

ST GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat	11 Apr	5.30 pm	Deceased members of the Fortune family
Sun	12 Apr	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Mon	13 Apr	9.30 am	Anne & Joe Kelly for good health
Tues	14 Apr	9.30 am	For parishioners who are not well
Wed	15 Apr	9.30 am	Kathleen & Gregory Thornton RIP
Thu	16 Apr	9.30 am	The Doherty family, Hilton, for good health.
Fri	17 Apr	9.30 am	Sp. Intention for David Murphy & family
Sat	18 Apr	9.30 am	For world peace.
		5.30 pm	Patricia Brown RIP, anniversary
Sun	19 Mar	9.30 am	People of the Parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

We have 'double-crossing' Judas and 'doubting Thomas'. The first disciples were nothing if not a motley crew and, as we all know, the Church is made up of the good, the bad and the mainly mediocre and in-between.

Yet, whilst Judas is reviled Thomas is embraced: his doubt seems to have a special appeal in our sceptical and cynical world. Thomas is often hailed as a saint for our times, but the truth is he is a saint for all times, because the darkness of unbelief is part of the human condition.

We live by faith, not by sight, we can only perceive God as in a mirror, dimly (see 1 Cor.13:11) – in biblical times mirrors were made of polished metal, which gave a distorted image. Although the light of faith illuminates, we often live in darkness. The world can seem far removed from the one promised us by faith. So many things in life make faith difficult: the terminal illness of a loved one, failure or rejection in its many hurtful forms and just the sheer pressure of day-to-day living with all its stresses and strains.

As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* expresses so beautifully and simply: "Our experiences of evil and suffering, injustice and death seem to contradict the Good News: they can shake our faith and become a temptation against it (CCC 164).

What are we to do when we are assailed with doubt or when we question our faith or even God's existence? We are, of course, not alone. Our brothers and sisters who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith were not immune from questions and doubts. And God himself understands our temptation, for on the cross Jesus himself cried out, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' (Matt. 27:46). God is close in our struggles, and in the cauldron of our post-modern and post-Christian world our faith is often tested and tried.

Nevertheless, we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, the saints and heroes of faith, and they intercede for us.

Lord, I walk in the night of faith clinging to your cross and holding tight to the raft of your Word. Come near to me, Lord: strengthen and console me.

PARISH PRAYER MEETINGS

Mother's Prayers meets every Monday in church after Mass. All welcome.

On Thursdays from 2.45 pm a prayer group prays the Divine Mercy, the Rosary and prayers for peace. All are welcome.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)
on Saturday 10.15-10.45 am.**

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Mon 13 April: St Martin, Pope & Martyr

CYCLE OF PRAYER DURING EASTERTIDE, we pray for these intentions:

New Members of the Church

For Vocations

For human work, especially on Friday, 1st May, Feast of St Joseph the worker

For survivors of abuse, especially on Tuesday, 5th May.

For the right use of media, especially on Sunday 17th May

For the church, especially on Sunday 24th May.

Great Act of Mercy

Blessed by the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ... 1 PETER 1:3

My family has always had a devotion to Divine Mercy. In the *Diary of St Faustina*, I read about the promises that Jesus made to her. He said while others are praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet in the presence of someone who is dying, he would stand by the person's side not as a just Judge, but as a merciful Saviour (CF. *Diary*, 1541) This image is so striking to me, and it was what I clung to when I learned of the sudden death of my younger cousin. You can imagine the emotions I felt when I heard this difficult news. I reached out to my parents and in great faith my mother responded. "God's plan is always a mystery, but even in death our merciful Saviour promises the hope of eternal life."

CATHOLIC NEWS & CATHOLIC POST: Lots of articles and items of news in the free paper. Please take a copy of the April editions.

EASTER THANKS

Fr Mark Brentnall and Fr Alan Burbidge, your priests, would like to take this opportunity to thank all their parishioners for their help and support during Lent and Easter. For all the work of looking after the church and centres and for the help and preparation and celebration of the Holy Week and Easter services.

We wish you a Happy and Holy Easter full of the blessings of Our Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Also, sincere thanks for your generous Easter offerings for the support of your clergy.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 24th May at St George's 9.30 am.

Classes at English Martyrs start Saturday 25th April at 10.30 am.