



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

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

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

This Week: 5th– 12th Apr 2026	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 5th April Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord Year A	8:30 am Holy Mass 10:30 am Holy Mass No evening Mass	Easter offering for the Parish Clergy.
Monday 6th April Easter Monday, Solemnity	10:00 am Lourdes Gabutan RIP (GS)	
Tuesday 7th April Easter Tuesday, Solemnity	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Rene Johnson (KW)	
Wednesday 8th April Easter Wednesday, Solemnity	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Tim Cree RIP (BB)	10:45 am Funeral Service of Neville Howard 5.30 pm Wedding Rehearsal
Thursday 9th April Easter Thursday, Solemnity	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Francis Corrigam RIP (L&MB)	12.30 pm Private Church Tour
Friday 10th April Easter Friday, Solemnity	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Alan Remedios RIP (KA)	1:30 pm Wedding
Saturday 11th April Easter Saturday, Solemnity	11:00 am KC Andrews RIP (TJ)	10:15-10:45am Confessions 12:00-5:00pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall 2:00 pm Private Church Tour 2:30pm Children's Workshop Tour NLHF
Sunday 12th April Second Sunday of Easter Year A	8:30 am Maria Felsztynska RIP (SL) 10:30 am Patricia Fahy & Celia Teirney RIP (GF) 6:00 pm Private intention (JD)	After 8:30am Mass - Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall 2:30pm SVP Afternoon

*“Let us pray together for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation,
that they may find the accompaniment they need
and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer. “*

Pope Leo XIV via Twitter 1st April 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
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Diocesan Trustees:
Registered Charity
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PARISH 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

This is the day the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice in it and be glad.

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.

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

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.

THANK YOU FOR ALL HELP SUPPORT

We take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued help and support in the church. Especially the parish volunteers who are always ready and willing to help both pastoral and temporal aspects of the parish life. A big thank you to all the Choir members, Readers and the Eucharistic ministers, altar servers and all the others who helped and arranged the Holy Week Services. We wish and pray that you all have a Blessed Easter season.

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

The next Journey in Faith session will take place on Monday 27th April at 7pm. The topic will be 'Saints our Companions: Living with the Saints'.

EASTER CHOCOLATES COMPETITION

Easter Chocolates competition. Thanks to everyone who entered the competition £72 was raised for the Youth section of the Parish. The correct number of chocolates - 274 was not suggested, so the nearest guess of 275 has been declared the winner!

WEDNESDAY ADORATION

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

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.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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

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/>

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 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 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 or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Main collection:

£422.60

Gif Aid: £4700.00

**Second collection
for Easter Flowers**

£167.37

**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 2:42-47;
Psalm 118(117);
1 Peter 1:3-9;
John 20:19-31

It is Easter, a night that transformed the course of human history. The world that was overshadowed with darkness and sin has at last seen the light of hope at the end of the tunnel. As the Paschal Candle, brought into the church, slowly advances towards the altar, its light gradually dispels the darkness. On this night the chant of the Easter Proclamation invites heartfelt rejoicing, "Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King... knowing an end to gloom and darkness" (*Exsultet*). It is in the last hours of the night that the events take place that are recounted in the Gospel we have just heard (cf. Lk 24:1-12). The divine light of the Resurrection begins to shine and the Lord's Passover from death to life takes place as the sun is about to rise. The first light of dawn reveals that the great stone placed before Jesus's tomb has been rolled away, as a few women, dressed in mourning, make their way to the tomb. The bewilderment and fear of the disciples are still enshrouded by darkness. Everything takes place in this night. This night thus reminds us that the light of the Resurrection illumines our path one step at a time; quietly, it breaks through the darkness of history and shines in our hearts, calling for the response of a humble faith, devoid of all triumphalism.

Katherine was a well celebrated church organist in the parish; her passion for the sacred music augmented the liturgy. Her younger son Eldon, as a young boy, had sat beside her each week on the organ bench. Suddenly everything turned upside down. Her life as an organist and a churchgoer ended when Eldon, still in high school, suddenly died from a burst appendix. She just could not sit on that organ bench anymore; his absence was too palpable. Her music fell silent, hushed by death. Death, we know, is an indiscriminate storm. It sweeps away a whole world, which a love once formed. And that is how Sunday followed the storm of Christ's death: in silence. Everything had been swept away. Nothing to do now but to withdraw, to hide out or, for the unwavering of heart, to care for the tomb. The sorrowful silence at the start of Easter Sunday should not be overlooked. It is quite telling. The Gospels insist that Christ's disciples resisted the notion that He had risen from the dead till the day of Pentecost. These men and women did not intend to pick at their wounds with vain hope for a return from the dead. No, each of them had to be won over to what had happened in the darkness. What did happen? Within the tomb, no one can say. But when even the most sceptical of historians is finished, we can say this: The tomb was empty. There could have been no possible talk of resurrection with a body still in the grave. Undoubtedly, many people in Jerusalem did not encounter a living Jesus. Certainly, His enemies did not. But Jesus did show Himself to those whom He loved. Indeed, His love for them seems to have been more of a factor in the showing than their love for Him.

It is irrational to think that the Lord's Resurrection resolves everything as if by magic. Far from it: we cannot celebrate Easter without continuing to deal with the nights that dwell in our hearts and the shadows of death that so often loom over our world. Christ indeed conquered sin and destroyed death, yet in our earthly history the power of His Resurrection is still being brought to fulfilment. And that fulfilment, like a small seed of light, has been entrusted to us, to protect it and to make it grow. The risen Christ is the *definitive turning point* in human history. He is the hope that does not fade. He is the love that accompanies us and sustains us. He is the future of history, the ultimate destination towards which we walk, to be welcomed into that new life in which the Lord Himself *will wipe away all our tears* and "death, mourning and crying and pain will be no more" (Rev 21:4). And it falls to us to proclaim this Easter hope, this "turning point" where darkness becomes light. Dear friends, the Easter season is a time of hope. "There still is fear, there still is a painful awareness of sinfulness, but there also is light breaking through... Easter brings the good news that, although things seem to get worse in the world, the Evil One has already been overcome. Easter allows us to affirm that, even though God seems very distant and although we remain preoccupied with many little things, our Lord walks with us on the road... Thus there are many rays of hope casting their light on our way through life" .

Fr. George Mathew SCJ