



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;*

*Luke 22:14-23:56*

**Welcome to this House  
of God:**

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

<b>This Week:</b> 13th-20th April 2025 Psalter Week 2	<b>Holy Mass &amp; Services</b>	<b>Other Events</b>
<b>Sunday 13th April</b> <b>Palm Sunday of the Pasion of the Lord, Year C</b> Second collection for Easter Flowers	8:30 am Mark Leahy-Thanksgiving (JJH) 10:30 am Mr. Brendan McCollum (T) Speedy recovery 6:00 pm Fr. Dominic Innamorati RIP (Folk Group)	After 8:30 Mass: Tea & coffee in the Parish Hall 2.30 SVP Afternoon
<b>Monday 14th April</b> Monday of Holy Week	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Special Intention (GS)	
<b>Tuesday 15th April</b> Tuesday of Holy Week	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Louie & Tommy Garland & Ruth Harkin speed recovery (BM)	7.00 pm Reconciliation Services
<b>Wednesday 16th April</b> Wednesday of Holy Week	8:55 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am <b>Communion Service</b>	After Communion Service– Adoration till 6.00 pm. 11.30 am Chrism Mass at St Chad's Cathedral
<b>Thursday 17th April</b> Thursday of Holy Week	<b>7.00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper</b>	
<b>Friday 18th April</b> Good Friday	12.00noon Station of the Cross <b>3.00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion</b>	10.15 am Walk of Witness Retiring collection for the Holy Places in the Holy Land
<b>Saturday 19th April</b> Holy Saturday	<b>8.00 pm Vigil Mass of Easter</b>	12:00-5:00 pm Visitor Centre in the Romero Room, Parish Hall Easter offerings for the Parish Clergy
<b>Sunday 20th April</b> <b>Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord, Year C</b>	8:30 am People of the Parish 10:30 am Patricia Fahy (GF) No Evening Mass	Easter offerings for the Parish Clergy

**“ When Jesus gazes within us and loves us, what does He see despite our distractions and sins? Jesus sees our fragility, as well as our desire to be loved just as we are.”**

Pope Francis via Twitter 9th April 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  
Charity, Birmingham  
Roman Catholic  
Diocesan Trustees:  
Registered Charity  
Number 234216.*

**PARISH SCHOOL**

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Primary School,  
Droitwich

Tel: 01905 773572

Email:

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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**

**8.30, 10.30am**

**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, Alan Hurst, John Jennings, Andrew McDermott, Michael Sheridan, Jacky Smith, Paul Smith, Margaret Steward, Richard Wightman, Mrs. Roma, Judy Lynam Pyper and Peggy Garvey.

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**RECENTLY DECEASED**

Your prayers are asked for Norah O'Leary who died recently. May her souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. The Requiem Mass of Nora O'Leary will take place on 29th April at 12.00 noon.

Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.

**EASTER OFFERTORY**

The Easter offertory collection will be for the Parish Clergy.

**RECONCILIATION SERVICE**

As part of the spiritual preparation for Holy Week and Easter, the Reconciliation Service is on Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of April at 7.00pm. Priests will be available to hear individual confessions.

**EASTER SERVICES**

Details of the Easter Services are available at the back of the church.

**JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)**

The next Journey in Faith will take place on 7th May and the topic will be 'The direction of Pope Francis'.

**THANK YOU FROM CLARE TOMLINSON**

'A big thank you for all your prayers and kind messages. I am very pleased to say that I am now recovering well from my surgery.'

**JOBS VACANCY**

Pastoral Support Administrator required at Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College. Please see the Blessed Edward Oldcorne website for details and an application form:

<https://www.blessededward.co.uk/about-us/vacancies/>

### **GIFT AID**

If you are a UK taxpayer, the Church can receive the 25% of tax back on your donation. This is a very important part of the funding of the Parish, so please consider signing a Gift Aid Form (blanks are at the back of the Church) and bring back to the parish office.

### **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](mailto:droitwichreferrals@svp.org.uk)

### **SVP**

St Vincent de Paul Society is requesting help please.

