

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

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

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

10th December 2023

2nd Sunday of Advent

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 09 Dec	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
Mon 11 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	For deceased members of all traveller's families
Tue 12 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	Deceased clergy, Mgr. P Wilson (Northampton Diocese)
Wed 13 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	For all the sick of the parish
Thu 14 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	For the conversion of sinners throughout the world (donor's intention)
Fri 15 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	Tom & Kathleen Conally RIP (2nd Mass)
Sat 16 Dec	9.30 pm	St George's	People of the Parish
	5.30 pm	St George's	Mark Crosbie RIP & deceased of the family
Sun 17 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	Sean Sellors RIP
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Michael Cunningham RIP

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Mark's Gospel is the first and shortest Gospel. Unlike Matthew and Luke, Mark has no account of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus and, unlike John, Mark gives no extensive prologue recording the origins of Jesus within the mystery of God and his self-revelation. Mark makes a simple and bold pronouncement: 'The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, the Son of God' (NRSV). This simple verse sets out the whole purpose of Mark in writing his Gospel. It is a twofold purpose.

On the one hand, his purpose is to reveal Jesus, through the events of his life and especially through his death on the cross, as the Son of God. On the other hand, it is to tell the 'good news'. The climax of the Gospel is to be found in a rather unexpected place. It is in the declaration of faith heard at the crucifixion on the lips of a Roman soldier: 'Truly this man was the Son of God!' (15:39). Somehow, this centurion perceived that Jesus' death was unlike any other. Mark has written his Gospel to reveal this truth. The Good News is that the Son of God has reconciled us and has removed the barrier of sin that separated man from God. In the beginning it was the role of John the Baptist to prepare the way of Jesus. Mark presents John as the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy: 'I am going to send my messenger before you'. The Old Testament tradition was that this messenger would be Elijah. Elsewhere in Mark's Gospel, Jesus himself suggests that Elijah has come in the person of the Baptist (9:9-13).

It is as though the story of Elijah never really ended. He did not die, but ascended in a chariot of fire. Only with the Baptist does Elijah's story end. Mark wants to show that it was the Baptist's death that gave the greatest witness to Christ. John suffered a martyr's death, but the death of Jesus would be so much more powerful. Jesus' death would lead to a whole new relationship with God. As we share in the death of Jesus in the liturgy today, we can also know the gift of the Spirit and union with the Father. This is the Good News, our blessed hope, the source of our joy.

Lord, you ask each of us, 'Who do you say I am?' I confess with my heart and profess with my tongue that you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God, the firstborn over all creation. God from God, light from light, begotten not made and one with the Father.

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:

Mon 11 Dec: St Damasus 1, Pope

Tues 12 Dec: Our Lady of Guadalupe

Wed 13 Dec: St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

Thurs 14 Dec: St John of the Cross, priest and doctor of the church.

SECOND COLLECTION this weekend at all Masses is for poor and needy parishes.

All I Can Hear

A voice cries out:

In the desert prepare the way of the Lord! Isaiah 40:3

My left ear was blocked. It wasn't painful, just annoying, not only because of what was obscured but most of all because of which sounds dominated: mine. My own voice blasted through my head when I spoke. When I chewed, it was like pebbles rattling in a can. How tiresome it was to have my experience of the world dominated by ... myself.

During these days of Advent a voice echoes from the wilderness of Judea. There's a lot in my life obscuring that voice: busyness, all that I read, watch and listen to through the media. And then, well, there's the loudest competing voice of all: my own. My opinions, my assumptions, even my concerns. Boy, they are loud. Sometimes that's all I can hear.

Can I quiet them for just a moment and listen?

Word of God, I seek quiet so I may focus on you. St John the Baptist, pray for us.
Andy Welborn.

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.

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.

Copies of *Walk with Me* for Advent and Christmas reflection continue until 8th January 2024.