

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

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

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Friday 24<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2021

CHRISTMAS AND THE HOLY FAMILY

### MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Fri 24 Dec CHRISTMAS EVE	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	Max & Maureen Rafferty RIP
Sat 25 Dec CHRISTMAS DAY	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.
Mon 27 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	Holy Souls and donor's Sp. Intention
Tue 28 Dec	9.30 am	St George	Priest's own intention
Wed 29 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	Sp. Int. for Tony & Jackie Blaney
Thu 30 Dec	9.30 am	St George'	Birthday thanksgiving, donor's intention
Fri 31 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	Tom & Kathleen Connally RIP
Sat 01 Jan 2022	9.30 am	St George's	Priest's own intention
	5.30 pm	St George's	John, Margaret & Sean Ryan, deceased.
Sun 02 Jan	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	For world peace and for control of Covid 19 and new variants.

### GOSPEL REFLECTION



As we grow older we often recall the sacrifices our parents made for us. Financial sacrifice, giving of their time, understanding us in confusion and many other gifts we thank family for. The first family story of Jesus is a tough story, Joseph caring for them in danger. He needed a father - protector as any child.

We can only assume the family of Jesus was probably an extended family of cousins and relatives. Jesus grew up ordinary in so many ways, the love and guidance of Mary and Joseph shaped his formative years and he was identified through them also as people; today the Catholic church understands the importance of the love of parents, fathers and mothers. The Nativity and crib highlights them – they represent all our parents. We acknowledge also the love the immediate and extended family and pray our Catholic church and world will continue to support the goodness and potential for growth of family life.

In a time of pressure on families, the Catholic church continues to support family life – with education, faith formation, and even financial help when we can. As a parish and community we want to be committed to caring actively for family life. Jesus came not only to be with us, but to care. It's the same with our Catholic church – being in the world and caring for the world.

Joseph took the child and his mother, and cared for them as they cared for him. In looking after a small family, Joseph and Mary made a huge difference to a huge number of people, then and now.

*Give peace of mind, O Lord, to our family and health of body. And eternal rest to all who have gone before us. Amen*

**LIVING FAITH has arrived.** Get your copy for Jan, Feb & March 2022.

Delivery was a bit late but it is available now. Please donate £1 per copy towards the cost of it and enjoy 3 months of daily spiritual devotions.

Bless the Lord O my soul; and all my being bless His Holy Name.

CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website: [www.cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal](http://www.cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal) and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.



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

**THE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION is your traditional Christmas offering towards the support of your priests.**

**SAINTS THIS WEEK:** Mon 27 Dec: St John the Apostle.  
Tues 28 Dec: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs. Wed 29 Dec: St Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr. Sat 01 Jan: Mary, the Holy Mother of God

**a few words**

It's hard to imagine nearly two years ago the pandemic was just beginning, the news told us of a virus many miles from us in China - how quickly life changed. The past twenty-two months has been challenging for all of us and still continues to be. We live with so much uncertainty awaiting news conferences and announcements that will dictate the way we will live over the next months or until the pandemic is over. During this time, we have also discovered the reality of what the early Church Fathers called the domestic church, the reality of Christ present in the midst of our families as we gathered together to pray and to intercede for our needs. Many families have witnessed to a new discovering of family life, family meals, and home learning with so much time spent together during these times. I want to thank you for your faithful prayer during this time of pandemic, and my hope that these newly discovered graces and blessings will continue when the virus is behind us. The pandemic has awoken communities to reach out with social action to the elderly, lonely and vulnerable in our neighbourhoods. Let us joyfully take hold of the treasures we have discovered together, gifts from the Lord. Fr Alan

**COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS:** As the COVID-19 virus still circulates and we must do all we can to protect ourselves and our neighbours, please note:

- All adults, and children over 11, MUST wear a face covering/mask in church unless they are exempt.
- Sanitising gel will still be available at the entrance/exit, so please continue to use it.
- The QR code for the Track and Trace system is on display as you enter the churches. Remember to check in if you have the App.
- Bring some paper/card or books and place them either side of you if you would like to create your own safe space.

*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.*

### CHRISTMAS THANKS and A HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Fr Alan, Fr Jude and Fr Peter take this opportunity to thank all our parishioners of St George's and Holy Spirit for your Christmas generosity, for lovely cards and gifts and for your generous Christmas offerings towards the support of your priests, and for all the work to make Christmas such a lovely celebration. Your love, care and concern and ongoing support will keep us going throughout the years and into the many challenges that the future is sure to bring, but Our God is with us and Jesus, Mary and Joseph support us every step of the way.

**We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year full of God's blessings.**