



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

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

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

This Week: 22nd– 29th Mar 2026 Psalter Week 1	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 22nd March Fifth Sunday of Lent	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 Children's Liturgy during 10:30am Mass
Monday 23rd March Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Tim Cree RIP(LH)	7:00 pm Journey in Faith
Tuesday 24th March Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Judith Cussen RIP (MM)	
Wednesday 25th March Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Gladis Remedios RIP (KA)	After Mass, Adoration until 6.00pm
Thursday 26th March Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Tim Cree RIP	10:30 am Private Church Tour
Friday 27th March Lent Feria	No morning Prayer 9:00 am Stations of the Cross 9:30 am Judith Cussen RIP	
Saturday 28th March Lent Feria	11:00 am Harry Remedios RIP (KA)	9:30am FHC Session in the Hall 10:15-10:45 am Confessions <u>11.00am-5. 30pm Recollection for Readers and the Eucharistic Ministers</u> 12:00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall
Sunday 29th March Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Second collection for Easter Flowers	8:30 am Katherine & Michael Sekovski RIP(BS) 10:30 am Rex Langford RIP (SL) 6:00 pm Private intention (JD)	After 8:30am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall

**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
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Diocesan Trustees:
Registered Charity
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PARISH SCHOOL

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Primary School,
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PRINCIPAL

Mr A Carry

PARISH SECRETARY

Bogusia Koniszewska-
Fijolek

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**PARISH HALL
BOOKINGS**

Please contact Sally at
volunteers.

sacredheart.droitwich
@rcaob.org.uk or
07891144870

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8:30am & 10:30 am

With the Lord there is mercy,
in Him is plentiful redemption.

6:00 pm

My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on His word.

My soul is longing for the Lord; more than watchman for daybreak

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.

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 Funeral Service of Neville will take place on Wednesday 8th April at 10:45 am. The Requiem Mass of Judith will take place on Thursday 16th April at 11:00 am followed by burial at 12.30 pm. 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'.

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.

RECOLLECTION FOR READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTER

A day of recollection for the Readers and Eucharistic Ministers will be on Saturday 28th March beginning with Mass at 10.00am and continuing at **11.30am to 5.30pm**. Lunch time refreshment will be provided. Please, all Readers and Eucharistic Ministers mark this in your diary.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

2nd April: Maundy Thursday : 7pm, Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by watching with the Lord

3rd April: Good Friday: 10.15am, Walk of Witness begin from the church.

12.00pm , Stations of the Cross. **03.00pm**, Good Friday Passion Service.

4th April: Saturday 08.00pm , Easter Vigil

5th April: Easter Sunday : 08.30 am & 10.30 am

GIFT AID

Please pick up your new tax year box of gift aid envelopes from the back of church if you donate weekly using this method. Also if you are carrying out any tax planning for the end of this tax year involving donating to charities please consider the church as an option. As a parish we are fully registered and any one off donation will come under the Gift Aid relief rules.

LENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

As we had begun our Lenten journey well this year, now we are almost at the culmination of that journey. Now is the time for us to look back and see how well we made this journey. Our Lenten Reconciliation Service will be on Tuesday 31st of March at 7pm. Priests from the deanery will be helping us to hear the individual confessions. If you can't make on Tuesday, on Monday 30th at 7pm there will be confessions at St. George's Worcester. Please make use of this opportunity to prepare yourselves spiritually for the celebration of Easter.

PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

The Pastoral Letter from the Archbishop has been sent to your email along with the Newsletter. There are some hard copies available at the back of the church if you would like to read them personally.

SUNDAY 29TH MARCH PALM SUNDAY

The Palm Sunday Service will begin from the Parish Hall with blessing of palms, then the Solemn entrance Procession will go through the main door to the church. So, could everybody gather at the Parish Hall for each Mass.

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES

We need volunteers to read and do the Eucharistic Ministry for the Easter Triduum. If you could help with reading or Eucharistic Ministry, please write your names on the clip board at the Back of the church before Palm Sunday.

THANKSGIVING MASS FOR MARRIAGE: SATURDAY 2ND MAY

Are you celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2026? Are you engaged to be married this year? Or would you simply like to give thanks to God for your marriage, and ask for His ongoing blessings? If so, we would like to invite you to attend this year's Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage. 12noon at St Chad's Cathedral on Saturday 2 May. To be celebrated by Bishop Richard Walker. Please tell us if you would like to attend using the link: www.vocations.org.uk/marriage-mass.

Should you need any more information, contact Paul Northam on (0121) 321 5148 or email: marriage.mass@rcaob.org.uk. The deadline for booking is Sunday 19th April. After this date we cannot guarantee that your anniversary will be included in the Mass booklet due to our printing deadline.

