

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 Priest:** Fr Peter Peterken

e-mail: stgeorges.holyspiritderby@gmail.com

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

NRCDDT a registered charity

Twitter: @SpeStGeorgesRCDer2

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

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

3rd December 2023

1st Sunday of Advent

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 02 Dec	5.30 pm	St George's	Chris Lynch RIP, 17th Anniv.
Sun 03 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	For special intention, James Anthony family
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Holy Souls and donor's intentions.
Mon 04 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	Deceased members of the McCartney family
Tue 05 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	Members of Foss family and Holy Souls in Purgatory
Wed 06 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	Donor's intention, St Anthony
Thu 07 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	Debbie O'Hagan RIP
Fri 08 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	For Holy Souls who have no-one to pray for them
Sat 09 Dec	9.30 pm	St George's	People of the Parish
	5.30 pm	St George's	Tom O'Reilly RIP
Sun 10 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	Molly Owen (seriously ill)
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Gordon Perry RIP

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Advent invites us to ponder Jesus' first coming and long for his second. The deepest longing of the Church and the Holy Spirit is 'Come' At Jesus' first coming, he came to save and redeem, so that we would know forgiveness and liberation from our sin. At his second coming in glory, we will know the redemption of our bodies and the full deliverance for which the whole of creation groans and longs. We rejoice in his first coming and pray to usher in his second.

Some have suggested that Advent has its roots in the pagan festival of the winter solstice. The word 'solstice' is derived from the Latin *sol* (sun) and *sistere* (to stand still). The pagan world hungered for light and worshipped the sun god, *Sol Invictus*, who was invoked each day at sunrise. But as bright and as powerful as the sun is, we know it cannot cast its light on the greatest mysteries of existence and the human condition. Isaiah declared, hundreds of years before the birth of Christ: 'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined' (Isa. 9:2)

Advent is an opportunity for us to come into this light, see with the light of Christ, walk our pilgrim way, and let our light shine. The light that shines in the darkness moves within, so we confess with our lips that the baby in the manger is Lord and King and lift our hearts in praise and longing for the return of the King of glory. 'Come Lord Jesus, come.' *Carpe Diem* means 'Seize the Day' and with God's grace we can grow in our understanding and pray for the return of the King.

'Behold, now is the acceptable time spoken of by the Spirit, the day of salvation, peace and reconciliation: the great season of Advent. This is the time eagerly awaited by the patriarchs and prophets, the time that holy Simeon rejoiced to see. This is the season that the Church has always celebrated with special solemnity. We too should always observe it with faith and love, offering praise and thanksgiving to the Father for the mercy and love he has shown us in this mystery.'
(St Charles Borromeo)

CAFOD's WORLD GIFTS 2023-24

Copies of the above Christmas catalogue are available at St George's and Holy Spirit. Take a look, you're sure to find something for everyone. From people living on the front lines of the climate crisis, through refugees fleeing conflict, to families who live on one meal a day, every gift bought through CAFOD's World Gifts helps real people and makes a massive positive difference.

CAFOD'S HARVEST FAMILY FAST DAY: I wanted to get in touch to say thank you for the recent donations from both Holy Spirit and St. George's to CAFOD's Harvest Family Fast Day. Over £1,000 has been donated from the two Parishes combined which is an incredible amount of money! I know our central offices will have said thank you already, but as your local CAFOD worker I wanted to reach out and let you know how much your support means. We really don't take this for granted, especially in such a financially challenging time here in the UK.
Will Cruddace, Community Participation Co-ordinator – CAFOD Nottingham

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:

Wed 6 Dec: Saint Nicholas, Bishop

Thurs 7 Dec: Saint Ambrose, bishop & doctor of the church

Fri 8 Dec: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron of our diocese.

SECOND COLLECTION next weekend at all Masses is for poor and needy parishes of our Diocese of Nottingham.

Our Father

You, LORD, are our father, our redeemer...

Return for the sake of your servants,

the tribes of your heritage.

...Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down...

Isaiah 63: 16b-17, 19b

All eyes are on Isaiah as the first reading to open this holy season of Advent. This prayer extols the Fatherhood of God more than once, beseeching him to save his people, for the Father loves Israel like a son. As the people long for deliverance from exile, this is a truly expectant petition begging God to send the Messiah – the same One we prepare to meet on Christmas Day.

The book of Isaiah is full of God's promises. This faith and God's Promised One are on display elsewhere as the sign who will be a "son" named "Emmanuel" (Isaiah 7:14), and a child who is "born to us," named "Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:5). So, for now, let us, too, keep watch with faith.

Our Father, we place our full trust in your promises. Pat Gohn

RECENT DEATHS OF PARISHIONERS AND OTHERS

Please pray for the following people who have died recently.

For Raymond Wasikowski whose funeral will be at Markeaton Crematorium on Thurs, 7th December, at 11.30 am.

For Bernard Baines of Penryn Avenue, whose funeral will be at Markeaton Crematorium on Monday, 11th Dec. at 1.30 pm.

For Peter Grant of Sackville Street (no funeral details as yet).

For Sister Marion Finnegan of the Sisters of Mercy whose funeral will be at St Mary's on 21st December.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

FREE PAPERS FOR DECEMBER

CATHOLIC NEWS for Nottingham Diocese, items include Journey of change; A new way of being a parish. It speaks of the challenge of the coming together of three parishes in Nottingham. It is a positive assessment of the way forward in these times of the reduced number of active priests in our diocese.

I commend also, 'Prepare for the Lord's Coming', by Fr Jeremy Corley.

And the CATHOLIC POST containing news from around our Catholic Church in England. Please take your copy.

ADVENT BOOKLETS: Please get your family copies of Advent Extra and Walk with Me, containing many lovely reflections for the days of Advent in preparation for the Season of Christmas.