

**ST GEORGE'S, 40 Village St, Derby DE3 8SZ Tel: 01332 767038 and HOLY SPIRIT, Redwood Rd, Sinfin, Derby**

**Parish Priest: Canon Alan Burbidge Assistant Parish Priests: Fr Peter Peterken & Fr Jude Ebere Eze NRCDT a registered charity**

**e-mail: stgeorges.holyspiritderby@gmail.com Parish website: <https://stgeorges-holyspiritderby.org.uk/> Twitter: @SpeStGeorgesRCDer2**

**Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Company Number 7151646 Charity Number 1134449**

**Registered Office: Willson House, 25 Derby Road, Nottingham. NG1 5AW**

4th December 2022

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS**

Sat 03 Dec	5.30 pm	St George's	Edmund Walsh RIP (Anniv.)
Sun 04 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	Priest's own intention
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Michael Cunningham RIP (in Ireland)
	6.00 pm	St George's	Elizabeth Geelan RIP
Mon 05 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	In thanksgiving, St Anthony
Tue 06 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	Priest's own intention
Wed 07 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	Sean Traynor and Jai Dewani, for good health
	Thu 08 Dec	9.30 am	St George's
Thu 08 Dec	7.00 pm	Holy Spirit	Private Intention
	Fri 09 Dec	9.30 am	St George's
Sat 10 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	Special intention, Mrs McEvelly
	5.30 pm	St George's	Chris Lynch RIP
Sun 11 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Priest's own intention
	6.00 pm	St George's	Holy Souls, especially the deceased members of the parish

**CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY ONLY: 10:15 – 10:45**

**SECOND COLLECTION for poor and needy parishes to be taken at next weekend Masses.**

**SAINTS THIS WEEK: Wed 7th Dec:** St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church. **Thurs 8th Dec:** The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron of our diocese.

**Sat 10th Dec:** St Augustine Webster and Eustace White and companions, the martyrs of Lincolnshire.

**THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

**Thursday, 8th December - Luke 1:26-38**

The most profound questions of life are: is there a God, and does God care? God's resounding response is 'Yes', which broke forth in the Annunciation. The Virgin's name was Mary, a daughter of Zion. She was a young Jewess, very likely just a teenager, growing up in the small, remote village of Nazareth. The angel came to her, assured her of God's grace and favour, and presented her with God's new plan of salvation. By the power of the Holy Spirit the child to be born of her flesh was to become the Son of God. God was coming to save his people by becoming flesh, by becoming man.

'How can this be?' Mary implored. Her perplexity was a genuinely human reaction. God would do this if she trusted and believed. What was she to do? The early Fathers of the Church view this moment as a time of hushed silence and hopeful anticipation in heaven. Could the prison of disobedience be broken open by Mary's obedient surrender and trust? All creation waited with bated breath. Mary offered herself as the handmaid of the Lord and allowed God's deepest desire to be made flesh in her. The holiness of God met human fragility and in the person of her Son we are forever bonded by grace of God.

In the thirteenth century Duns Scotus, a Franciscan friar in Oxford, expressed the mystery of Mary's immaculate beginning. 'She was redeemed by way of being preserved from sin. Mary remains highly favoured, yet stands in unity with each human person needing the saving work of her son. She is a model of what it means to be a Christian. When we find it hard to trust God, Mary shows the way forward – obedience to him brings new, divine life to ourselves and others.'

Let us listen to the Word of God, actively seek out his plan and fan our desire to let him live in us and transform us. If we are faithful the world will know that God still loves his people.

*Blessed Mary, I love you as you are the one who trusted the Word of God and yielded your whole person to the plan of our eternal Father.*

There will be our usual 9.30 am Mass at St George's, plus Mass at 7 pm at Holy Spirit in celebration of this lovely feast day of Our Blessed Lady. Also, after the 9.30 am Mass at St George's and also after the 7 pm Mass at Holy Spirit, there will be opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).

**TO ALL OUR CHURCH CLEANERS OF ST GEORGE'S AND HOLY SPIRIT CHURCHES:** Your priests and people would like to express their sincere thanks to all our volunteer cleaners in keeping our churches so clean and tidy. There are large areas to hoover and mop and polish and this calls for several hours of time and effort each week. May the Lord bless you for your care and effort in the house of God.

**GOSPEL REFLECTION - Matthew 3:1-12**

On the eve of the third millennium Pope John Paul II said, 'The Council, while not imitating the sternness of John the Baptist who called for repentance and conversation on the banks of the Jordan (cf. Luke 3:1-7), did show something of the Prophet of old, pointing out with fresh vigour to the men and women of today that Jesus Christ is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29), the Redeemer of humanity and the Lord of history' (*Tertio millennio adveniente* 19).

Poor John the Baptist's message is often construed as harsh, and yet the Gospel cannot be proclaimed without something of this great prophet of old; the invitation to return to God and the proclamation that Jesus is the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. John lived and preached in the wilderness, dressed in rough clothing woven from camel hair, and ate locusts and wild honey and yet the people still flocked to him.

We seem to have moved away from sin, repentance, confession and conversion: perhaps this isn't 'on message' anymore. But we can still acknowledge that examination of our lives, confession and repentance are crucial to living the Christian life, then as now.

Advent is a penitential season, a time to be reconciled with God and one another. We're invited to make a sacramental confession at least once a year, but many of us haven't been for years. God's hand of mercy and compassion is extended to everyone. Remember, we're not confessing our sins to the priest but rather laying down our burden before God. If a priest has received faculties to hear confession (and this isn't automatically granted by the bishop) we hope and pray that he has the necessary pastoral wisdom and maturity to minister this sacred grace so that we can know in a deeply personal way the mercy, forgiveness and compassion of God.

*"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.... Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity. Cleanse me from my sin." (Ps. 51:1-2)*

**THE WEBSITE IS CURRENTLY BEING UPDATED:** Please go to [www.stgeorges-holyspiritderby.org.uk](http://www.stgeorges-holyspiritderby.org.uk) to see the latest updates to the website. The website is now updated weekly with the latest newsletter and latest news and information from the diocese.

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (Eucharistic Ministers)**

Can all Eucharistic Ministers of St George's and Holy Spirit please contact Ian Uppington on 07739458977 or email [stgeorges.holyspiritderby@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorges.holyspiritderby@gmail.com). We need to update the church records. Thank you.

**ST GEORGE'S SOCIAL CENTRE:** Priests and parishioners are very grateful to Barbara for all the time and effort that she puts in to keep our parish centre looking so well. Parishioners and others who use it are very pleased with it, especially after its decoration and fitting with the new brighter lights. Thank you Barbara, also, for looking after the bookings for the centre so well.