



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

| This Week 10th May - 17th May (Psalter Week 1) | Mass Intentions (Mass will be said privately by the Parish Priest) | Other Events |
|---|---|---------------------|
| Sunday 10th May Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A | Alma Gell RIP (MR) | |
| Monday 11th May Easter Feria | | |
| Tuesday 12th May Easter Feria | | |
| Wednesday 13th May Easter Feria | | |
| Thursday 14th May Easter Feria | | |
| Friday 15th May Easter Feria | | |
| Saturday 16th May Easter Feria | | |
| Sunday 17th May Sixth Sunday of Easter Year A | | |

SACRED HEART COMMUNITY

Fr. George Mathew SCJ
(Priest-in-Charge)
georgemathewscj@
hotmail.com

**In an emergency, please
contact:**

07448 042484

Fr. Brian Boyle SCJ
(Retired Priest)

Fr. Tom Kelly SCJ
(Retired Priest)

Bro. Patrick Leighton SCJ

PARISH SCHOOL

St. Joseph's,
6 St Joseph's Close,
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HEAD TEACHER

Mrs. Cath Bryan

PARISH SECRETARY

Kate Dalglish
The Sacred Heart
Presbytery
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@hotmail.co.uk.

SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

Gerry Ceclich
Kate Dalglish
Clare Tomlinson

PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for all our parishioners, and/or their friends and relatives, who are unwell:

Mary Arulandhu, Barbara Conway, Eileen Dalton, Delores Delaney, Frank Fawcett, Sheila Ferriter, Alan Francis, Joan Graham, Beryl Hill, Alan Hurst, John Jennings, Andrew McDermott, Stella McDermott, Jackie McLean, Michael Sheridan, Aidan Skinner, Jacky Smith, Paul Smith, Margaret Steward, Angela Wardle, Breda Wightman, Mark Wightman, Richard Wightman & Monsignor Graham Wilkinson.

Please keep all parishioners and their families in your thoughts and prayers at this time.

Due to the new data regulations (GDPR), the Archdiocese have requested that we do not list names unless we have the consent of the individual. If you would like your name to be included in this list please contact Fr. George SCJ or Kate Dalglish. Please note that the newsletter is also placed on the parish website. Thank you for your understanding.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for **Millie Arnold** and **Maria de Silva** who died recently. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Please keep their family and friends in your kind thoughts and prayers.

CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

Following the Prime Ministers address on Monday 23rd March the Sacred Heart Church is now **closed** to the public. Celebration of Mass, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, will take place without a public congregation. The Parish Secretary will now be working from home until lockdown restrictions are lifted. If you wish to contact the Parish Secretary, the best way is via email to sacredheartdroitwich@hotmail.co.uk. Messages can be left on the Presbytery phone on 01905 773258 and Fr. George will forward them on.

MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE: SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS - FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (ACTS 6: 1-7, 1 PETER 2: 4-9, JOHN 14: 1-12)

I am in you and you are in me. Jesus says, "To have seen me is to have seen the Father". In our married life, through the visible sign of the way we love each other, when people meet one of us we can be a sign that 'when seeing me, you see the one I love, in me and with me', thus emulating Jesus' relationship with His Father.

ARCHDIOCESE: ONLINE DONATIONS

We appreciate many of our parishioners may be struggling financially at this time and we pray they are getting the support they need. Indeed, many people in our parishes are stepping in to help where it is needed, and their efforts are to be commended. However, we are receiving numerous enquiries from parishioners who would like to continue giving during this period when we cannot attend our parishes in person. We are able to offer a new online giving facility. Online donations can be made at <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/support-our-work> and would be gratefully received. Please select Droitwich if you wish to donate to the Parish.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass will continue to be said in Church privately by Fr. George; any Mass Intentions already booked will still stand. Mass Intention requests can still be booked via contacting Fr. George on 01905 773258 or via email at sacredheartdroitwich@hotmail.co.uk. If the request is for a living individual, please could you include a declaration that their name can be published in the newsletter. If you would like to make a donation please could this be done via cheque made payable to the Sacred Heart Fathers & Brothers or if you wish pay in cash you may post them at the Presbytery. We make every effort to accommodate Mass Intentions on the dates requested however this is not always possible due to prior bookings. When submitting a Mass Intention request, please could you provide an email address so that we can contact you if needed.

BDES: CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The new BDES website pages *Prayer and Learning Resources* and *Shared Resources* are listed below. They have some useful resources so please do visit them.

<https://www.bdes.org.uk/resources-for-prayer-and-learning.html>

<https://www.bdes.org.uk/shared-resources-from-diocesan-schools.html>

CAFOD

CAFOD have provided many resources, including online liturgy for children and adults, blogs and prayer resources. To find out more about how CAFOD are responding to the Coronavirus outbreak and to access these resources, please visit www.cafod.org.uk.

LOURDES AT HOME

Although we cannot travel to Lourdes in person this year, let us make a pilgrimage in our hearts by visiting www.lourdes-france.org/en/your-spiritual-pilgrimage-to-lourdes/. There is also an opportunity to view the prayer of Chaplains at the Grotto at <https://www.lourdes-france.org/tv-lourdes>.

