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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

8<sup>th</sup> May 2022

GOOD SHEPHERD & VOCATIONS SUNDAY

4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTERTIME

### MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 07 May	5.30 pm	St George's	Maria McIntyre RIP, 7th anniversary
Sun 08 May	9.30 am	St George's	Dave & Josephine Walsh RIP, Anniv.
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Priest's own intention
	6.00 pm	St George's	Christine Collin RIP
Mon 09 May	9.30 am	St George's	Rose Mumbay RIP and Robert Brown RIP
Tue 10 May	9.30 am	St George	Teresa Beck RIP and David Beck RIP
Wed 11 May	9.30 am	St George's	Joseph Kollaapillil RIP, 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniv.
Thu 12 May	9.30 am	St George's	For the deceased of the Philpott family, children's 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary
Fri 13 May	9.30 am	St George's	Holy Souls, especially those of priests, and donor's intention
	12 noon	St George's	
Sat 14 May	9.30 am	St George's	People of the Parish
	5.30 pm	St George's	Alan Fuller RIP
Sun 15 May	9.30 am	St George's	Tony Eccles RIP
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Mr Callaghan RIP, birthday memories
	6.00 pm	St George's	For vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

### GOSPEL REFLECTION:



The Fourth Sunday of Easter we traditionally celebrate as Good Shepherd Sunday and Vocations Sunday. This is because in the Gospel of the Day (from St. John's Gospel), Jesus speaks of himself as the Shepherd who is prepared to lay down his life for his sheep.

When a man becomes a priest, he sacrifices his own will and chooses instead to follow Jesus and he aspires to become as Christ to others. In doing so, he answers Christ's call to serve the Church and its people.

In the Gospel we hear that the Good Shepherd owns his sheep and cares for them accordingly. This is a different prospect from the hired hand charged with taking care of the flock, since the hired man may run away to save his own life if the sheep are attacked, leaving them potentially scattered or injured. In contrast, the Good Shepherd puts his flock first rather than thinking of his own well-being, and will go the extra mile to find one of his lost or injured sheep.

Furthermore, St. John writes that the Good Shepherd knows his sheep, just as they know him: there is an indefinable and comforting bond of recognition. He speaks also of those sheep who do not belong to this fold, meaning those who do not know or have not yet come to Christ. Evangelisation is at the core of the Church's mission, so that we may all be 'one flock' with 'one Shepherd'. In following Jesus we are all able to give witness to the generous love of God, which is given willingly through the sacrifice of his Son, a sacrifice, which is perpetuated in the ministry of our bishops and ordained priests.

### MASS TO PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Masses are going to be held around the Diocese to pray for an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and Religious Life in our Diocese.

The first Mass will take place at St Mary's Derby, DE1 3AX, on Thursday 12th May, starting at 6 pm with Adoration and Confessions.

Mass at 7pm followed by refreshments.



### LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

Bookings are now open for the Nottingham Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage under the leadership of Bishop Patrick, from Monday 4th until Friday 8th July. Full details are on the Tangney Tours website: <https://www.tangney-tours.com/nottingham>, or for more details contact Father Simon Gillespie.

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

### SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Wed 1<sup>st</sup> May: Sts John Houghton and Robert Lawrence, priests and companions, martyrs of Nottinghamshire.

Fri 13 May: Our Lady of Fatima

**SECOND COLLECTION at all Masses this weekend is for the clergy formation fund.**

### HAPPY AND GLORIOUS

Bishop Patrick warmly invites people from across the diocese to Saint Barnabas Cathedral on Thursday 2nd June for 'Happy and Glorious', a musical celebration to mark the Platinum Jubilee of HM The Queen. Tickets for the evening are available at [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events/jubilee](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events/jubilee) Come and join HM's Lord Lieutenant and other guests as we give thanks to God for The Queen.



### DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT – The impact on our Parish

Our Parish Synod journey began last October with a parish meeting and opportunities to submit your views online. Following on from these meetings the diocese has now submitted its report to the Bishops Conference of England and Wales. A copy of the report is on the parish website and some copies are available for you to take away at the back of our churches.

### CURIA ROADSHOW – DERBY DEANERY – Our Parish

Many Deaneries across the Diocese are facing changes and many Parishes including our own will look very different in the future. At present we are one of only a few parishes to have three priests and what the Synod does is to plan for the future – part of the diocese plans of the future is the reorganisation of Deaneries and this will mean joining parishes together to be served by one priest. We are part of the Derby plan in that St. George's will join with Alvaston parish and St Joseph's will join with Our Lady of Lourdes. Also in the meeting notes you will read the closing of Holy Spirit. These changes at present have no defined timelines as it will be dependent on the number of priests available in the future. Also, to address my retirement. I am part of a large number of ageing clergy and I will be celebrating my 81<sup>st</sup> birthday this year. My wish is to continue as a working priest as long as my health allows, but I review my plans each year, as do all priests of past retirement age. So at present I am in good health and will continue, with the Bishop's blessing, to serve you. I hope this will quell the unrest and I shall give a short talk at each Mass next weekend with an opportunity for you to ask any questions etc. We are a busy parish with good attendance, a very busy sacramental programme with wonderful parishioners here at St. George's and Holy Spirit. For myself, Fr Peter and Fr Jude we continue to serve you as we have always done. God bless Fr Alan.