

ST GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat	14 Mar	5.30 pm	Hilary Crosbie RIP
Sun	15 Mar	9.30 am	Jack & Josie Murphy RIP, wedding memories
Mon	16 Mar	9.30 am	Marie Judson for good health
Tues	17 Mar	9.30 am	St Patrick, Patron of Ireland. Holy Souls
Wed	18 Mar	9.30 am	For the soul of Mary Anthony RIP, 3 rd anniv.
Thu	19 Mar	9.30 am	Michael White for good health (St. Joseph)
Fri	20 Mar	9.30 am	Peter Kavanagh RIP
Sat	21 Mar	9.30 am	People of the Parish
		5.30 pm	Deceased members of the Geelan family
Sun	22 Mar	9.30 am	Geraldine Maughan RIP, 9 th anniv.

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

.A major medical breakthrough means some blind patients can see again after being fitted with a life-changing implant under the retina. The microchip inserted at the back of the eye offers hope to people with an advanced form of dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD), called geographic atrophy (GA), which affects more than 250,000 people in the UK and five million worldwide. It's a twenty-first-century medical miracle and we rejoice in it. Today, we learn of a first-century miracle involving a blind man. Jesus' healing of the man born blind takes up the whole of John 9. The miracle is a sign pointing to the mystery that Jesus is the Light of the World.

We can divide the chapter into three parts: the first the account of the miracle itself (vv.1-12), the second the investigating of the Pharisees (vv. 13-34) and finally the problem of spiritual blindness (vv. 35-41).

Our focus is on spiritual blindness. It is said that there are none so blind as those who cannot see. When someone doesn't understand our point of view we protest: "You just don't see, do you?" God wants us to see with eyes of faith.

A man once stood on a soapbox at Hyde Park Corner, pouring scorn on the Christian faith. A gifted orator, he mocked, "People tell me that God exists, but I can't see him. People tell me that there is life after death, but I can't see it. People tell me that there is a heaven and a hell. But I can't see them."

The gathered crowd cheered and congratulated him, loud and effusive in their praise. Suddenly, a second man was helped onto the soapbox. He tottered on the fragile podium before collecting himself.

He too was a gifted orator: "People tell me that there is green grass all around, but I can't see it. People tell me that there is blue sky above, but I can't see it. People tell me that there are trees nearby, but I can't see them. You see, I'm blind."

Lord, remove the scales from my eyes that I may walk in the light of Christ.

A FEW THOUGHTS ON THE EUCHARIST: The Eucharist is the source and summit of the life of the Church, of the life of Christians. In the Holy Eucharist is contained all the spiritual good of the church, the people of God, namely Jesus Christ our Passover. For on that first Easter by his cross and resurrection he enabled us to be set free of sin and evil and to journey towards eternal life. By our Eucharistic celebration we already unite ourselves with the heavenly liturgy of love and praise of God our heavenly father and we anticipate eternal life when God will be all in all.

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

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Tues 17 Mar: St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland
Wed 18 Mar: St Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor
Thurs 19 Mar: St Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Fri 20 Mar: St Alkmund, Martyr

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR MARCH

For Disarmament and Peace: Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Fridays before the 9.30 am Mass. Starts at 8.45 am. To be led by parishioners.

Blinding Clarity

One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see. JOHN 9:25

This is one of my favourite gospels, full of drama and irony and emotion: A good-hearted and simple man is miraculously cured by Jesus of his blindness. The religious authorities are upset the healing of Jesus took place on the Sabbath. They try to browbeat the man and his parents. The parents want no part in this conflict and tell them to talk to their son. He who was born blind is the one person who sees with blinding clarity that any man who could do such a miracle is no sinner. Only the blind man has the true sight of faith, while his persecutors are blinded by their prejudice and their jealousy. One must admire the courage of the man born blind to speak truth to power. Like many saints, from Stephen to Bernadette, his job was not to convince the blind but to testify to the truth, come what may.

Lord, help me to see your truth and proclaim it.

Sacred Service (St Joseph)

.....he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him...MATTHEW 1:24A

I recently read an informative and fascinating book written by Clint Hill, a Secret Service agent who served five presidents and was assigned to give personal protection to Jacqueline Kennedy. The agent's reflections in the book, *Mrs Kennedy and Me*, easily prompt me to consider the outstanding service in the life of St Joseph. God called Joseph to protect and provide for the Virgin Mary and the Child Jesus. He was not a member of the Secret Service, but Joseph was an agent for *Sacred Service*. Many accolades and titles have been showered on him as spouse, foster father, worker, carpenter and more. But I think his most fitting and precious title is *Servant*. Joseph is the just, patient and attentive servant of God. He was on call to receive vital info, even during his dreams as he slept! Years later, Jesus would proclaim and demonstrate that true greatness lies in serving others.

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.