CTS BOOKS BLOG

Please visit www.ctsbooks.org for some useful articles to help support parishioners whilst the church is closed. These articles are updated regularly and are free to view. There are also some other useful articles on this website under Spiritual Support in Isolation. CTS have also made available a free download *What if I can't get to Sunday Mass?* This has been distributed with the newsletter this week. If you wish to view it online, please visit the CTS books website at the address above.

VATICAN WEBSITE

The English language version of the Vatican website can be found at <http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>. There are many useful resources on this website, particularly in the news section at <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>.

ALIVE PUBLISHING

The publishers of Bible Alive, Alive Publishing, have a page on their website dedicated to the COVID-19 outbreak. To view these free resources, please visit <https://www.alivepublishing.co.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

FOODBANK

Foodbank have sent through a new wish list for May. This is on the website and has been distributed with this newsletter.

They would be very grateful for any donations. Whilst the church is closed there are collection points in Droitwich at Waitrose and Morrisons.

“He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you can hide. His truth will be your shield and your protection.”

Psalm 91: 4

CATHOLIC SATELLITE TV (EWTN)

Catholic Satellite TV(EWTN) on Sky TV channel 588, broadcasts daily Mass at 1.00 pm, 6.00 pm and 11.00 pm and it has 24 hours of different programs which will be helpful for us all in this time. EWTN is also available on other digital platforms.

DROITWICH SVP

Sacred Heart SVP can be contacted on 0777 292 7535 or at droitwichsvp@googlemail.com.

REFUGEE KNITTING & REFUGEE UNDERWEAR: UPDATED

All collections have now been cancelled until further notice. If you wish to continue knitting, please do so and, given that church is now closed, please keep them at home until collections resume. Thank you for your continual support.



*Registered as a Charity,
Birmingham Roman Catholic
Diocesan Trustees:
Registered Charity
Number 234216.*

Your are the branches

A tribe in Africa has what we may consider an unusual way of punishing offenders. The one who commits an offence is simply banished from the tribe and is forbidden to have any contact with anyone from it. Research into the lives and workings of these tribes has shown that the one who is so banished has always died within a few days. The reason for the death, researchers point out, is not that the person was not able to fend for him/herself, but the fact that the banished person realises that not belonging to anywhere or to anybody such a life is not worth living and simply gives up on life. The discourse of Jesus on the vine and the branches seems to make this very point. It also gives us a beautiful image of Church and in doing so, states emphatically that Christian existence and life is never merely an individual life, but always a life lived in and through community.

The verses of today's Gospel contain the last of the "I am" sayings in the Gospel of John. Jesus uses a common symbol of the world at that time: Vine. While in 15:1, the relationship with Jesus and the Father is stressed, in 15:5, when the metaphor is used again, Jesus does so in the context of his relationship with his disciples. Thus, the focus of the metaphor is interrelationship. If God is the vine dresser, Jesus is the vine and the disciples are the branches.

While it is easy for most of us to understand God as the vine dresser and Jesus as the vine, it is important for us to understand our role as branches. The first step to this understanding is to note is that on a vine all branches look similar though they are not the same. This similarity suggests cohesiveness and deep inner unity. This unity of the branches is possible only because they grow out of the same vine and it is shown in the fact that all produce the same fruit. This fruit which originates in the vine itself, which is Jesus, is the fruit of unconditional and magnanimous love. Since all produce the same fruit, there is no superior or inferior branch. Each is as precious as the other and is needed to complete the vine. If one branch separates itself off from the vine not only will that branch wither and die and not be able to produce any fruit, but it will also result in the incompleteness of the vine. This means then that all positions in the Church are only functional and not to be used to dominate or oppress. It also means that each of us is responsible for the welfare of the other.

All too often Christianity has been understood as a religion that has only the individual dimension. The communitarian dimension has been neglected. This is seen in so many of the Sacraments (which are both individual and communitarian) being treated and regarded as private devotions. The approach of many Christians has often been: My God and I. This approach is to misunderstand Christianity and all that Jesus stood for. The metaphor of today makes explicit that mutual indwelling is at the heart of the preaching of Jesus, and that Christianity, while it surely has an individual dimension, just as surely has a communitarian dimension. I am, as a Christian my brother's and sister's keeper. Their joys and sorrow, their trials and tribulations, their successes and failures, have to be as real to me as my own if I am to be a Christian in the true sense of the word. The Christian does make an individual commitment and choice to follow Jesus but he/she makes it in and through a community. That is the reason why we have the community worship/Mass not individual.

This is seen clearly in the first reading of today, in which Saul who became Paul made such a choice. While Paul did have a personal experience of the Lord and was called by him directly, he also had to be accepted by the community who though they were initially afraid because of his past, dared to accept him as one of the branches of the vine. They not only did this, but also made his trials and tribulations their own, protecting him when his life was in danger. In doing so, the community showed in practice what it meant to be part of the vine.

The community lived out the exhortation made by John in the second reading of today in which he asks Christians to love not in word or speech but in action and in truth. The Spirit of Jesus is what sustains the community and constantly reminds them of their status as branches in the same vine. The Spirit that Jesus breathed on the disciples affirms and continues his message of unconditional love. It is a love₄ that makes no distinction, a love that reaches out of itself and a love through which the world will know that he still lives.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