

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

Parish Priest: Canon Alan Burbidge Assistant Parish Priests: Fr Peter Peterken & Fr Jude Ebere Eze

NRCDD a registered charity

e-mail: stgeorges.holyspiritderby@gmail.com

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

Twitter: @SpeStGeorgesRCDer2

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

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

16th April 2023

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, NO-ONE IS BEYOND GOD'S MERCY

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 15 Apr	5.30 pm	St George's	Thomas and Michael O'Reilly RIP
Sun 16 Apr	9.30 am	St George's	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Priest's own intention
	6.00 pm	St George's	For those in the parish who are quite poorly
Mon 17 Apr	9.30 am	St George's	In thanksgiving for Holy Land Pilgrimage, Barbara.
Tue 18 Apr	9.30 am	St George's	Maureen Kearns RIP (in Ireland)
Wed 19 Apr	9.30 am	St George's	In thanksgiving, St Anthony
Thu 20 Apr	9.30 am	St George's	Donor's intentions, A & C
Fri 21 Apr	9.30 am	St George's	Donor's intention, St Anthony
Sat 22 Apr	9.30 pm	St George's	For Pope Francis, for good health
	5.30 pm	St George's	For all parishioners who are not so well.
Sun 23 Apr	9.30 am	St George's	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Donor's intentions and holy souls
	6.00 pm	St George's	Devlin Doherty's people and the deceased and travellers and the sick and for world peace.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: As the patron saint of doubt Thomas is very much the patron saint of our age, which is an age of doubt and scepticism. We see this very much in books by Richard Dawkins, who wrote *The God Delusion*, and the late Christopher Hitchens, who wrote *God Is Not Great*.

Although Thomas is referred to as 'Doubting Thomas' it's perhaps an unfair epithet because, as John Henry Newman once reflected, 'Ten thousand difficulties do not make one doubt.' In other words, while Thomas certainly questioned, struggled and doubted, this was all part of his journey of faith. Faith in God and acceptance of Jesus are often reached through a process which invariably involves questions, struggles and difficulties.

Indeed, as St Augustine said, doubt and unbelief are really no more than fear dressed up: 'For I kept my heart from assenting to anything, fearing to fall headlong; but by hanging in suspense I was the worse killed.'

Doubt can therefore be the gateway into faith. In his poem *Bishop Blougram's Apology* Robert Browning wrote, 'The more of doubt the stronger the faith, I say, if faith o'ercomes doubt.'

In Thomas' case faith overcame doubt, although admittedly he was privileged to see the Risen Lord and touch his wounds. Unlike the disciples we weren't chosen to actually see the Lord but we've been chosen to receive great comfort and consolation from him, and he assures us that we're blessed indeed because we believe without having seen (v.20).

The biblical definition of faith is to be sure of what we hope for and certain of what we cannot see (see Heb. 11:1). Faith invites us to live by a different faculty than just reason. It invites us to trust in and rely on Christ's promises and to base our lives on them. God won't disappoint us or let us down. Faith is the currency of the kingdom. We can only live by faith, but a time will come when faith will no longer be required because we see God face to face.

Lord Jesus, when I am tempted to doubt, may I repent and turn away from the darkness, saying, 'My Lord and my God!' (v.28)

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.

AN EASTER GIFT FOR YOU

STILL A FEW COPIES REMAINING

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.

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:

Fri 21st April: St Anslem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

MISSIO: Free copies of the Spring edition of Mission Today, available at the church.

NO ONE IS BEYOND GOD'S MERCY

.....in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope.....1 Peter 1:3

Through my years of priestly ministry, one of my surprises is how many people are overwhelmed by their sins and despair of God's mercy. They are convinced that they are not forgivable and that God will condemn them to hell. So I understand why Pope John Paul II instituted this Divine Mercy Sunday. How important it is that people realise that God's mercy is greater than any sin they could ever commit. I believe one of Satan's final ploys will be to show people on their deathbeds all their sins and whisper in their ears that they are beyond God's mercy. Nothing could be further from the truth. Faith is more than simply believing God exists. It involves a personal relationship with God. We trust that God loves us, forgives us and saves us in Jesus. With such assurance in our hearts, we pass our days in peace, and we await the final judgment with confidence.

Msgr. Stephen J. Rossetti

COMING EVENTS

Friday 5th May 2023, 7pm – 9 pm
Nottingham Cathedral, NG1 5AE

GOD SAVE THE KING

A musical celebration of the Coronation of
His Majesty King Charles III

Book: dioceseofnottingham.uk/events/coronation or by calling The Cathedral Office on 0115 953 9839

+++++

**NOTTINGHAM DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE
15th – 20th July 2023**

Bookings now open:

dioceseofnottingham.uk/events/lourdes2023
or call 01732 886666

+++++

NOTTINGHAM DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGES 2023

Sun. 30 th April	Beauvale	Sun. 25 th June	Rodsley
Sat. 29 th April	Melwood	Sun. 9 th July	Padley
Sat 17 th June*	Walsingham	1-6 th August	WYD Lisbon

*young adults: 16-18 June

EASTER THANKS

We extend sincere and grateful thanks to all who worked so hard to get everything ready for the Holy Week and Easter celebrations at St George's and Holy Spirit churches. All went well with good attendance and participation in all the ceremonies from Holy Thursday, through Good Friday and into Holy Saturday night and Easter Sunday. The crucified Saviour who suffered so much is indeed Risen and Glorified. May we be strengthened by his risen presence among us in the power of the Holy Spirit. Sincere thanks also for your generous Easter offerings for the support of the parish and the clergy.