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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**

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS**

Sat 02 Mar	5.30 pm	St George's	Margaret Ellis RIP, birthday memory
Sun 03 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	May Gallagher RIP
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Josephine Jennings for good health
Mon 04 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Annie McCandless RIP, 22 <sup>nd</sup> Anniv.
Tue 05 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Donor's intention and Holy Souls in Purgatory
Wed 06 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Deceased travellers and families and for world peace
Thu 07 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	G & M Bancroft RIP and J & N Bancroft RIP
Fri 08 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Pat McAndrew RIP
Sat 09 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	People of the Parish
	5.30 pm	St George's	Mark Crosbie RIP
Sun 10 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Peter Judson RIP, 12 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Elizabeth Callaghan RIP

**GOSPEL REFLECTION:**

Many have an image of Jesus as gentle and mild; and of course, this is true, for he was gentle and humble of heart (Matthew 11). However, today we don't encounter a gentle or mild Jesus but one full of zeal and righteous anger.

He made a whip out of cord and drove out the cattle and sheep destined for sacrifice. He turned over the tables of the moneylenders, scattering their coins, and to those selling doves he says: 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!' (v.16)

Wow (as we might say today)! It has to be said that this incident in Jesus' life is a perplexing one. Perhaps the clue to its meaning is given us in the last verse: 'many believed in his name when they saw the signs which he did' (v.25). The cleansing of the temple is one of the signs in St John's Gospel. Each of these signs reveals something about the nature of Jesus and his salvific work. This particular one highlights the temple and reveals Jesus as the new temple – the new place where men and women are to come to know the presence of God in their lives and to be united to him in praise and worship.

Jesus makes two points about the temple: the first is that a destruction needs to occur, and the second is that out of this ruin and devastation a new temple will be raised up. This is an image of the death and resurrection of Jesus. As the Lord himself says: 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up' (v.19).

Jesus has replaced the temple: he is the new Temple. Jesus is now the place where we can draw close to the presence and glory of God. Jesus is the fulfilment of all that the temple meant for Israel, including its purpose in revealing sin. Sin could not be destroyed by the destruction of the temple, but it was destroyed by the death of Jesus because Jesus took sinful humanity with him to the cross.

*Lord let me be consumed by prayer and zeal for holiness, righteousness and worship of the Living God.*

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

**ADORATION** before the Blessed Sacrament daily before the 9.30 am Mass and then other times as announced.

**SAINTS THIS WEEK:**

Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> March: Saints Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs

Fri 8<sup>th</sup> March: St John of God, Religious

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> March: St Frances of Rome, Religious

**To Right a Wrong**

**He made a whip out of cords and drove them out of the temple area.....John 2:15**

As a child, I was taught that anger was a sin. But Jesus is clearly angry here. He wields a whip; he drives people and animals out of the Temple area, and he flips over some tables in the process. What gives? One clue might lie in what St Augustine once said about anger: "Anger is hope's daughter" – and so *what should not be, will not be*. That describes the source of Jesus' anger. At times we get angry over petty things – like being cut off in traffic or having to wait in line for something. But our anger can also be a response to a grave injustice we see: Those children are starving; these people are being denied their basic rights. That's when our anger might be a grace of the Holy Spirit, moving us to help right a wrong. What injustice makes me angry? Is my anger moving me to do something? Sr Melannie Svoboda, S.N.D.

**LENT STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**FRIDAYS IN LENT**

St George's: Friday morning before the 9.30 am Mass

Holy Spirit: Friday evenings at 6 pm

**CAFOD FAMILY FAST DONATIONS**

Many thanks on behalf of CAFOD for £281.00 given at Holy Spirit and £288.00 given at St George's last weekend.

**MARCH COPIES OF CATHOLIC POST AND CATHOLIC NEWS, FREE PAPERS**

Lots of interesting news and views including in the CATHOLIC POST, the Mizen Foundation founded by the parents of Jimmy Mizen, 16 years of age, killed in 2008, a story of forgiveness; Amalgamating parishes by Fr Neil McNicholas; Community Food Hub blossoms in Cardiff Catholic School; Papal Blessing for a 96 years old priest; Day of Prayer against human trafficking and local items in CATHOLIC NEWS: Walking in the footsteps of St Gilbert of Sempringham, a Lincolnshire Saint; an Honorary Canon, Canon Paul Newman; St Joseph's School, Derby, report outstanding.