Are you Kind, Caring and Compassionate and would like to put your faith into action? We are looking for volunteers to join SVP specifically to support the Bereavement Cafe we run - a simple hospitality task. This is on the second Tuesday of each month, 9.30-12.30, at Rotary House, Corbett Avenue. If you feel you could help please contact Gina on 0771 362 3997 or

[droitwichreferrals@svp.org.uk](mailto:droitwichreferrals@svp.org.uk)

### **PRAYER VIGIL FOR LIFE**

Sunday, 27th April. PRAYER VIGIL for LIFE @ 7.00pm Victoria Square, Birmingham  
March for Life UK are holding a candlelight vigil to mark the passing, 57 years ago, of the Abortion Act. It is a timely reminder of what we face with the impending legalisation of assisted suicide: a death clinic awaiting us at both the beginning and end of life.

See poster in porch for information. Please try to attend. Make it a thanksgiving for Easter

### **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.

### **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**

Children's Liturgy will resume after half term.

### **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](mailto:sg.sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/[safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.

**Main Collection:**

**£393.06**

**Gift Aid: £235.00**

**Thank you for  
supporting your  
Parish.**

**Mass attendance  
last Sunday: 277**



**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](mailto: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;*

*Psalms 118(117)*

*1 Corinthians 5:6-8*

*John 20:1-9*

Today we celebrate our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Palm Sunday is the beginning of the climax of the Lenten season and is celebrated with much delight all around the world. The history behind this day goes back to the beginning of fourth century. In AD 313 an agreement was made by the emperor Constantine to treat Christians benevolently within the Roman Empire and through the Edict of Milan he declared Christianity as the official religion of the empire. It essentially ended the persecution of Christians, allowing them to practise their religion freely and openly. In the fourth century, the faithful in Jerusalem re-enacted the solemn entry of Christ into their city on the Sunday before Easter. This Palm Sunday procession, which appears to have originated in Western Europe, was soon accepted in Rome and incorporated into the liturgy. It is believed that there was a mass celebrated outside the walls of Rome wherein the palms were blessed and then a solemn procession moved into the city to the basilica of the Lateran or to Saint Peter's, where the Pope sang a second Mass. With time, the first Mass was discontinued and in its place only the ceremony of blessing was performed. Our Lord was represented in the procession, either by the Blessed Sacrament or by a crucifix. Gradually, with reforms in the liturgy, the ceremonies were simplified to emphasize the suffering and death of Christ.

Jesus's entry into Jerusalem is in fulfilment of the prophecy contained in Zechariah. (Zech 9:9) 'Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey'. Jesus's appearance on a donkey instead of a horse, more suitable for a soldier, conveys an essential element of his Messiahship. He is the kind of messiah who was born in a stable rather than a palace—a messiah who would be the champion of the oppressed and the marginalized. His appearance on a donkey proclaims his servant ministry rather than the royal entry of a king. As we reflect on the rich history and deep significance of Palm Sunday, we are reminded that Jesus's entry into Jerusalem was not just a moment of triumph but a call to humility, service and sacrifice. That is why we call it also Passion Sunday. Ironically, a few days after Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, the day of Passion begins with the Last Supper with His Disciples. Then He goes through a series of events of passion and pain that culminate in His ultimate victory on Easter Sunday. As we begin this Holy Week, may we walk with Christ, not just in moments of celebration but also in carrying our own crosses with faith and love.

At the beginning of Mass, we too repeated it. We too welcomed Jesus; we too expressed our joy at accompanying him, at knowing him to be close, present in us and among us as a friend, a brother and as a King: that is, a shining beacon for our lives. Jesus is God, but he lowered himself to walk with us. He is our friend, our brother. He illumines our path here. And in this way we have welcomed Him today. Do not be men and women of sadness: a Christian can never be sad! Never give way to discouragement! Ours is not a joy born of having many possessions, but from having encountered a Person: Jesus, in our midst; it is born from knowing that with Him we are never alone, even at difficult moments. And in this moment the enemy, the devil, comes, often disguised as an angel, and slyly speaks his word to us. Do not listen to him! Let us follow Jesus! We follow Jesus, but above all we know that he accompanies us and carries us on His shoulders. This is our joy, this is the hope that we must bring to this world. Please do not let yourselves be robbed of hope! Do not let hope be stolen! The hope that Jesus gives us. God bless us.

Fr. George Mathew SCJ