EASTER CHOCOLATES COMPETITION

With Holy Week almost upon us there is very little time left to guess how many chocolates there are in the container. The last opportunity to make a guess will be after the 6.00 pm Mass on Palm Sunday. It's only £1 to make a guess - and that guess may win you approx. 5lbs in weight of chocolate for Easter! The money raised is going towards the Youth section of our Parish, so please don't miss out on this chance to help their finances. Go on - Make a guess!

NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT – PUBLIC TOURS & CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS

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

Saturday 25th April @ 2pm & 3.30pm (*The 2pm tours are fully booked so extra tour have been added*) & **Saturday 23rd May @ 2pm.**

The next monthly public children's workshops (mini church tour & mosaic-making session) will take place on: **Saturday 11th April & Saturday 9th May @ 2:30pm.** 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 or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Pastoral Letter

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, As we welcome the Spring equinox when the hours of daylight begin to exceed those of darkness and night, the Church's calendar also marks a turning-point. The first four weeks of Lent have already passed quickly and in the coming two weeks, which the Church sometimes calls Passiontide, we begin to reflect more intensely in our prayers and liturgy on the Passion of Our Lord. With Easter a fortnight away, we still have time to re-focus our Lenten efforts. There is no need to dwell on the opportunities we have missed this Lent for prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Instead, we can choose today how to make the very best use of the time that is left to us, so that our celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord will be all the more joyful and fruitful.

In our prayer we can make a real effort to see every experience of Our Lord's passion as a gesture of his love for us - his betrayal by Judas - his abandonment by Peter - his trial and scourging - his entrusting of Our Lady to us as our mother - and his death on the cross. The sufferings of Christ are all expressions of God's infinite love for us. This is the generous love - in St John Henry Newman's words - that He...the double agony in man for man should undergo. What can we offer in return? The best offerings we can make this Passiontide are acceptance and accompaniment of our Saviour on the painful but life-giving journey ahead. We can begin by accepting our lives as they are just now - the extraordinary gift of a generous God Who has made us to know, love and serve Him in this world and to be happy with Him in the next. We can accompany our Saviour especially in those who suffer at this time within our own communities - and because of the unpredictable and destructive wars in Ukraine and the Middle East. We can echo in our prayer the recent words of Pope Leo: On behalf of the Christians of the Middle East, and of all women and men of good will, I appeal to those responsible for this conflict: cease fire! May paths of dialogue be reopened! Violence can never lead to the justice, stability and peace for which the peoples are waiting. As Catholics we must cherish life. Our Lord has told us: I am the way the truth and the life...I am the resurrection and the life. Within our own Archdiocese we have been blessed for many years by the work and witness for life of the late Professor Jack Scarisbrick, who died recently - and who, together with his wife Nuala, founded the Life charity. Their example reminds us of how much good can be achieved in the span of a single lifetime.

Today's Gospel story encourages us on our pilgrim way through Lent. The turning point for Lazarus is a foretaste of the Resurrection. Brought back to life, he was restored to his grieving sisters - and then, according to an Orthodox tradition, he travelled to Cyprus with Paul and Barnabas. St John's Gospel tells us that many of the Jews came to believe in Jesus because of Lazarus and his testimony. The turning-points in our own lives may be far less dramatic - but the impact of our witness can be just as important. For all of us, Baptism or Reception into the Catholic Church are themselves the beginning of a new life of faith - and it was truly uplifting to welcome the greater number of catechumens and candidates coming forward in the Cathedral for this year's Rite of Election. Another turning-point for many of our young people may be the recognition of a vocation - to ordained ministry or consecrated life. I ask the young people in your congregation: is Our Lord calling you to witness to him, as the resurrection and the life, by offering yourself in life-long service among the People of God? Cardinal Newman heard the crucified Christ calling him through the experiences of his own life. In a beautiful reflection, from his sermon entitled the Tears of Christ at the Grave of Lazarus, he wrote: Wherever faith in Christ is, there is Christ Himself. He said to Martha, "Believest thou this?" Wherever there is a heart to answer, "Lord, I believe," there Christ is present. Blessed be His name! nothing can rob us of this consolation: we will be as certain, through His grace, that He is standing over us in love, as though we saw Him. We will not, after our experience of Lazarus's history, doubt an instant that He is thoughtful about us. With my prayers for a blessed Holy Week - in company with our Saviour - and a joyful Easter to come. Yours devotedly in Christ. Bernard Longley. The Archbishop of Birmingham.

Main collection:
£472.19

Gif Aid: £170.10

**Late collection for
CAFOD: £67.00**

**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

Isaiah 50:4-7;

Psalms 22(21);

Philippians 2:6-11;

Matthew 26:14-27:66