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19th December 2021

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 18 Dec	5.30 pm	St George's	For parish benefactors
Sun 19 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
Mon 20 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	Sp. Intention, Phil Mason
Tue 21 Dec	9.30 am	St George	Intention for Maura & Trevor Litchfield
Wed 22 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	George & Margaret Bancroft RIP & John (Jack) and Michael, RIP
Thu 23 Dec	9.30 am	St George'	For Deborah Dunne, seriously ill in Kansas, USA
Fri 24 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	Sp. Intention, Hilary Crosbie, for good health
	5.00 pm	St George's	Jack & Josie Murphy RIP
	6.00 pm	Holy Spirit	Sp. Intention, Moira Cremon
	7.00 pm	St George's	Maureen Rafferty RIP
Sat 25 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	Deceased of the Fortune family
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Priest's own intention
Sun 26 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Holy Souls and donor's Sp. Intention
	6.00 pm	St George's	For all Covid 19 sufferers, especially all who have died.

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, GOSPEL READING Luke 1 39-45



What a glorious way God connected two different promises delivered by the angel to two precious women. He promised Elizabeth that her son would be filled by the Spirit from the womb, and sure enough, her son stirred at the voice of Mary and the presence of the newly conceived Messiah. He also promised Mary that Elizabeth was pregnant and that this pregnancy was the confirmation of God's miracle. Mary's faith was strengthened and

both women were blessed. While we may never have experienced an encounter with the angel Gabriel, we have received a host of promises from God which can be accepted only by faith. However, our faith remains small and often unblest until we begin to act on that faith. That active faith then opens the door for God's blessing and confirmation. So what promise from Scripture has God laid on your heart recently that you are not acting on because of your doubt? Why not prayerfully re-examine that promise and then act obediently in response to God's word?

As we approach the celebration of Christmas, offer thanks to God this week for the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ, and, in celebrating Christmas, strive to focus your attention on Jesus, rather than the consumerism and commercialism of this time of year. Take time in prayer to give thanks for the blessings you have been given, especially the gift of salvation.

COVID Plan B and MASKS:

With the changes in respect of Government regulations (Plan B issued this week) we ask all parishioners to wear face masks at Mass but ask that you are sensitive to those who are unable to wear them due to medical reasons. We shall continue to Steward at Mass to enable you to feel safe. We have increased the number of Masses on Christmas Eve to ensure enough social distance can be in place between households. I ask that we all observe **Hands-Face-Space** and you do not come to church if you display any Covid symptoms. Stay safe and keep others safe around you.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR: Our Schools, Colleges and Universities are preparing for the end of what has been a challenging term. To the Head, Mrs Snowdon-Poole and all the Staff, Governors and Pupils of our Parish School, also to the Students and staff of Derby University, we extend our prayerful good wishes to you and your families for Christmas and the coming New Year. May you all enjoy a well deserved rest. Fr Alan.

PARISH CHRISTMAS TREE:

Thank you to AW Lymn, Funeral Directors, for supplying the Christmas Tree that adorns St. Georges. Thank you also to Mari Judd and Maureen, who have decorated it beautifully to bring us all some festive cheer and Mrs Mooney for the festive decoration throughout the Church.

CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY ONLY: 10:15 - 10:45

Love Christmas

Bishop Patrick's "Love Christmas" initiative. Both churches are supporting Bishop Patrick's call for

us to share our joy and love at Christmas. We will be continuing collecting food items but if you could bring Christmas items – Selection boxes, tubs of sweets, mince pies, Christmas Crackers, cranberry sauce, Christmas cake or puddings - anything that will make Christmas a little more joyous. We are asking you to buy just one food item or gift and put it in the collection box in the front of the church. These will be given to Derby County to distribute.

Christmas and New Year are fast approaching and we continue this journey in very uncertain times. But what is certain is our faith, it gives us the strength and courage to get us through. Throughout the bible we hear how people had to cope with much adversity, anxiety and even pandemics, we also read how those people experienced hope and assurance through their own faith. We have seen and witnessed how the current pandemic can bring the very best out of people, it has woken within us all the need for love, appreciation of connectivity and community. We have witnessed so many acts of kindness, selflessness, generosity, these evident in the NHS, our schools, service, neighbourliness and volunteering. We are assured that as people of faith that God can bring light out of darkness and hope, when all seems lost.



The first Advent and the first Christmas was a time when the people of the Old Testament were lost, living in troubled times and in darkness, but light and joy came as God sent His Son into the world. In Advent we are reminded to stay awake and be alert be ready to greet God in the tiny baby born in stable in Bethlehem. So I wish you and your families this Christmas, a peaceful, happy, and holy time, and pray that in 2022 we will see an end to this pandemic and that our tiny fragile planet will be healed. I pray that our Parish will continue to grow with Christ at its centre. God Bless you all. Fr Alan.

CHRISTMAS DIARY DATES

Advent Reconciliation Services

Tues, 21st December 7 pm – English Martyrs



Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	Mass of the Holy Family 26th December
5pm St. Georges	9:30am St. Georges	9:30 am St Georges
6pm Holy Spirit	11:15am Holy Spirit	11.15 am Holy Spirit
7pm St. Georges with Music Group		6 pm St Georges

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks.*

The work of Christmas begins;

*To find the lost and to heal the broken,
To release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations.
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.*