



Societas Presbyterorum  
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

## SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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### Today's Mass Readings

*Isaiah 50:4-7;*

*Psalms 22(21);*

*Philippians 2:6-11;*

*Matthew 26:14-27:66*

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

<b>This Week: 29th Mar—5th Apr 2026 Psalter Week 2</b>	<b>Holy Mass &amp; Services</b>	<b>Other Events</b>
<b>Sunday 29th March</b> <b>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Year A</b> 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)	
<b>Monday 30th March</b> Monday of Holy Week	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am George McClenaghan RIP (MM)	
<b>Tuesday 31st March</b> Tuesday of Holy Week	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Patricia Fahy RIP (GF)	7:00 pm Reconciliation Services
<b>Wednesday 1st April</b> Wednesday of Holy Week	<b>9:00 am Holy Mass</b>	11:30 am Chrism Mass at St Chad's Cathedral
<b>Thursday 2nd April</b> Thursday of Holy Week	<u>No Morning Mass</u> <b>7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper</b>	9:15 am Church cleaning.
<b>Friday 3rd April</b> Good Friday	12:00 noon Station of the Cross <b>3:00pm Good Friday Liturgy</b>	10:15 am Walk of Witness Retiring collection for the Holy Places in the Holy Land
<b>Saturday 4th April</b> Holy Saturday	<b>8:00 pm Vigil Mass of Easter</b>	Easter offerings for the Parish Clergy
<b>Sunday 5th April</b> <b>Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord Year A</b>	8:30 am Holy Mass 10:30 am Holy Mass <u>No evening Mass</u>	Easter offerings for the Parish Clergy

***“Let us pray together that the Lord may send His Church ministers ablaze with  
evangelical charity, dedicated to the good of all the baptized,  
and courageous missionaries in every part of the world.”***

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 27th 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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**PARISH HALL  
BOOKINGS**

Please contact Sally at  
volunteers.

sacredheart.droitwich  
@rcaob.org.uk or  
07891144870

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**8:30am & 10:30 am My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**

**6:00 pm Why have you forsaken me?**

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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 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.

**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 it on Tuesday, there will be confessions at St. George's Worcester on Monday 30th at 7pm. Please make use this opportunity to prepare yourselves spiritually for the celebration of Easter.

**CHURCH CLEANING ON THURSDAY 2ND APRIL AT 9:15 AM.**

As we are in Holy Week preparing for the Easter, we need to clean the church of the coming celebrations. So, on Thursday 2nd April at 9.15 am could you please come and give a hand to clean the church for Easter.

**HOLY WEEK LITURGIES**

As in previous years we will need volunteers to assist with the Holy Week Liturgies, most notably to assist with: Watching between the Mass of the Lord's Supper and Midnight on Holy Thursday, Celebration of the Washing of the Feet at the Mass of the Lord's Supper, Reading of Scriptures on Holy Thursday, Passion Readings on Good Friday, Reading of Scriptures at the Easter Vigil and to assist with distribution of Holy Communion on Holy Thursday and at the Easter Vigil. Sets of clipboards for signing-up of volunteers have been placed at the back of the Church. Thanks in advance for your generosity of time and spirit. When you are arriving and leaving before the Blessed Sacrament during this Watching period you should, **if possible, do so by adoring the Blessed Sacrament on both knees. Please remain silent until you reach the car park.** Thank you.

**JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)**

The next Journey in Faith session will take place on Monday 13th April at 7pm. The topic will be 'Saints our Companions: Living with the Saints'.

## 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: Holy Saturday 08.00pm** , Easter Vigil

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

## THE HOLY PLACES

Retiring collection for the Holy Places in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday.

## WEDNESDAY ADORATION

Wednesday Adorations will resume after Easter on Wednesday 22nd of April.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the latest Parish Council Meeting are available at the back of the Church on the notice board.

## INVITATION TO JOIN THE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

Fr Philip Griffin, Pilgrimage Organiser, has written to parishes across the Archdiocese inviting them to take part in this year's day pilgrimage to Walsingham, Norfolk. For more information please see the poster in the back of the Church.

