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2nd April 2023

PALM SUNDAY

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 01 Apr	5.30 pm	St George's	Intention of the donor for good health P.G.
Sun 02 Apr	9.30 am	St George's	Geraldine Maughan RIP
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Priest's own intention
	6.00 pm	St George's	People of the parish
Mon 03 Apr	9.30 am	St George's	Priest's own intention
Tue 04 Apr	9.30 am	St George's	Donor's intention, St Anthony
Wed 05 Apr	9.30 am	St George's	For the recently dead of war and violence
Thu 06 Apr	9.30 am	St George's	Maureen Kearns RIP (Ireland)
HOLY THURSDAY	7.00 pm	St George's	Priest's own intention
	7.00 pm	Holy Spirit	Priest's own intention
Fri 07 Apr	3.00 pm	St George's	Good Friday service
GOOD FRIDAY	3.00 pm	Holy Spirit	Good Friday service
	7.00 pm	Holy Spirit	Stations of the Cross
Sat 08 Apr	6.00 pm	St George's	Holy Saturday night liturgy, Ellie & John Lenihan RIP
HOLY SATURDAY	6.00 pm	Holy Spirit	Holy Saturday night liturgy, People of the Parish
Sun 09 Apr	9.30 am	St George's	People of the Parish
EASTER SUNDAY	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Holy Souls and G.F. donor's intention
	6.00 pm	St George's	Roy Colin RIP

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Similarly to yesterday, bear in mind as you read or hear Matthew's account of Jesus' Passion that his brutal death wasn't the result of chance, coincidence or circumstance, but part of the mystery of God's plan. Every detail, movement and nuance, every word, action and event were carried out precisely according to God's definite plan and foreknowledge. Again, as we saw yesterday, this doesn't mean that all the key players were merely passive, but be conscious and aware of the heartbeat of God's purpose and Jesus' authority to freely lay down his life and to freely take it up again.

All four Evangelists highlight the crucifixion as the reason why the Son of God became man. He was destined to suffer, die and raise us up with him. Underpinning all of this is God's love for us all. Jesus' heart was full of the Father's love for each one of us. He spent himself out of love for us, and the cross became the source of our eternal salvation. Jesus' death on the cross justifies every human being who believes in him; it makes us righteous, holy and pleasing to God.

God wants us to believe, follow and worship his Son, Jesus, acknowledging him as our Saviour. This is why our prayer as we enter into Holy Week must be: "Hail, O Cross, our only hope." Jesus' death is the most important death in human history because it alone saved the human race. It was a unique sacrifice, and Jesus is the one and only mediator between God and humankind. As God Incarnate, he has united himself to us all and gives us the opportunity to be sharers in his Paschal Mystery.

We're all called to take up our cross and follow Christ, for just as he suffered, so too must we. Our vocation is to follow in his steps. Our hope and prayer are that, in this most holy and special of weeks, each of us can grow in our love, devotion and worship of Jesus on the cross: the Crucified One who is the Saviour of the world.

'Apart from the cross there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven.'
(St Rose of Lima)

Today, PALM SUNDAY begins Holy Week: We do encourage as many of you as possible to celebrate **Holy Thursday**, with the Mass of the Lord's Supper in the evening followed by watching at the Altar of Repose, both at St George's Church at 7 pm and at Holy Spirit, at 7 pm.

On **Good Friday** the service will be at 3 pm at St George's and at Holy Spirit churches.

On **Holy Saturday** night both at Holy Spirit and St George's the service will begin at 6 pm with lighting of the fire, readings, blessing of the water and Mass of the Resurrection.

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.

On Good Friday at the 3 pm services there will be a collection for the support of the holy places in Palestine.

At the Easter weekend Masses there will be a second collection for Easter offerings which goes towards the support of your priests. Easter Offertory envelopes are available this weekend at the church.

Again, we do encourage as many of you as possible to attend the very special services of the Easter Triduum when we remember and join with Jesus, Our Lord in all that he sacrificed for us.

AN EASTER GIFT FOR YOU

We have taken advantage of a special offer for **Bible Alive** and therefore, enable each family to have a free copy of this lovely magazine which contains very helpful and incisive reflections on the daily and Sunday Gospels for Eastertide. From Sunday, 9th April to Sunday 28th May there is a helpful page of reflection on the Gospel of the day. **Please take your free copy.**

The **Catholic News** for April is now available.

Please take your free copy.

Features include, picture of Bishop and Confirmation candidates at Ratcliffe College; Cardinal Nichols and King Charles III, report on Loyal Address; St Mary's Academy Ofsted report; picture of events around the diocese; Pope's message to young UK Catholics and pictures from the Flame Congress and Blessed Robert Sutton Academy, "outstanding in all areas" Ofsted.

Easter copies of **'My Day by Day'**. All the bible readings and psalms from Good Friday to 31st May.

Please get your copy and place your donation in the box at church.

Also, a few copies of **Living Faith** still available, inspiring daily devotions for April, May and June.

Please place your donation in the box at church

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Preparation lessons begin again on Sunday 23rd April after our Easter break. It is good to have the children and families with us on Sunday mornings.