

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

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17th December 2023

GAUDETE SUNDAY

3RD Sunday of Advent

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 16 Dec	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
Mon 18 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	R.I.P. Mass for Thankachan Kollappillil
Tue 19 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	Raymond Wasikowski RIP
Wed 20 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	The Devlin, Doherty & Swingell families
Thu 21 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	Donor's intention in thanksgiving to St Anthony
Fri 22 Dec	9.00 am	School	Mass at school for the end of term
	9.30 am	St George's	Service of the Word & Holy Communion
Sat 23 Dec	9.30 pm	St George's	Philip McHugh RIP
	5.30 pm	St George's	Mark Crosbie RIP
Sun 24 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Thomas Callaghan RIP
	5.30 pm	St George's	1 st Mass of Christmas, Charles & Cynthia Augustus RIP

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

'But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons', says Paul in Galatians 4:4-5, referring to the momentous encounter of the angel Gabriel and the young virgin Mary in the Annunciation. Our salvation involved the three persons of the Holy Trinity acting together.

The Holy Spirit, the Lord and the giver of Life, was sent to sanctify the womb of the Virgin Mary causing her to conceive the eternal Son of the Father. Consider this truth of our faith: God the Father willed to send his Son, but, in order to put his salvation plan into action, he desired the free co-operation of one of the creatures he had created, and to this end of all eternity he chose a young Jewish woman from Nazareth in Galilee.

Mary's 'yes' to God was a crucial moment in human history. In one sense all our future and all our hopes, and indeed God's plan of salvation, hung on this one moment. If we truly grasped its significance we would shudder in awe and amazement. We would also bow down in worship and adoration at God's humility and condescension. As St Irenaeus reflected, Mary's 'yes' to God reversed the no' of Eve: 'Being obedient she became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race. The knot of Eve's disobedience was united by Mary's obedience; what the virgin Eve bound by her disbelief, Mary loosed by her faith.' In the midst of the busyness of our Christmas preparations, let us take time to reflect on Mary's obedience and trust in God, and so mature in our sense of awe and amazement of Mary, the Mother of God.

'The Father of mercies willed that the incarnation should be preceded by assent on the part of the predestined mother, so that just as a woman has a share in the coming of death, so also should a woman contribute to the coming of life.'
(Lumen gentium 56)

CHRISTMAS MASSES: Christmas this year falls on a Monday, so soon after our Sunday Masses. The Masses for Christmas will be:

Sunday, 24th Dec Christmas Eve: St. George's 5.30 pm for children and families and all who wish to attend. (If Fr Peter is fit and well he would wish to celebrate Mass at Holy Spirit at 5.30 pm on Christmas Eve) We hope to know by next Sunday, 24th December.

Monday, 25th Dec. Christmas Day: Mass at St George's at 9.30 am.
Mass at Holy Spirit at 11.15 am.

We look forward to a Happy and Holy celebration of the birth and birthday of Jesus, Our Lord and Saviour. May we be well prepared in mind and heart and spirit to welcome our Lord and Saviour and friend ever more deeply into our lives.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES

Wednesday, 20th Dec at St George's at 6 pm with our school staff and pupils and parents. All welcome.

Thursday 21st Dec at Holy Spirit at 6 pm, Carols by Candlelight. (Fr. Peter hopes to be with us.) All welcome.

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 22 Dec: St Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES are available from this weekend. Your donations go towards the maintenance of your priests.

This Christmas

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Luke 1:38

As disciples, we seek to imitate the humility of Mary. How about we start with the next twenty-four hours? Christmas is a time of expectation and hope, but for some it can also be one of anxiety and resentment. What if we turn all of it over to God? What if we submit to how he is asking us to show up right here, right now?

That might mean sitting by the unpleasant cousin at dinner or letting go of disappointment over a gift that misses the mark. It might mean accepting that even on Christmas, we still have to change diapers and take out the trash, and someone who is angry and rude the rest of the year may still be angry and rude. This Christmas, like the first, will be messy and miraculous, tense and tender. Let's welcome Jesus into all of it!

Lord God, we are your servants. May this Christmas unfold according to your will.
Karla Manternach

God Has Come Among Us

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice. Psalm 96:11

God is with us! Those are the words that always move me in the celebration of Christmas. God shows us the way. We are needier than we are usually willing to admit. How do I deal with the messiness of my life, with my fears, my anger, my discouragements and my various forms of alienation from myself and others?

God is so good and gracious in this regard. He doesn't settle for giving us advice or sending us some kind of prescription or set of laws. He comes to show us the way by sharing our very life. We are helped in our weakness to know that he has himself experienced what we experience. None of this takes away the need to continue seeking God. It intensifies our search by inviting us to find God in places where we would not normally look for him – in our suffering the suffering of the world, in the vulnerability of the poor and the outcast, in our own vulnerability.

We will find God most assuredly by becoming like him, by loving more and more.
Fr Dennis Gallagher, A.A.

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.

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