

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

24th December 2023

4th Sunday of Advent and 1st week of Christmastide

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 23 Dec	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	1st Mass of Christmas, Charles & Cynthia Augustus RIP
Mon 25 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	The deceased members of the Fortune family
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Private Int ention
Tue 26 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	Tom Farrell RIP
Wed 27 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	Bridgie Gilroy RIP
Thu 28 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	Alappatt Joseph RIP
Fri 29 Dec	10.00 am	St George's	Requiem, Maisie Abbott RIP
Sat 30 Dec	9.30 pm	St George's	For worldwide peace and for marriages
	5.30 pm	St George's	Nuala O'Riordan RIP (1st anniversary)
Sun 31 Dec	9.30 am	St George's	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Sarah Fisher RIP

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

'We celebrate this day not because of the visible sun, but because of him who made this day.' (St Augustine).

Today is truly a day to celebrate. Many centuries ago, St Leo the Great, fearful almost that any would give way to sadness or grief on this most holy of days, said: 'Our Saviour, beloved people, is born today. Let us rejoice. It is unlawful to be sad today for this is the birth of life. This life brings happiness of a promised eternity to us since the fear of death has been destroyed. Let the holy exult because they are coming near to their prize. Let the sinners rejoice because they are invited to grace. Let pagans be encouraged because they too are summoned to life.

The Christian faith is often wrongly understood to be about what we do for God: our prayers, our works, our striving, our holiness. We can sometimes even think that we will be saved or get to heaven because of who we are or what we have done for God. If that were true, there would not be much cause for celebration, because what Christmas Day makes clear is that the Christian faith is all about what God has done for us. What has God done for us? God has become one of us to make us sharers and partakers in the divine nature. He has raised us up, he has reconciled us to the Father; he has opened up heaven again and restored what was lost through the tragedy of original sin and the fall of the human race. The wonder of God becoming man is that Jesus the eternal Word has ushered in a new and radiant vision of God's glory. In Jesus of Nazareth, God is made visible.

Today, the Holy Spirit will fill our hearts with joy as we recognise in Christ the revelation of the Father's love. Today, God is seen as one like us. Christ, the Son before all ages, is now born in time. He came to lift up all things to himself and to restore unity, leading us from exile on earth into our heavenly home.

'Today the Word who sits on the throne of glory with the Father became flesh, born of the Holy Virgin, giving the universe the grace and hope of adoption into the fullness of becoming children of God.' (St Ephraem)

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.

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:

Tues 26 Dec: St Stephen (the first martyr)

Wed 27th Dec: St John, Apostle & Evangelist

Thurs 28th Dec: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Fri 29th Dec: St Thomas of Canterbury (Becket),
Bishop & Martyr

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES are available.

SECOND COLLECTION at the Christmas Masses is your Christmas offering towards the support of your priests.

RECENT DEATHS:

Please pray for Maisie Abbott of Dunbar Close, Sinfen and Dennis Rafferty of Littleover, who have died recently.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

The Requiem Mass for Maisie Abbott will take place at St George's on Friday, 29th December at 10 am.

The funeral for Dennis Rafferty will take place at St George's at 11 am on Friday 19th January 2024.

A Year in Review

Light dawns for the just;

And gladness, for the upright of heart. Psalm 97:11

It's time for a new calendar for the new year. Funny how it sneaks up on us when the nights are long and the days are short. Take a moment to look back on the past twelve months. What blessings came our way? What trials held you down? Did those struggles make it hard to count the blessings? Life is sure a mixed bag. We all struggle. We all go through tough times. But ask yourself this – do you look for the light when you're weighed down by worry, or do you settle yourself in the darkness?

Some people curse and are defined by the darkness. Others trust and are transformed by it. Whatever trials weigh you down, there is grace to be found here and now, in this hour in this day. With an open heart, trust in the Lord, who was born in the darkness and welcomes you into the Light. Gail Goleas.

Fr Alan & Fr Peter take this opportunity to wish all our parishioners a Very Happy and Holy Christmas and all blessings for this Holy Season and for the New Year ahead.