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10th March 2024

LAETARE SUNDAY, MOTHER'S DAY

4th SUNDAY OF LENT

#### MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 09 Mar	5.30 pm	St George's	Mark Crosbie RIP
Sun 10 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Peter Judson RIP, 12th Anniv.
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Elizabeth Callaghan RIP
Mon 11 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Private intention, Our Lady of Lourdes, for good health
Tue 12 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Thomas Farrell RIP
Wed 13 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	For all suffering with serious addictions
Thu 14 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Donor's intention and Holy Souls
Fri 15 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	For Biddy Doherty RIP and for travellers and world peace
Sat 16 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	For all parishioners who are not well, especially those in hospital
	5.30 pm	St George's	People of the Parish
Sun 17 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Christine Meehan RIP, 6th Anniv. and deceased family members.
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	For the victims of violence and war.

#### GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Most of us were baptised as babies and this is, without doubt, a wonderful grace and blessing. However, in one way it is a shame that such a momentous, incredible and amazing event occurs when we are too young to grasp its significance. In a very real sense our journey through Lent is a time for us to re-discover the grace of our baptism, and within the liturgy of Easter Sunday we are further blessed to have the chance to renew our baptismal promises, made for most of us by our parents and godparents when we were babies.

Nicodemus was a leading Jew of his time, well versed in the Torah, the Talmud and all aspects of the Jewish faith. Clearly attracted by Jesus' teaching but afraid to be associated with him, he comes to see him at night. When he is told by Jesus that entry into the kingdom can only occur through a new birth, he is confused and, taking Jesus' words literally, asks how a human being can be born again when he is old (v.4). Jesus is astounded that, as a teacher in Israel, he does not understand the teaching of the Hebrew Scriptures on re-birth. This interior renewal was something the prophets had spoken about in their ministry, especially after their experience of the exile. Ezekiel had explicitly prophesied about the time when God would 'sprinkle clean water' upon his people and put a new spirit within their hearts (Ezek. 36:25-27). Jesus was going to reveal how this interior renewal would take place. Jesus always pointed to his cross as the central event of his life, because on the cross he who has no sin became as sin for us, taking upon himself the sins of the whole world. In doing so he reconciled us to the Father and won for us the gift of eternal life. In and through baptism we are immersed into Jesus' death and resurrection and are born again of the Spirit.

*'The glory of the cross...has enlightened all those who were blinded by ignorance. It has set free all those who were slaves of sin. It has redeemed the whole human race.'* (St Cyril of Jerusalem)

**CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY:** Many thanks again on behalf of CAFOD for more donations to add to what was received last week. With what has been given, plus a donation from parish funds, I have sent off a cheque for £1000.

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.

**MOTHER'S DAY:** Today we thank God for mothers and all the love and care they give to their families. We pray for mothers who may be finding things very challenging. We remember with gratitude our mothers who have gone to God.

#### Rejoicing in God's Love

**For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.** John 3:16

Today is Laetare Sunday (from the Latin word for "rejoice"), and the famous gospel passage we hear today explains the source of our joy: God loves us!

The mysteries we are preparing to celebrate at Easter are rooted in the inexhaustible love God has for each of us. In our sinfulness, we deserve death, but God sent to us his own Son to share in our humanity and deliver us from the consequences of our sins.

This isn't a gift granted to us as anonymous persons. God knows each of us individually, by name, and sent Jesus for us. For me. For you.

Lord, you love us even in our sinfulness. Grant that we may come to know your love better and share it with those around us. Jonathan F Sullivan

#### 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

#### 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.

Fr PETER REQUIEM TO VIEW at <https://funeralvideo.co.uk/fr.peterpeterken/>