

ST GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 21 Feb	5.30 pm	Tony McCandless RIP, 25th anniversary
Sun 22 Feb	9.30 am	Open intention
Mon 23 Feb	9.30 am	For Jimmy's son RIP
Tues 24 Feb	9.30 am	Eamonn Murray RIP
Wed 25 Feb	9.30 am	Tom Farrell RIP
Thu 26 Feb	9.30 am	Gary O'Grady RIP
Fri 27 Feb	9.30 am	For the needy and hungry of the world
Sat 28 Feb	9.30 am	Joseph Alappat RIP, 3 rd anniversary
	5.30 pm	Annie McCandless RIP, 24 th anniversary
Sun 01 Mar	9.30 am	People of the Parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Jesus was concerned always about two things. The first was that his absolute priority was to be doing the Father's will. The second was to teach his followers about the enormous obstacle that our self-will is when it comes to accomplishing the Father's will in our lives. So enormous, in fact, the 'self' (we might also call it 'our fallen nature') that the only solution is utterly radical! The self-will life has to die.

Jesus came into our world, and has accomplished the mission given to him by his Father, precisely to make it possible for our self-life to be put to death. In our baptismal union with the death of Jesus that brings about the death of our fallen nature – although that baptismal union needs to be maintained day by day.

One thing is certain; if we do not daily keep our fallen self-will in the tomb with Christ, it will come to life again. In fact, we might say that one of the principal activities of the Evil One is to work on us so as to rouse our self-life – that it may once more rule over us.

Today, we see Satan attempting to do precisely this with Jesus himself. The temptations were not exactly temptations to sin. Rather they were subtle attempts to lure Jesus into following his own natural needs and desires, and generally, to follow the 'easy route', which we all seem to want to find. In the face of such temptations, no doubt as a result of the clarity of purpose he had gained through prayer and testing, Jesus was entirely focused on the Father's will.

What is particularly significant is that Jesus sought and found the Father's will through the words of Scripture. And for Jesus, this meant the words of what we call the Old Testament! This of course is not to exclude Jesus' direct and daily communication with his Father through his prayer, but clearly he prayed about the words of Scripture in order to find in them the Father speaking to him. Do we do the same?

Father, please speak to me today through your Word and lead me not into temptation.

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

For candidates for the Sacraments, especially on the Sundays of Lent. For women, especially on Friday 6th March (Women's World Day of Prayer).

For the needy and hungry of the world, especially on Friday, 27th February, CAFOD Lent Fast Day.

For penitents and wanderers.

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

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Mon 23rd Feb: St Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr

Fri 27th Feb: Ss Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line and Margaret Ward, martyrs

THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY

For children with incurable diseases. Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

LENT FAST DAY ENVELOPES are given out this weekend for the CAFOD fast day on Friday, 27th February.

In Jesus We shall Triumph

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. MATTHEW 4:1

Jesus did not go into the desert primarily for a prayerful retreat. Rather, the Scriptures say he was "led by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil." To begin his ministry, Jesus must face Satan directly and endure his taunts and temptations and emerge triumphant.

Some people become upset when they suffer temptations and assaults of the Evil One. They may wonder: "What am I doing wrong?" Jesus' life makes it clear that enduring the devil's temptations is a part of every Christian life. Moreover just as Jesus triumphed, in him so shall we.

But it will not always be easy or one-and-done. Throughout his ministry, Jesus was the object of attacks by evil forces. The spiritual battle continues until the end.

Jesus give me the strength and the wisdom to overcome the assaults of the devil, just as you did. May I do so until the end so that I might reign with you.

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.

THE ENABLING MISSION CAMPAIGN

Fr Mark Brentnall, Parish Priest, will celebrate Mass at St George's today, Saturday 21st February, at 5.30 pm and will speak about the Enabling Mission Campaign and other parish matters. Campaign Packs will be given out.