

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 17 Apr	5.30 pm	St George's	Nellie Lenihan RIP
Sun 18 Apr	9.30 am	St George's	Ivanka Krajsek RIP, 1st anniversary
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Peter & Ellen Mullarkey RIP and the deceased of the family
	6.00 pm	St George's	People of the parish & priests
Mon 19 Apr	9.30 am	St George's	Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and Holy Souls
Tue 20 Apr	9.30 am	St George's	Dave Johnston, for success of operation
Wed 21 Apr	9.30 am	St George's	Mr & Mrs Peter and Bridget P. Thottam RIP (40th Anniv.)
Thu 22 Apr	9.30 am	St George's	Sr. Eileen Barry RIP, Sister of Mercy
Fri 23 Apr	9.30 am	St George's	Tom Hopkins, for good health
Sat 24 Apr	9.30 am	St George's	Holy Souls & deceased clergy
	5.30 pm	St George's	Mary Morgan RIP, Anniversary
Sun 25 Apr	9.30 am	St George's	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Phil Mason, for good health
	6.00 pm	St George's	Michael Donovan RIP

GOSPEL REFLECTION: The Road to Emmaus

It was essential to God's plan of salvation that the apostles fully understood and believed the astounding reality - Jesus Christ is truly risen! The faith of all future generations was dependent on their witness. As Jesus ate with them and invited them to touch him, the disciples finally understood that through the Son of Man, the material world and the supernatural world are now united. God functions in both parts of this one real existence. He is revealed in and through created order, but he is not bound by it. He has a real body, but is not subject to the laws of time and space. We hear how the risen Jesus had been journeying with his disciples, but they had not recognised him. It is painful to realise how we too fail to recognise the Lord. Perhaps we recognise him in Scripture, in the Eucharist, but do we recognise him in the events of our day and the world around us? Do we recognise him in our priests, and in every person? Do we recognise him in ourselves? If we are unable to look beyond the material world, we will neither see Christ nor recognise that holiness is all around us. If we love Jesus, if we love others, then we must be the witnesses for our time. Let us pray for our hearts to be opened so that, like the apostles, we may encounter the Risen Lord, and grow in a reciprocal relationship with him. Then we must simply and courageously, with love, share with the world our own witness of the Good News.

"How then shall they call upon him into whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe into Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without one who proclaims him?"

PLEASE ADHERE TO THE CURRENT GUIDELINES: Keeping each other safe:

Due to the fast spread of the new variant of the Covid-19 virus, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) have asked parishes to keep the Mass as brief as possible and are reminding us that people should not talk either inside the church or outside with people outside their bubble. So please do go home right after Mass

THE CELEBRATION OF MASS: The Sunday obligation continues to be suspended, so if you are unsure about coming along, do not feel under any obligation to do so; and if you, or someone in your household, displays symptoms of Covid19, then please do stay at home.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS, Sunday 25th April – Good Shepherd Sunday:

This day is our yearly opportunity to reflect on the Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life. Also, we can contribute to the Clergy Formation Fund which helps train our future priests and contributes to our priests continuing formation. Please pray for the priests who serve you and encourage the young men [and maybe the unattached young at heart!] to either consider the call to the priesthood for themselves, or encourage among their peers those whom they think would make good priests.

PLEASE PRAY FOR PRINCE PHILIP RIP AND HIS FAMILY:

We continue to remember in our prayer HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, that he come safely into eternal life to receive the reward of his labours. We pray also for Her Majesty the Queen and all the Royal family as they have had the sadness of loss and of the Duke's funeral.

SAINTS THIS WEEK: 21 Apr: St Anselm, Bishop & Doctor of the Church. 23 Apr: St George, Martyr & Patron of England and of St George's Parish and School.

The Wednesday Word (For Children):

<http://www.wednesdayword.org/school/index.htm>, also Weekly Children's Reflection and Activities on our Parish Website.

First Holy Communion Preparation: We are currently taking applications for 2021 FHC programme. Please contact Karan on 07968059768 or email the parish office.

Baptisms have resumed with limited numbers able to attend. Please contact Karan on 07968059768 or email the parish office.

Confessions: Available Saturday 10:15 am at St. George's or Sunday 10:45 am @Holy Spirit.

Funerals: These are held subject to regulations and can be discussed with the Parish Priest.

RCIA: Becoming Catholic: Any adult who wishes to become a Catholic or receive Confirmation should contact Karan on 07968059768 or email the parish office.

Visiting the Sick: If you are not 'extremely vulnerable', let us know your name, tel. no. and address.

Hospital Chaplaincy Visits - please speak to the Ward Sister to arrange in the first instance or contact the parish office 07968059758

Weddings: Please contact Fr Alan, the Parish office or Karan on 07968059768. Please allow 6 months' notice. Once initial paperwork is completed you will be required or attend a Marriage Preparation Course.

ST GEORGE, OUR PATRON SAINT: St George's Day is on 23 April. St George is the patron saint of England, but he is also celebrated in other countries. Many myths surround St George, but the essence of his story remains the same. He was a knight who lived many centuries ago. His most known achievement is that he fought a fierce dragon to save a princess. In doing so, he set the people free from future misery by ridding them of the terrifying creature. Of course, that's the legend but the real story of St George is that he was in fact born in Cappadocia, in what is now Eastern Turkey, in AD 270, to Greek and Syria-Palestinian Christian parents. After moving to Palestine with his mother, Saint George rose through the ranks as a Roman soldier. He later resigned his military post and protested against his pagan leader, the Emperor Diocletian (245-313 AD), who led Rome's persecution of Christians. As a result, George was imprisoned, but even after torture he stayed true to his faith. Diocletian had Saint George dragged through the streets of Nicomedia, Turkey, on the 23 April 303 AD and he was beheaded. Like many Catholic Saints he put his life on the line by fighting for his faith and expected nothing in return. It is this bravery that we remember most about St George and his fight for Justice and his faith.

A word of caution from Fr Alan:

A year ago, the world was coming to terms with a long, difficult journey ahead. Twelve months later, the end of the pandemic is in sight for some parts of the world. But it's much too soon to declare victory, As the number of new cases of COVID-19 falls globally, the rate of emergence of important variants should also decrease, but some risk will remain. So we must continue to adhere to the vaccination programme, social distancing and Government Guidelines. Now with the opening up of shops and public places we are all vulnerable to the virus and the risk of it spreading again has increased - so please stay safe, protect yourself and your loved ones, we must all continue to pray for an end to the Pandemic and for the world to be a safer place for us all- God Bless, Fr Alan