

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

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Registered Office: Willson House, 25 Derby Road, Nottingham. NG1 5AW

30th October 2022

31st SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 29 Oct	5.30 pm	St George's	Mary O'Riordan RIP
Sun 30 Oct	9.30 am	St George's	Jimmy Mooney RIP
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Ron Robertson RIP
	6.00 pm	St George's	People of the parish and priests RIP
Mon 31 Oct	9.30 am	St George's	Sean Treanor for good health
Tue 01 Nov	9.30 am	St George's	ALL SAINTS DAY, People of the parish
	7.00 pm	Holy Spirit	Karan O'Connor RIP
Wed 02 Nov	9.30 am	St George's	ALL SOULS DAY, Mass for our faithful departed.
Thu 03 Nov	9.30 am	St George's	Tessie O'Sullivan RIP
Fri 04 Nov	9.30 am	St George's	Jai Dewani, for good health
Sat 05 Nov	9.30 am	St George's	Mrs Mary Walsh RIP
	5.30 pm	St George's	Hilary Crosbie for good health
Sun 06 Nov	9.30 am	St George's	Jack Murphy RIP
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	People of the parish and clergy
	6.00 pm	St George's	For all the deceased of the travelling people and the people of the world

GOSPEL REFLECTION: As sinners go, Zacchaeus was a 'big fish' – or maybe we should say a 'big shark'. As a chief tax collector he was responsible for other tax collectors and was no doubt very experienced in the dark art of exploring and cheating others. Tax collectors experienced much hatred and were seen as the scum of the earth, the lowest of the low. Ironically, the name Zacchaeus means 'innocent' or 'pure', but there was nothing innocent or pure about him. His wealth was the fruit of a corrupt tax system in which the Jewish tax collectors secured their own piece of the pie by charging a further levy and skimming it off for themselves. They were literally getting wealthy on the backs of others.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that Zacchaeus was as loathed and despised by the general public as a drug dealer might be today. Imagine then, the shock and indignation that would be caused if Pope Francis invited himself to dine with a well-known drug dealer. Pandemonium would break out at the knowledge that the head of the Catholic Church was associating with such people. But what if our drug dealer duly gave his life to the Lord and became a Catholic?!

Zacchaeus' conversation is dramatic and generous, reflecting his experience of Jesus' goodness and generosity. His story teaches us that no-one is beyond redemption, and that God's grace and mercy reaches into the deepest and darkest of hearts. Remember, Jesus didn't come to call the righteous but the unrighteous. He came to seek and save the lost, and the truth is that we're all lost.

The rich young man encountered the Lord and went away sad; the wealthy Zacchaeus encountered the Lord and went away filled with the joy of conversion. God works in amazing ways; those we think are far away from God are closer than we realise, and those we think are close to God may be further away than we imagine.

Lord, show me how the Gospel has the power to transform every human heart, no matter what we have done, because your divine love reaches down into the very depths of human sinfulness to save the lost, heal the wounded and restore us as your children.

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE: Following the death of Karan O'Connor, we have need for a Catholic foundation governor for our St George's primary school. If you feel you could serve as a governor, please speak to Fr Alan. A visit to the school can be arranged with an opportunity to speak to our head-teacher Mrs Snowdon-Poole.

DERBY DEANERY CHOIRS: 'If you like to sing and want to join together with other singers then come to the Derby Deanery Youth Choir (for children aged 7-16) or Derby Deanery Adult Choir. We meet on Tuesdays in term time at St Albans Parish Church, Chaddesden. There is no audition - everyone is welcome! The Youth Choir meets at 6:30pm -7:15pm and the adult choir follows on from 7:30pm until 8:30pm. We ask for a donation of £1 per week (youth choir) and £2 per week (adult).

It is such a great way to meet up with other people who enjoy to sing and remember how much fun it is to sing as part of a group. Contact Jo for more information on 07745517371'

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

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Tues 1st Nov: All Saints Day
Wed 2nd Nov: All Souls Day
Thurs 3rd Nov: St Martin de Porres
Fri 4th Nov: St Charles Borromeo, Bishop
Sat 5th Nov: Saturday Mass of Our Lady

SECOND COLLECTION for friends of St George's Hospital, Umunumo, in Britain.

ST GEORGE'S HOSPITAL UMUNUMO: Next weekend, 29th/30th October 2022, Fr Ephraim and some of his helpers and supporters of the mother and baby hospital and of their charitable works in London, will be coming to St George's and Holy Spirit communities. As I have just passed 51 years of priesthood and passed 80 years of age, it is a time to reflect but also by God's grace also to continue to go forward in life and ministry. Fr Ephraim suggested we call it a *Legacy Sunday* and invite people to celebrate with me.

The posters and pictures that you can see around shows things which have been done but only with the help, support and generosity of the parishioners of St George's and Holy Spirit churches. I have been pleased to be a catalyst in these things. Maternity care at home in Britain and more so in poor countries of the world is a great challenge and a very God inspired calling. Surgeons, doctors, midwives and nurses have been abundant in our home country for decades. My late mother who bore many children always had excellent care and successful pregnancies and deliveries.

Fr Ephraim, a native of Umunumo alerted myself and others in St George's about the lack of even basic care in his community. So a venture to help mothers and babies got underway. I myself travelled to Umunumo to see the site chosen and to lay a foundation stone. Facing many economic and logistical challenges, Fr Ephraim and his supporters persevered. Today there is a thriving small hospital doing great maternity and childcare and other care besides. This weekend we have an opportunity to hear of this. Also, Fr Ephraim, now a hospital chaplain in London, having survived the COVID epidemic when even doctors and nurses lost their lives has, with others, set up a new charity, Friends of St George's Hospital, Umunumo in Britain. Its aim is to continue to support Umunumo Hospital but also to support the poor and needy in Britain, especially on the streets of London. In this great capital city full of very rich people and very poor people and many inbetween, there is a lot of need. The posters you can see around you indicate some of that need and what this charity is doing to help. So, come along, next weekend and hear what is going on and support our appeal and meet Fr Ephraim and others after Masses in the social centre. In the face of the great needs and challenges of our world at home and abroad we can all light little candles to overcome the darkness. God bless you all.

Canon (Father) Alan Burbidge

CHILDREN'S CHURCH on Sunday mornings at 9.30 am and 11.15 am Mass. Bring your little ones along to learn about their faith in a very appropriate and child-centred way.

JUSTICE & PEACE ASSEMBLY: The annual gathering for those involved in activities tackling in small ways some of the major concerns of our world, will gather at St Joseph's parish, Leicester, on Saturday, 5th November 9.30 – 4.15 pm. Fr Alan and one or two parishioners hope to attend.