

**ST GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS**

Sat 18 Apr	5.30 pm	Patricia Brown RIP, anniversary
Sun 19 Apr	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Mon 20 Apr	9.30 am	Angelica Pendlebury for good health
Tues 21 Apr	<b>Nb: 10.30 am</b>	Requiem, Michael Steven Callanan RIP
Wed 22 Apr	9.30 am	Peter Kavanagh RIP
Thu 23 Apr	9.00 am	St George's School Mass. Staff & pupils of the school
	<b>Nb: 10.30 am</b>	Hanni Ruppik & Family RIP
Fri 24 Apr	9.30 am	Donor's intention, St Anthony
Sat 25 Apr	9.30 am	Win Woodcock & Sean Kennedy for good health
	5.30 pm	For peace in the world
Sun 26 Apr	9.30 am	People of the parish

**GOSPEL REFLECTION:** The road to Emmaus is similar to the road of Life. Like the two disciples, Cleopas and his anonymous companion, we too can be kept from recognising the Lord. What kept the disciples from recognising the risen Lord is what prevents us also. But more of that later! Luke, gifted and inspired writer that he was, captures in a most beautiful and striking way all the events surrounding the resurrection of Jesus, compressing both the facts and the mystery into a few verses (Luke 24:19-24). We can see that these two disciples were on the road to faith themselves as they believed Jesus to be a prophet and not the Son of God.

Perhaps this is why the Lord appears to gently chide them: 'How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?' (Luke 24:25). Then these disciples received probably the most privileged Bible study ever – Jesus himself, beginning with Moses (the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament) and moving on to the Prophets (which ones we don't know but very likely, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel), unpacked the Hebrew Scriptures so that they could see how they pointed to the Christ. Yet it would seem that, despite the Bible study, they still didn't fully recognise the Lord. It was almost as if he was playing 'cat and mouse' or 'hide and seek' with them. When Jesus made as if he was going further than Emmaus, the two disciples urged him to stay and it was only when he was at the table with them and broke bread that they fully recognised the risen Lord. The breaking of bread points to the Eucharist, and their 'hearts burning within' is the work of the Holy Spirit bringing the Scriptures alive.

Just as Jesus led the disciples on the road to Emmaus to a deeper faith through immersing their minds and hearts in the Scriptures, so we too enter the mystery of faith through becoming even more familiar with the power of God's Word.

*Lord, set my heart on fire with burning love for the Sacred Scriptures.*

**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.

**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

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

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

**SECOND COLLECTION next weekend is for the Clergy Formation Fund.**

**SAINTS THIS WEEK:**

Tues 21<sup>st</sup> April: St Anselm, Bishop & Doctor of the Church  
Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> April: St George Martyr, Patron Saint of England  
Sat 25<sup>th</sup> April: St Mark, Evangelist

**THE FUNERAL MASS** for Michael Steven Callanan will take place at St George's on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April, at 10.30 am.  
*Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.*

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

New Members of the Church

For Vocations

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

For survivors of abuse, especially on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May.

For the right use of media, especially on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May

For the church, especially on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May.

**Rising Up**

*God raised this Jesus, of this we are all witnesses.* ACTS 2.32  
Several years ago, I received a beautiful Easter-themed brochure from a florist selling fresh multi-coloured flowers. At the bottom of the page it stated: "Remember this year Easter falls on April 21." I reflected on the word, "falls" finding that it was not the most correct way to refer to Easter. Easter never falls on any day. All the things about Easter are always rising up. We celebrate Jesus rising from the tomb. Springtime is rising up from winter, and grass is showing fresh new shoots. Dogwood blossoms appear, along with daffodils, tulips and a host of other flowers that awake. It's new life in Jesus! Let us rejoice in his victory over death! And this celebratory parade continues for the 50 days of the Easter season and beyond. Down with the falls, It's now up, up and – one fine day – away.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>**

**ST GEORGE, PATRON SAINT OF ENGLAND**

Today we celebrate the feast of St George, patron saint of England (275-303 AD). Tradition has it that St George was a soldier who may have been martyred at Lydda in Palestine under the persecution unleashed by the Roman Emperor Diocletian. We actually know very little about him, but what we do know is that his witness to Christ made such an impression that he was widely venerated from the earliest times. Because of his military background and his martyrdom an apocryphal tradition or legend grew up around this great warrior for Christ that he had slain a dragon as a maiden looked on. The dragon was Satan, of course, and there is a way in which St George is a kind of patron saint of spiritual battle or conflict. Today this spiritual battle is fought in every European country in which the Christian faith once flourished. Moral relativism, secularisation and a virulent militant atheism are the new enemies of faith. Christians, rather like St George, are called to rise up and fight the dragons of unbelief.