

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

Parish Priest: Canon Alan Burbidge

e-mail: stgeorges.holyspiritderby@gmail.com

Parish website: <https://stgeorges-holyspiritderby.org.uk/>

NRCDT a registered charity

Twitter: [@SpStGeorgesRCDer2](https://twitter.com/SpStGeorgesRCDer2)

Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Company Number 7151646 Charity Number 1134449

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

17th March 2024

5th SUNDAY OF LENT

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 16 Mar	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.
Mon 18 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Onorio and Dominica Coletti RIP
Tue 19 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Donor's intention, St Anthony in thanksgiving
Wed 20 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Donor's intention and Holy Souls
Thu 21 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	For peace in the world and an end to warfare and violence.
Fri 22 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Gordon Addison RIP
Sat 23 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	For the Swingell family and all travellers.
	5.30 pm	St George's	Tom O'Reilly RIP and family.
Sun 24 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	For the repose of the soul of William Thomas Byrne RIP

GOSPEL REFLECTION: The cross transforms everything. An instrument of execution and death has become an instrument of life. Jesus did not recoil from his destiny: he recognised that in the cross his 'hour' had come and that his whole life had been a journey to this moment. So much of Jesus' teaching is taken from observing the natural world. He took note of a principle within nature that life is born from death. We all understand that in order for a plant to grow, a seed needs first to be buried in the earth. Unless this happens it remains only a single seed – if buried in the soil, then many seeds are produced. Jesus saw his own death mirrored in this process of nature. Jesus knew that his entire life was a preparation for his suffering and death upon the cross. In the history of the world there has never been a more important death, for from this death would come life for the world.

In 1980 Archbishop Oscar Romero was murdered by an assassin's bullet as he celebrated the Eucharist. Moments before, in his sermon, he had said: 'To each one of us Christ is saying: "If you want your life and mission to be fruitful like mine, do as I. Be converted into a seed that lets itself be buried. Let yourself be killed. Do not be afraid. Those who shun suffering will remain alone. No one is more alone than the selfish. But if you give your life out of love for others, as I give mine for all, you will reap a great harvest."

Just as Jesus laid down his life, so we are called to lay down our life for others. Just as the cross was Jesus' hour, so we too are called to take up our cross and follow him. Only if we are willing to die to ourselves in this way, will we know the joy of harvest in our lives. This cross reveals God's love – it makes it plain for all to see. Jesus' cross is the hope of our eternal salvation, our greatest joy and greatest hope. 'Apart from the cross there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven'. St Rose of Lima.

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

Fr PETER REQUIEM TO VIEW at

<https://funeralvideo.co.uk/fr.peterpeterken/>

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.

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:

Mon 18th Mar: St Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor

Tues 19th Mar: St Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

NEXT SUNDAY IS PALM SUNDAY, THE FIRST DAY OF HOLY WEEK. There will be blessing and distribution of palms at all Masses. We will remember and celebrate the triumphant entry of Jesus into the Holy City of Jerusalem but also will have the Gospel reading of St Mark's Passion. So Palm Sunday is called 'Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion'.

Willing to Grow

Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. John 12:24

My mother is an avid gardener, and we have had many chats about what she likes to call "the persistence of nature"; those weeds that come back just a week or so after being pulled, the dandelions peeking up from the cracks of an urban sidewalk, the new tree shoots that were unintentionally planted by eager squirrels. What is seed will travel: what is planted will grow.

So it is with faith, Jesus is teaching us in this passage about the "persistence of faith," if you will. If we, like the seed, are willing to move, to be planted outside of our comfort zones – to die to ourselves – then the fruit born will be immeasurable. Our faith and love will bloom and grow in places and ways we never imagined.

Today, may I be willing to lose myself so that your Love may grow. Sarah Hart.

FATHER ALAN'S RETIREMENT

With the agreement of our Bishop Patrick McKinney, my retirement date is Easter Monday, 1st April 2024.

I shall continue for a while to live at the presbytery, 40 Village Street, until a small bungalow has been purchased for my use by the diocese, via the diocesan property department. I do not own any property myself and the dwelling will be on the diocesan property portfolio.

I shall continue to say Mass every day as I have done since my Ordination in 1971, nearly 53 years ago.

I shall offer my services to the next priest who will have responsibility for St George's and Holy Spirit people.

Health-wise, I am quite well because of good medical care and suitable medication and hope to be able to live independently for quite a while but as we know, when you reach beyond 4 score years, there is inevitably some decline in one's physical health and fitness if not in one's mental capacity.

I have lived for nearly 36 years in Derby in spells at St Mary's and St George's and have many friends and acquaintances in the city, including my doctor, heart consultant, dentist, pharmacy and optician.

My personal family members live in various parts of England and Wales, although the majority are still in my home area of Market Harborough, Leicestershire.

Please keep me in your prayers as I begin a new phase in my life. God bless you all. Fr. Alan.