.' Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham. The *Walk With Me* booklet is available at the back of the church. Please take a copy home for yourself or for your family and friends. A suggested donation of £1.50 would be appreciated.

## MARCH FOR LIFE

Calling men of all ages and states of life: book your place at 'Commissioned', the National Men's Pro-life Conference, on April 18th at Birmingham Christian College. Through compelling talks on fatherhood, marriage, post-abortion healing, spiritual welfare and sexual responsibility learn to live out your vocation with humility, courage and integrity. For more info including speakers or to book your place contact [info@marchforlife.co.uk](mailto:info@marchforlife.co.uk) or go to

<https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/commissioned-pro-life-mens-conference/>

## NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT – PUBLIC TOURS & CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS

The next monthly public church tours (with a café) will take place on:

**Saturday 21st March @2pm & 3:30pm and Saturday 25th April @ 2pm & 3:30pm**  
*The 2pm tours are fully booked so extra tours have been added.*

The next monthly public children's workshops (mini church tour & mosaic-making session) will take place on: **Saturday 14th March @ 2.30 pm & Saturday 11th April @ 2:30 pm**. All of these events can be booked on Eventbrite, links can be found on the parish website. Or by contacting the Hall Booking Secretary.

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am mass on **22nd March**.

## PARISH YOUTH GROUP

Hopefully this will resume as soon as possible and run 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 or [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.

**Main Collection:**

**£360.31**

**Gift Aid: £137.00**

**Second collection  
for Cathedral  
Maintenance:**

**£64.55**

**Gift Aid: £51.00**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**



**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 April**  
from 2.30 pm to 4.00  
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**

*Ezekiel 37:12-14;*  
*Psalms 130(129);*  
*Romans 8:8-11;*  
*John 11:1-45*

There was a young boy, born in 1786, in the tiny village of Dardilly, near Lyon, France. Brought up in a devout Christian family, his childhood ambition was to become a priest. But his lack of formal education inadequately prepared him for seminary studies. When he was a young seminarian, his fellow seminarians called him "a timid, useless lad". His failure to comprehend Latin lectures forced him to discontinue, and he almost ended up a farmer instead of a priest. But his spiritual director saw in him a big heart and offered him private tutoring. After his lengthy battle with the books his bishop reluctantly ordained him without much hope. Due to his lack of education, he struggled with understanding theology and often faced difficulties preparing his homilies. Despite these challenges, he persevered with his priestly ministries and eventually touched the hearts of many through his humble and authentic faith, which led to the conversion of the whole parish. This 'timid, useless lad' was St. John Maria Vianney, popularly known as "Curé d'Ars".

The story of St. John Maria Vianney resounds in today's first reading taken from the First Book of Samuel that depicts a turning point in Israel's history. Saul, the first king of Israel, had failed to remain faithful to God. So the Lord sent the prophet Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint a new king from the sons of Jesse. At this time kingship was still new in Israel, and people expected a king to look strong, tall and impressive—like Saul. When Samuel sees Jesse's older sons, he assumes that the tallest and strongest must be God's chosen one. But God rejects all of David's older, physically impressive brothers to be the next king of Israel, choosing instead the youngest brother, David, who was tending sheep. David was considered so insignificant by his family that he was not even invited to the initial lineup of sons to be considered by the prophet Samuel; he was left in the fields. This illustrates how God often selects the least likely person to accomplish extraordinary things. Samuel anoints David, and the Spirit of the Lord comes upon him. God sees in David a heart that is open, trusting and willing to grow even though David is young, hidden and imperfect. This reading brings a message of hope and encouragement. Lent invites us to look honestly at ourselves, not just at how we appear on the outside. Like Samuel, we judge by looks, success and status, but God probes deeper, seeing our hidden motives and faithfulness in small things. This passage reminds us that God's light shines where we least expect it.

In the second reading St. Paul reminds the Christians in Ephesus who they truly are in Christ. Paul does not say they were 'in darkness', but that they 'were darkness'; showing how deeply sin and ignorance once shaped their lives. But through Christ their identity has changed completely. They are now people of light. Because they are light, Paul urges them to "live as children of light" by producing goodness, righteousness and truth. In the Gospel we hear about Jesus healing the blind man. Blindness in the context of the Bible is often used as a symbol of spiritual blindness or in reference to 'sin'. What does sin do to us? Sin obscures our consciousness. It distorts our right vision of things. We might be able to function very well in the political and economic system. But, if we are sunk in sin, we are blind to the most important realities. We are blind in terms of the right direction for our lives. It also points to the ways people fail to see clearly in their own lives because of blind spots, like lack of openness or prejudices towards people and even with God. Everyone has blind spots that affect how they think, judge and treat others. We are invited to look honestly at these blind spots. We may judge our spouse, child, co-worker or friend based on only one part of who they are. On this Laetare Sunday we are called to trust that God is at work within us, shaping our hearts, even when our lives seem quiet or hidden, just as God was quietly preparing David for something greater. God does not judge us by our appearance or who we are. But He sees our hearts and pours His divine love and mercy into each one of us, if we are prepared to receive them.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