

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

NRCDDT 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

20th August 2023

20th WEEK OF THE CHURCH YEAR

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 19 Aug	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.
Mon 21 Aug	9.30 am	St George's	For Anne Eadie & Family
Tue 22 Aug	9.30 am	St George's	Priest's own intention
Wed 23 Aug	9.30 am	St George's	Anthony Meehan RIP
Thu 24 Aug	9.30 am	St George's	Special intention for a baby
Fri 25 Aug	9.30 am	St George's	In thanksgiving, St Anthony
Sat 26 Aug	9.30 pm	St George's	Michael Heffernan RIP
	5.30 pm	St George's	Leonard Raymond Heath RIP (parish benefactor)
Sun 27 Aug	9.30 am	St George's	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	The Clayton Family RIP
	6.00 pm	St George's	Special intention for all travellers especially with illnesses

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Many are troubled by Jesus' reaction to the woman in today's reading. Their concern is based on Jesus' initial reaction to the woman who's clearly desperate and seeking help. It's hard to understand why Jesus simply ignored her plea for help: '[He] did not answer a word' (v.23 NIV). Jesus' disciples ask Jesus to send her away. In a reply that seems totally unrelated, Jesus reveals the reason for his lack of response to the woman's need: 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel' (v.24). Jesus' primary mission was to gather all the faithful together into God's kingdom so that they would become a people covenanted to God and each other and so be a light to the nations (Isa.49:1-6).

What a shame that we don't know this courageous woman's name! She doesn't give up but cries out again. "Lord, help me!" (v.25). Jesus' response to her plea is hard for us to hear, but bear with us and light will be shed. He says, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs" (v.26). In using the word 'dogs' Jesus is drawing on a popular stereotype used by Jews in contempt of Gentiles, but it could also be translated as a kinder term: 'pups'. Jesus is continuing his mission to minister only to the Jewish nation. In her response, the woman reveals no resentment, just profound faith: 'Yes Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table' (v.27). Identifying her 'great faith' immediately Jesus duly rewards her with her daughter's healing. This woman's witness of courageous perseverance and utter determination holds out hope to us all. We can too easily become despondent and lose faith if your prayers aren't answered immediately or we perceive that life is unfair. We must ask the Holy Spirit to keep increasing our measure of faith. As St John Henry Newman once said, 'I may love by halves, I may obey by halves; [but] I cannot believe by halves: either I have faith or I have it not.'

Lord grant me a faith, which is bold and confident of your love and mercy.

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 21st Aug: Saint Pius X, Pope

Tues 22nd Aug: The Queenship of Mary

Thurs 24th Aug: Saint Bartholomew

Persistence

O Women, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish. Matthew 15:28

The trip down any cereal aisle with young children will teach you the meaning of the word persistence. Mom may say no to the first five requests for a box of sugar bombs, but the child is betting that six will be the charm. Or seven.

If only we could have the persistence of a child! In today's Gospel, Jesus at first seems reluctant to help the woman. She is a Canaanite, not a Jew, and he tells the Apostles he was "sent only to the lost sheep" of Israel (verse 24). Yet, her persistence inspires his admiration of her faith, and he grants her wish: the healing of her daughter.

Persistence in prayer is a common theme of the Gospels, a measure of faith in times of trial. Jesus encourages us to be persistent in entreating his heavenly Father with our requests while trusting that God's will, not ours, be done.

Jesus, give me the gift of persistence in prayer.

Greg Erlandson

**Fr JUDE'S DEPARTURE AND THE FUTURE FOR
ST GEORGE'S AND HOLY SPIRIT**

Fr Jude, as we have reported, will be leaving to take up his new post in Syston with St Patrick's, Leicester, for the weekend of the 10th September 2023. His last Sunday Mass will be on 3rd September at 9.30 am followed by a celebration gathering and presentation to which all are invited.

Our Bishop Patrick, who makes his decisions after consultation with his Council of Priests and Vicars General and Parish Priests has moved Fr Jude and advised Canon Alan to reduce the Masses at St George's and Holy Spirit by one. Canon Alan has accepted this and therefore, as announced at St George's last Sunday at the 6 pm Mass, this Sunday evening Mass will be discontinued. The 6 pm Mass is the smallest congregation of our weekend Masses and it is therefore logical that it is the one to lose. Our three other Masses in the parish, 5.30 pm Saturday, 9.30 am Sunday at St George's and 11.15 am at Holy Spirit are each quite well attended and will continue into the future.

With the continuing shortage of priests and an ever increasing age profile, St George's and Holy Spirit will be combined with English Martyrs, Alvaston, and will be served by one resident priest in the near future.

I take this opportunity to thank Fr. Peter Peterken for his continuing care of Holy Spirit church each Sunday and Holy Day.

Fr JUDE'S DEPARTURE AND PRESENTATION

It is traditional to have a 'thank you' presentation when a priest leaves a parish and Fr Jude, although he left us before, came back after his Sleaford experience, and to assist Canon Alan whose health is not so robust as it used to be owing to increasing age and one or two challenges. Therefore you will see attached to this weekend's newsletter a small envelope in which you may wish to place a gift for Fr Jude's presentation. Please bring it by Sunday, 3rd September, and place it in the 2nd collection that will be taken on the two weekends ie 27th August and 3rd September.