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18th February 2024

1st SUNDAY OF LENT

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 17 Feb	5.30 pm	St George's	Toryusen Family, deceased
Sun 18 Feb	9.30 am	St George's	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Fr Peter Peterken RIP
Mon 19 Feb	9.30 am	St George's	Rita Fogg, 80 th birthday celebration
Tue 20 Feb	9.30 am	St George's	Donor's intention and the Holy Souls In Purgatory
Wed 21 Feb	9.30 am	St George's	Majorie Hamlet RIP, Anniv. and the Hamlet & Lilley families, RIP
Thu 22 Feb	9.30 am	St George's	Kath & Colum Keenan RIP
Fri 23 Feb	9.30 am	St George's	Prayer for Marian Power for recovery After operation
Sat 24 Feb	9.30 am	St George's	Charlie & Maureen McAleavy RIP
	5.30 pm	St George's	Tom McCandless RIP, Anniv.
Sun 25 Feb	9.30 am	St George's	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Fr. Peter Peterken RIP

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Just as Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, so are we. Jesus was tempted and tested for forty days and so too are we. Lent is our time in the desert, our wilderness; we too can expect to be tempted, tested and enter into spiritual conflict, an interior battle. No servant is greater than his or her master: Just as Jesus was tempted and tested, so too are we. Jesus emerged from the desert with a message, which was, if you like, the fruit of his tempting and testing. His message was this: 'the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel' (v.15). We do well to ponder it and reflect on its meaning for our lives. Repentance and conversion aren't popular ideas these days – but this begs the question, have they ever been? There can be no doubt that our culture has lost a sense of sin, and in losing a sense of sin it has also lost a sense of repentance and conversion. Sin conjures up all kinds of negative thoughts about our human condition, which we would prefer to push under the carpet. Nevertheless, as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: 'Sin is present in human history: any attempt to ignore it or to give this dark reality other names would be futile' (CCC.386). Sin isn't a cold, judicial or forensic list of things we have or haven't done, but rather it involves not believing or trusting in the Father's tender love, not believing or trusting that Jesus has a wonderful plan for our lives, not believing or trusting that the Holy Spirit forgives and heals us.

A mystery of faith is that holiness doesn't obviate the call of repentance, but rather encourages it. The saints weren't increasingly less aware of their sin and need of salvation but rather increasingly more aware of it. Despite their sanctity and love of others, they understood that they needed the grace and healing mercy of God. To be aware of and sensitive to our waywardness, sinfulness and dire need of God's grace isn't about negative introspection, but about knowing the joy, liberation and freedom of repentance, leading to ongoing conversation.

Lord, thank you for your mercy and unfailing love. Wash away my iniquity, cleanse me from my sin and restore to me the joy of salvation.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024

Parent Meeting, Sunday, 25th February, after Sunday morning Mass at St George's Church. For further information, please speak to Canon Alan Burbidge or Mrs McNamara or email: sacramentsstgeorgesrcderby@gmail.com

Copies of Catholic Post and Catholic News still available.

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.

SECOND COLLECTION: CAFOD Family Fast envelopes available at all Masses this weekend. Please get one for the family. CAFOD does such great work in so many ways for those in the developing world.

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Wed 21st Feb: St Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
Thurs 22nd Feb: The Chair of St Peter
Fri 23rd Feb: St Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr

A RECENT DEATH: Please pray for William Thomas Byrne of Johnson Avenue, Allenton, who has died recently. He was a regular parishioner at Holy Spirit and will be sadly missed by family and friends.

Requiem Mass will take place at Holy Spirit church on Friday, 1st March, at 9.30 am. *Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.*

Virtuous Resilience

This is the time of fulfilment. The kingdom of God is at hand.

Mark 1:15

Jesus had thirty years to prepare for his public ministry. When his preaching time drew near, he made a forty-day retreat in the desert. Soon he would be preaching Gospel values to instruct people to live better lives. His challenging message would cause many to react with accusations, threats, violence and execution. Jesus has a sacred plan to be fulfilled, but was he ready to endure the tremendous opposition he would encounter? Certainly, he was committed to his calling of divine accountability, but these forty days would personally prove his virtuous resilience to combat any evil or hostility.

Today, we are the people called to live these Gospel values. Do we have the virtuous resilience to fulfil our mission? It's our annual forty-day retreat to be with Jesus in the desert, in church, in prayer, in penance and indeed in love. It's all for a better way of living life. Hear ye, hear ye, it's time for fulfilment. Fr James McKams

Fr PETER PETERKEN RIP: We extend sincere and grateful thanks to all parishioners on behalf of Fr Alan and Fr Peter's family, for their help in the funeral Masses. It was very heartening I'm sure for his family and friends, to see so many people both at the Vigil Mass at Holy Spirit, Sinfin, and the Requiem at Our Lady of Lourdes, Mickleover.

Many thanks to all, especially at the Holy Spirit church for getting everything ready for the Mass and also for the lovely cakes and tea and coffee at the reception which followed.

The Requiem Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes church was special with lovely singing and led by our Bishop Patrick McKinney with lots of priests, 26 in all, celebrating the Mass together.

Fr Peter accepted the invitation given to Anglican clergy to come into the Catholic Church in 2011, and to bring with them their own special patrimony. They became Catholic priests in that group called the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham. People also could come with their priests and we welcomed a number at St George's Church who worshipped with us, until the Ordinariate was up and running. Their own Ordinary or Bishop with a number of priests, were with us for their colleague Fr Peter's Requiem Mass. They could be seen in their very distinctive colourful habits. We continue to pray for Fr Peter and say "Eternal rest grant unto Him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in the love, joy and peace of Almighty God in heaven. Amen."