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13th August 2023

19th WEEK OF THE CHURCH YEAR

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 12 Aug	5.30 pm	St George's	Larry & May Morgan RIP
Sun 13 Aug	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 deceased clergy we are to pray for.
Mon 14 Aug	9.30 am	St George's	Priest's own intention
Tue 15 Aug	9.30 am	St George's	For a special intention
	7.00 pm	Holy Spirit	FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION
Wed 16 Aug	9.30 am	St George's	In thanksgiving, St Anthony of Padua
Thu 17 Aug	9.30 am	St George's	Hanni Ruppik RIP, parish benefactor
Fri 18 Aug	9.30 am	St George's	Priest's own intention
	10.30 am	St George's	Requiem, Albert Woodcock RIP
Sat 19 Aug	9.30 pm	St George's	For the recent victims of war and violence
	5.30 pm	St George's	For the recently dead of our parish
Sun 20 Aug	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	Holy souls especially parishioners whose anniversaries are at this time.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: When we see someone achieving something truly amazing, to express our admiration we might say that they, 'Walk on water'. By this we mean that their talent is so extraordinary that they could even defy the natural law of gravity. This phrase alludes to the miracles we read about in today's Gospel: Jesus walking on water and calming the storm. The supernatural phenomenon of walking on water isn't unique to the Gospels. In Greek mythology the gods Horus and Orion both defied gravity in this way, as did various heroic figures in Hindu and Buddhist mythology. The difference between these accounts and the one we find in today's Gospel is that the former are recorded as myths and the latter is recorded as eyewitness history, as fact.

Do you believe Jesus walked on water? It's a fair question which deserves a fair answer. The Church encourages us to question, scrutinize and interrogate and we've nothing to fear from the truth. However, we must also be aware that the Gospel writers weren't writing fiction or perpetrating a kind of propaganda – they were recording real events.

Vatican II's *Dei verbum* puts it like this: 'The sacred authors wrote the four Gospels, selecting some things from the many which had been handed on by word of mouth or in writing, reducing some of them to a synthesis, explaining some things in view of the situation of their churches and preserving the form of proclamation but always in such fashion that they told us the honest truth about Jesus.' (para.2). The apostles were first-hand witnesses who handed down to us a reliable account of what happened in Jesus' life. In other words, we can stake our lives on the fact that Jesus walked on water, thus revealing himself to be the Lord of sea and earth, the Master and Creator of the natural world. The reason he could walk on water and command the storm to cease it because he created them. 'Few souls understand what God would accomplish in them if they were to abandon themselves unreservedly to him and...were to allow his grace to mould them accordingly.' (St Ignatius of Loyola)

VISIT OF THE RELICS of

ST COLUMBA, ST MARGARET of SCOTLAND AND THE APOSTLE ANDREW
at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Mickleover

Tuesday, 29 August. Church opens 9am and closes 9pm

9 am	Lauds (Morning Prayer) with reception of the Relics
Midday	Rosary
5 pm	Vespers (Evening Prayer) followed by Eucharistic Adoration, Confessions, and Solemn Benediction
6 pm	Votive Mass of St Columba followed by Confessions until 7.30pm
9 pm	Compline (Night Prayer)

Wednesday, 30 August Church opens at 8.30am and closes 6pm

8.30 am	Eucharistic Adoration
9.10 am	Rosary
9.30 am	Votive Mass for the Evangelisation of Peoples followed by final veneration and departure of the Relics after which tea and coffee will be served in the parish centre.

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: Mon 14th Aug: St Maximilian Kolbe, Priest & Martyr
Tues 15th Aug: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holyday)
Wed 16th Aug: St Stephen of Hungary

Obey, Pray and Trust

Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid. Matthew 14:27

Today's readings offer three prominent examples of how to follow God. Elijah's obedience is rewarded with encountering the presence of God. In faithful witness, Paul prays for "[his] own people, his kindred." And St Peter – oh Peter! – longs to jump headfirst into the arms of God even if it means possibly falling flat on his face, crying humbly, "Lord, save me!". Yet, beyond holy characters and saints, there are people among us living as beacons of light. One inspiration in my life is a Scared Heart sister, Rosemary Nyirumbe, a spiritual mother to refugees, to women kidnapped into slavery and to abandoned and orphaned children in her native Uganda. With hopefulness, Sr Rosemary provides them with an education, job training and, most importantly, mercy. And she does it with contagious joy! Today is my 63rd birthday. When I grow up, I want to be just like her. Thank you, Lord, for the beacons of light in my life!

Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda

RECENT DEATHS: Please pray for Albert Woodcock who died recently at his home on Moorway Lane, and for his family in their sad loss. Funeral at St George's on Friday, 18th August, 10.30am.

Please pray for Michael Heffernan of Donnington Drive, who has died recently. We extend our sincere sympathies to his family and friends and pray for him. Funeral arrangements not yet completed as we produce the newsletter,
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

REFLECTION: ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The doctrine or mystery of Mary's Assumption goes right back to the beginning of the Church, dating back to the apostles themselves. At the council of Chalcedon in 451AD Emperor Marcian asked the Patriarch of Jerusalem to bring Mary's relic to Constantinople to be enshrined there. The Patriarch explained that there were no relics of Mary in Jerusalem and that 'Mary had died in the presence of the apostles; but her tomb, when opened later...was found empty and so the apostles concluded that the body was taken up into heaven. Today we also have hope in our own destiny. Mary was assumed, body and soul, into the glory of heaven. Our faith is rooted in the truth that we too will rise from the dead, body and soul. Like Mary we will do so not because of our own merits but through the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All powerful and ever loving God: you raised the sinless Virgin Mary, mother of your Son, body and soul to the glory of heaven. May we see heaven as our final goal and come to share her glory.'

Fr. JUDE'S DEPARTURE: Fr Jude will be leaving St George's to take up his new appointment in the Infant of Prague church, Syston, near Leicester. He will celebrate his last Sunday Mass with us on Sunday 3rd September at 9.30am. After this Sunday Mass there will be tea, coffee and a celebration cake in the social centre and a monetary presentation to Fr Jude. Fr Jude has been assistant priest at St George's and Holy Spirit for some 12 years, apart from a spell away at Sleaford in Lincolnshire.

If you wish to make a donation towards Fr Jude's leaving gift, as a thank you for all he has done in our parish, please place it in an envelope marked 'Gift to Fr Jude' and hand it in at the Offertory at Mass by Sunday 27th August 2023.