



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

SACRED HEART & ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Today's Mass Readings

Joshua 5:9a,10-12;

Psalms 34(33)

2 Corinthians 5:17-21;

Luke 15:1-3,11-32

**Welcome to this House
of God:**

**Talk to God before Mass
Listen to God during Mass
Talk to others after Mass**

This Week: 30th Mar-6th April 2025 Psalter Week 4	Holy Mass & Services	Other Events
Sunday 30th March Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C	8:30 am George McClenaghan RIP(MM) 10:30 am Rex Langford RIP (SL) 6:00 pm Pat Whaley (AP)	After 8:30 Mass: Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall 10.30 am Children's Liturgy
Monday 31st March Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Patricia Fahy RIP (GF)	
Tuesday 1st April Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Noel Duffey & Peter Seroini Speedy recovery	
Wednesday 2nd April Lent Feria	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Joan Bond RIP (AM)	After Communion-- Adoration 5.00 pm Reception of the body Joan Bond 7.00 pm Journey in Faith
Thursday 3rd April Feast of St Richard of Chichester	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Ealeyamma & Shaji (SM)	12.15 pm Requiem Mass of Joan Bond
Friday 4th April Lent Feria	No morning Prayer 9:00 am Station of the Cross 9:15 am Patricia Fahy & Celia Tierney RIP (GF)	10.30 am Requiem Mass of Breda Wightman 6.30-8.00 pm Youth Group
Saturday 5th April Lent Feria	11.00 am Gordon Evan Evans RIP(BM)	10:15-10.45am Confessions 12:00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall
Sunday 6th April Fifth Sunday of Lent Year C	8:30 am People of the Parish 10:30 am Patricia Fahy RIP (GF) 6:00 pm Holy Mass	After 8:30 Mass: Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall 10.30 am Children's Liturgy

**" Even if our past seems burdensome, complicated, and perhaps even ruined, we can
always give it to God and set out anew on our journey. God is merciful, and He always
waits for us!"**

Pope Francis via Twitter 26th March 2025

**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:
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PARISH SCHOOL

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Primary School,
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PRINCIPAL

Mr A Carry

PARISH SECRETARY

Bogusia Koniszewska-
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**PARISH HALL
BOOKINGS**

Please contact Sally at
volunteers.

sacredheart.droitwich
@rcaob.org.uk or
07891144870

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

8.30, 10.30am Taste and see that the Lord is good.

6.00 pm I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise always on my lips.
In the Lord my soul shall make its boast; the humble shall hear 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, Alan Hurst, John Jennings, Andrew McDermott, Michael Sheridan,
Jacky Smith, Paul Smith, Margaret Steward, Richard Wightman, Mrs. Roma,
Judy Lynam Pyper, Peggy Garvey and Clare Tomlinson.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are asked for Fr. Dominic Innamorati SCJ, Breda Wightman,
Joan Bond, Norah O'Leary, Michael Marshall who died recently. May their
souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.

The Requiem Mass for Joan Bond will take place on Thursday 3rd April at
12.00 noon. Her body will be brought to the church on the evening before at
5.00 pm.

The Requiem Mass for Breda Wightman will take place on Friday 4th April at
10.30am.

The Requiem Mass for Fr. Dominic will take place at Olton Friary St Bernards
Road, Solihull, B92 7BL on 7th April at 11.00am. Fr. Dominic will then be
brought to Sacred Heart Church around 3.00 pm followed by burial at 4 pm.

The Requiem Mass for Michael Marshall will take place on Friday 11th April
at 11.30am.

The Requiem Mass of Nora O'Leary will take place on 29th April at 12.00
noon.

Please keep their family and friends in your prayers.

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

The Journey in Faith will take place on 2nd April and the topic will be
'Internal life, Heaven and Hell'.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On every Friday during Lent there will be Stations of the Cross at 9.00am
followed by Holy Mass. There will not be Novena to the Sacred Heart on
Fridays during Lent.

NEWMAN TALK

Details are: Worcester Circle Newman Association: Hope in the Cross,
David McLaughlin. Wednesday 9th April 2025, 7pm. St. George's RC Church
Hall, Worcester WR1 1UT. This will be an excellent opportunity to help
prepare for Holy Week. All are welcome.

MOSAIC RESTORATION

The cleaning and restoration of the mosaics is scheduled to start on Tuesday
22nd April and is planned to be completed in early July. Whilst there will
inevitably be some disruption, daily Masses will continue to be held as usual.
Further details are available in the Visitor Centre – open every Saturday
afternoon. This work is funded thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.



MOTHERING SUNDAY

We would like to wish all mothers a Happy Mother's Day.
We hope you enjoy your special day.

GIFT AID

The tax year end, 5th April 2025, is fast approaching. For anyone looking to increase their charitable giving before the year ends, please consider a one-off donation to the Church.

New weekly envelopes for 2025-2026 will be in the Narthex from next week. The archdiocese has reviewed the second collection envelopes as many of the charitable beneficiaries make their own tax claims. The majority of second collections will not be gift aided. There will only be three second collection we can claim on in the new tax year. It is therefore not viable to order envelopes for standing order donors with just three envelopes in each box. So, the Sunday of the three gift aided approved collections there will be a box in the Narthex with envelopes for those collections. As a standing order donor if you want to give to these second collections and enable gift aid to be claimed please take one of the envelopes, put your donation inside the envelope and write your surname on the envelope before putting into the second collection box.