## 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.

## JOBS VACANCY

Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College are currently advertising for a number of position including a Minibus Driver and a Site Assistant. Please see the school website for details - <https://www.blessededward.co.uk/about-us/vacancies/>

## 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

Children's Liturgy will resume after half term time on **19th April.**

## 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:**

**£355.25**

**Gif Aid: £135.00**

**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**

Acts 10:34,37-43;

Psalm 118(117);

Corinthians 5:6b-8;

John 20:1-9

My dear brothers and sisters, today we enter into the most sacred week of the entire year, Holy Week. It begins with a strange almost unsettling contrast. We begin outside the church with palms in our hands voices raised, hearts lifted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" And then, only a few days after, we are standing at the foot of the Cross on Good Friday, hearing: "Crucify Him". The same voices... the same city... the same people... What happened? Look at the reaction of the crowds around Jesus, both the crowd that travels with Jesus up to the city gates and the also the citizens of Jerusalem who are troubled by what this solemn entrance means for them. There are two kinds of crowd at the scene. First, we have the crowd that accompanies Jesus to the gates of Jerusalem. They sing "Hosanna" (a word which originally meant "SAVE US NOW!") and line the road before Jesus with garments and palms to welcome the Messiah. Have you ever had a moment when your faith felt strong, alive, joyful... and then... not long after you struggled? You doubted? You fell? On this Palm Sunday, we are not talking about the crowd that accompanied Jesus 2000 years ago. It is about us. The truth is we are the crowd. We are the ones who praise God on Sunday and forget Him on Monday. We are the ones who say: "Lord, I love you..." and then live as if He doesn't matter. Secondly, there are the citizens within the city of Jerusalem. When St. Matthew tells us: "When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was *shaken* and asked, 'Who is this?'" He uses here the same Greek word to describe the earthquake following the Resurrection - the whole people are "*shaken*" as from an earthquake. In His humility, taking up the Cross for us, God shakes us to our very foundations. Let us not be afraid or ashamed. God shakes us to free us from what enslaves us. This Palm Sunday is not here to accuse us or to judge us, but it is here to reveal our hearts and reminds us of who we are in Christ.

The Gospel, which we proclaim just before the procession with palms at the very beginning of Mass, tells us the true meaning of our Christian Life. I remember the days back during our Noviciate, a special year of preparation before we took our First Profession to the Religious Life. Our Novice Master asked each one of us to choose our own motto. One of my companions chose an interesting motto "The Master has need of it". This was taken from Matthew 21. This motto signalled the humility of the one being called like a donkey, a humble animal made for work, not very graceful, unlikely to draw attention to itself. Even that impersonal pronoun "it" (The Master has need of it) tells us of the pure humility which chosen people are invited to live. The person responding to this invitation acknowledges that "My life doesn't belong to me but my whole life is about the Master and what the Master needs, and I am willing to cooperate". Even though this invitation was for a lifelong service as a consecrated person, the basic idea is true of every baptized person. Every baptized person should say in regard to himself or herself, "The Master has need of me". We speak of Baptism as a *Character Sacrament*. So, when a person is being baptized, he or she receives a brand, a character, that says, "I belong to Christ. The Master has need of me, not about my projects and plans." God uses us to carry out His plans and projects. In fact, God doesn't need us. He doesn't need our existence. God doesn't need our good works. God could accomplish what He wants on His own, that's true. But it speaks about the special privilege of being a Christian. God delights in allowing us to cooperate with His providence. St. Thomas Aquinas speaks of the dignity of causality, that we can act as instruments or secondary causes for God's purpose. He doesn't need us in the strict sense, but He needs us in the sense that He wants to draw us into His work. Once we understand this principle, everything changes fundamentally in our lives. That is what happened on Palm Sunday two millennia ago, that triumphant entry to Jerusalem turned the world upside down. Brothers and sisters, let us welcome Jesus into our hearts and let us enter this Holy Week with true humility and trust. Let us enter the New Jerusalem with Christ our King.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