

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

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Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Company Number 7151646 Charity Number 1134449
Registered Office: Willson House, 25 Derby Road, Nottingham. NG1 5AW

18th December 2022

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

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|------------|----------|-------------|---|
| Sat 17 Dec | 5.30 pm | St George's | Hilary Crosbie for good health |
| Sun 18 Dec | 9.30 am | St George's | People of the Parish |
| | 11.15 am | Holy Spirit | Thomas Callaghan RIP (Anniv) |
| | 6.00 pm | St George's | Sp. Intention for Jean and Malcolm Brocklehurst |
| Mon 19 Dec | 9.30 am | St George's | Sp. Intention, Jeanette Barnnet |
| Tue 20 Dec | 9.30 am | St George's | Sp. Intention, Treanors |
| Wed 21 Dec | 9.30 am | St George's | Sp. Intention, Mrs P Reilly |
| Thu 22 Dec | 9.30 am | St George's | Catherine Dillane RIP (Anniv) |
| Fri 23 Dec | 9.30 am | St George's | Charles & Cynthia Augustus RIP |
| Sat 24 Dec | 9.30 am | St George's | For the Clarke family |
| | 5.30 pm | St George's | Joseph Whitchurch RIP (2 nd anniv.) and Pina and Stephen Tymczuk RIP |
| | 5.30 pm | Holy Spirit | For all our parishioners |
| Sun 25 Dec | 9.30 am | St George's | Dec. members of the Fortune Family |
| | 11.15 am | Holy Spirit | Priest's own intention |
| | | | NO EVENING MASS |

GOSPEL REFLECTION Matthew 1:18-24

A betrothal in Jewish society in first-century Palestine was an expression of the solemn intention and commitment of the betrothed to marry and was taken very seriously by the couple, the extended family and wider society. Betrothal vows and the sanctity of marriage were bedrocks of Jewish life and culture. Joseph's discovery of Mary's pregnancy would have been a devastating blow for him as a devout Jew because he knew he couldn't now take Mary as his wife. The Torah had very clear guidelines, rules and regulations about not proceeding in a marriage where sexual purity had been compromised, abused or violated (see Deut. 22:23-27). We will never know what went through Joseph's mind at this time but we can reasonably assume there was a fair degree of turmoil and upset. He could have been tempted by the rational explanation that his beloved Mary had either been seduced or even raped, but he is described as a 'just man', so he could have sensed a divine mystery in Mary that he felt unworthy to be a part of. He didn't wish to subject Mary to the shameful trial of a woman suspected of adultery (Num. 5:11-31) but took upon himself the responsibility for administering as expediently as possible the divorce in order to minimize the obvious distress and hurt. Divorce proceedings in Israel at that time were carried out not in a law court but on the initiative of the male (see Deut. 24:1). Joseph was intent on divorcing Mary quietly (see Matt. 1:19), but after considering and weighing up his options God intervened in a dramatic and miraculous way. Joseph's 'Yes' to God and his embrace and acceptance of God's plan of salvation were as crucial as Mary's acceptance and embrace. All believers for all time will be forever grateful to him. This great saint revealed in that one significant moment that bedrock quality needed to live life in the power of the Holy Spirit: obedience. Many centuries later St Benedict would give the following invitation to all those who chose to embrace his Rule:

'Put aside your own will so as to go to war under Christ the Lord, the real King, picking up the keen and glittering weapons of obedience.'

THE WEBSITE IS CURRENTLY BEING UPDATED: Please go to 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. We need to update the church records. Thank you.

A SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION with opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) at St George's on Tuesday, 20th December, at 7 pm. Fr Alan, Fr Jude and Fr Peter will be available for Confessions for as long as needed.

Also, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available on Saturday, 24th December after the morning Mass.

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

THE SECOND COLLECTION AT CHRISTMAS MASSES IS THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING TOWARDS THE SUPPORT OF YOUR PRIESTS

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Wednesday, 21st December: St Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor

CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST GEORGE'S AND HOLY SPIRIT

Christmas Eve, Saturday, 24th December 2022

Family Mass at St George's, especially for the children at 5.30 pm also,

Family Mass at Holy Spirit, especially for the children at 5.30 pm
Mass at St George's with a Midnight Mass liturgy, 9 pm

Christmas Day, Sunday 25th December 2022

Mass at St George's at 9.30 am

Mass at Holy Spirit at 11.15 am

ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AS CHRISTMAS COMES NEAR

Thursday, 22nd December:

A Christmas school Mass at 9 am.

Parents and friends are welcome to attend.

Thursday 22nd December;

at 12 pm Christmas Lunch for Staff and Governors

Thursday, 22nd December

at 2 pm Carols around the tree.

We thank God for our wonderful St George's School with its dedicated and hardworking teaching staff and its lovely pupils. Please keep them all in your prayers as another term and another year come to a close.

CHRISTMAS is only a week away and is coming all too quickly as we make our preparations in the parish and in our homes. Many thanks to all who have got the churches looking good and festive at St George's and Holy Spirit. With five Christmas Masses, we hope there will be a suitable time of celebration for all parishioners and families. With all the activities of present buying and food preparation it is all too easy, with little help from the media, to forget the essential meaning of Christmas. Christmas is the time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, a long time ago in Bethlehem and thank God that he was willing to send his only begotten son among us, born of Mary in time but born of the Father before time began.

As St John writes in his Gospel, 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, he was in the beginning with God' John C1, vs1 and 2....'And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us' C1, V14.

God's purpose was that his Son, equal with his Father in majesty and divinity should become a true human being so as to lead human beings to their heavenly inheritance. And indeed, 'Dying he destroyed our death and rising he restores our life.'

As we celebrate Christmas we remember and give thanks to God for all that He and his only begotten Son Jesus have done for us and are still doing for us in the power of the Holy Spirit.

A HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.