JUBILEE YEAR 2025 ICON

Created by the artist Mulugeta Araya to celebrate 2025 Pilgrims of Hope, this icon was produced with a CAFOD partners from St Mary's College Wukro, northern Ethiopia, who have expertise in iconography. The artist interprets Jesus's teaching of healing and liberation in the Synagogue from Luke 4:16-21, which refers to Isaiah 61:1-2. Please see poster at the back of the Church. To help us start to celebrate the Jubilee Year, we have The Jubilee Companion Booklet available at the back of the Church, priced £1.50.

SVP REQUEST

One of our beneficiaries is in need of a replacement mobility scooter. Does anyone have a mobility scooter that is no longer in use and is still in working order, that they could kindly pass over to us?

You can contact us on 0771 3623997 or Droitwichreferrals@svp.org.uk

RECOLLECTION FOR READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

A day of recollection for the Readers and Eucharistic Ministers will be on Saturday 12th April from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm. Lunch time refreshments will be provided. Please, all Readers & Eucharist Ministers mark this in you diary.

PUBLIC CHURCH TOUR

As part of our National Lottery Heritage Fund project we continue to run activities for the local community. Church tours will be conducted on one Saturday each month. To book, visit the website:

<http://www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk/the-church/church-tours/>

One Saturday a month children's mosaic workshops and mini tours will run. To book, visit the website:

<http://www.sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk/news-and-events/upcoming-events/>

Thanks to all our volunteers who continue to make this work possible.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be Children's Liturgy during 10.30 am mass on **30th March and 6th April.**

PARISH YOUTH GROUP

Runs 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/safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Main Collection:

£370.22

Gift Aid: £314.50

**Thank you for
supporting your
Parish.**

**Mass attendance
last Sunday: 274**



**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 **13th April** from 2.30 pm to 4.30 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 43:16-21;

Psalms 126(125)

Philippians 3:8-14;

John 8:1-11

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, the Fourth Sunday is called Laetare Sunday, which, in parallel to Gaudete Sunday during the Advent season, marks the moment when we temporarily pause the penitential nature of our Lenten observance and focus ourselves for a while on the expectation of the great joy that is to come with the fulfilment of God's plan of salvation for us all, which He fulfilled through His Passion and which we commemorate through the Paschal Triduum and the glorious Easter season.

The parable of the Prodigal Son teaches us about freedom, duty and love. The younger son seeks freedom and wastes his inheritance, while the older son is dutiful but resentful. The father's generous love and forgiveness reveal that true discipleship requires a loving relationship with God. Without love, both freedom and duty can lead us astray. This lesson helps the young generation of today to see the importance of balancing freedom and responsibility with love for God and others. In the Gospel we see two personalities: the Prodigal Son and the Prodigal Father. The parable portrays God as a spendthrift when it comes to His love for His children. And he doesn't begin to forgive when he sees his son coming home, way off in the distance. The father spends some time watching the road, going up to the top of his house and looking down that road, all the time waiting and waiting and hoping that his son would come home. And when he saw him, what did he do? Did he wait for the son to apologise, kneel before him? He ran down the road making a fool of himself, with all the people looking at him as if he was crazy. And he reached his son, embracing him without any judgment or asking his son's whereabouts, and he ordered his servants, saying, "Get the robe of honour, and bring his ring of authority, and kill the fattened calf, because we are going to celebrate! My son was dead and now he is alive; he was lost and now he is found". This is a God who knows only to love and forgive. This is a God who is beyond generosity.

Why did the son come home? Because he was hungry? The Gospel says he said, "I'm starving here. I've got to go home and the only person who will accept me as I am is my father, because he knows me". After all, his father gave him one half of the whole inheritance without keeping anything for himself. This is God? If this is God, why are we so frightened all the time? We're frightened of our own fears. God does not expect anything except our love. And when we go to Him, He opens His arms. The son feels that he has come home, he is with his father, and then the hunger leaves him. Not just the hunger for food, but he realises what he was hungry for his father's love, to be with his father. And now we go to the son number two. Here the father has to leave the party and for the second time make a fool of himself with the second son. He has to go out and beg his son to come in and join the celebration. The father is filled with gratitude and love for the older son's faithfulness. The father's love for his older son is in no way diminished by the father's rejoicing at the return of the younger son. Yet the older son's jealousy reveals his limited understanding of the depth of his father's love. Did the son eventually go in? we don't know! Today we see this 'second son's syndrome' among the people who go away from God blaming Him for everything happening in this world, where the honest and the innocent become prey to evil and are left to suffer, while the dishonest and the evil doers go unpunished. Is it justice? Why does God let the innocent suffer. When someone is left to his own devices and arranges his life to suit himself, things may well go wrong and he succumbs perhaps to despair and asks "How come God is good to them and He's not so good to me?" But the answer is He is good all, that is God's justice. May God bless us to remain in his love all the days of our life.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