

**ST GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS**

Sat 07 Mar	5.30 pm	Margaret Ellis RIP
Sun 08 Mar	9.30 am	Margaret Freeman RIP, anniversary
Mon 09 Mar	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Tues 10 Mar	9.30 am	Donor's intention, St Anthony
Wed 11 Mar	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Thu 12 Mar	9.30 am	Clive Schofield RIP
	7.00 pm	Station Mass at St Mary's Derby
Fri 13 Mar	9.30 am	For victims of warfare and violence
Sat 14 Mar	9.30 am	For peace in the world
	5.30 pm	Hilary Crosbie RIP
Sun 15 Mar	9.30 am	People of the parish

**GOSPEL REFLECTION:**

The woman at the well was thirsty for water but also for truth. A Gentile from Samaria, her name is lost to us. Her conversation with Jesus the longest one-to-one recorded in the whole Bible. The conversation began at noon, in the heat of the day. Jesus' question to her, ironic and profound: 'Will you give me a drink?' (v.7), is the ice-breaker and gets things under way.

Jesus, unhindered by cultural norms, flips the world upside down. Jews weren't supposed to speak to Samaritans. Men weren't permitted to speak to women without their husbands present. Rabbis had no business speaking to the opposite sex especially if they had some ill-repute, and the Samaritan women had form.

The woman, sensitive to the cultural norm, questions Jesus' wisdom in asking her for a drink: 'You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman,' she reminds him. 'How can you ask me for a drink?' (v.9). This is a conversation about two different worlds – the everyday versus the everlasting. Water does quench thirst but Jesus was talking about a different kind of thirst and a different kind of water: 'The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband' (v.18).

Five marriages wasn't uncommon in a society ravaged by warfare, famine. Men died and made widows. A widow became a beggar, a prostitute or another man's wife. It was sharing her bed with a sixth man who wasn't her husband that was the problem.

Jesus revealed himself to her as the Messiah, the Christ (v.26), and the woman begins her journey of conversion. In a society which considered women to be less than second-class citizens Jesus chose her to have this most profound theological/spiritual conversation. We all need this conversation because we all thirst, and this thirst can only be satisfied by the living water of the living God.

*Lord, thank you for the cup of salvation which quenches my thirst and nourishes my soul and spirit every time I drink of your blood in the Eucharist.*

**CYCLE OF PRAYER DURING LENT, we pray for these intentions:**

For candidates for the Sacraments, especially on the Sundays of Lent. For women, especially on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March (Women's World Day of Prayer).

For the needy and hungry of the world, especially on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> February, CAFOD Lent Fast Day.

For penitents and wanderers.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)  
on Saturday 10.15-10.45 am.**

**SAINTS THIS WEEK:**

Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Mar: St Francis of Rome, Religious

**HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR MARCH**

*For Disarmament and Peace:* Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Fridays before the 9.30 am Mass. Starts at 8.45 am. To be led by parishioners.

**LENTEN STATION MASS** at St Mary's Derby, on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7 pm, with Bishop Patrick presiding. Before Mass there will be opportunity for Confession and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. All are invited.

**Clueless and Confused**

*Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." So the disciples said to one another, "Could someone have brought him something to eat?"*  
JOHN 4:31-33

Once again, Jesus' disciples seem to be almost clueless. They're also intimidated: They don't dare ask Jesus why he's talking to this woman. Here, they can't see past the literal meaning of his words about food. This dynamic can be both a concern and a comfort to me. If the disciples spent day and night with Jesus and still didn't grasp his meaning or purpose, what hope do I have? On the other hand, if even the disciples were confused, I suppose I shouldn't feel badly when I am either.

The greatest comfort of all? Thanks to the resurrection, we will all know – those hapless disciples, and you and me – what St Paul says, "then I shall know fully, as I am fully known" (1Corinthians 13:12).

*Jesus, may I grow in understanding during this season of Lent.*

**PARISH PRAYER MEETINGS**

Mother's Prayers meets every Monday in church after Mass. All welcome.

On Thursdays from 2.45 pm a prayer group prays the Divine Mercy, the Rosary and prayers for peace. All are welcome.

**A FEW THOUGHTS ON THE EUCHARIST:** The Eucharist is the source and summit of the life of the Church, of the life of Christians. In the Holy Eucharist is contained all the spiritual good of the church, the people of God, namely Jesus Christ our Passover. For on that first Easter by his cross and resurrection he enabled us to be set free of sin and evil and to journey towards eternal life. By our Eucharistic celebration we already unite ourselves with the heavenly liturgy of love and praise of God our heavenly father and we anticipate eternal life when God will be all in all.

**CATHOLIC POST & CATHOLIC NEWS – Free Papers**

Lots of interesting articles and reports on different activities in our diocese of Nottingham and further afield.

It is good to get a sense of what is happening in the wider church.