

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/>

NRCDD 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

31st December 2023

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

2nd Sunday of Christmastide

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 30 Dec	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
Mon 01 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	For peace in the world and an end to warfare and violence
Tue 02 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	Donor's intention in thanksgiving to St Anthony
Wed 03 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	Catherine Dillane RIP
Thu 04 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	The Doherty family intentions
Fri 05 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	For the deceased of the family Of Antony & Aani
Sat 06 Jan	9.30 pm	St George's	For the recently dead of the parish
	5.30 pm	St George's	Mark Crosbie RIP
Sun 07 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	People of the parish
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	In thanksgiving to St Joseph for a favour greatly received

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

New Year's Eve of all days invites prayerful reflection and self-examination on the year that has passed whilst looking forward with hope to the year to come.

The Greek philosopher Aristotle said that an unexamined life wasn't worth living, and St Ignatius of Loyola encouraged an examination of life and conscience as essential to his famous Spiritual Exercises.

The problem is, like many challenges of the spiritual life, examination doesn't come easily or naturally; it takes grace and it takes courage. True, it is slightly easier on the cusp of a New Year, when resolutions are made and soon after these same resolutions are broken! However, one area of our lives which always invites examination is our prayer life. Do you pray? Is it hard to find time to carve out some time and space to be still before God?

This much we know, the family that prays together stays together. And, on the Feast of the Holy Family, how fitting that we should reflect on our prayer life, both personally but also within our families!

As faithful and devout Jews, Mary and Joseph and later Jesus himself, would have stopped three times each day to recite Israel's creed, the *Sherma*: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord, and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your might' (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). They also prayed the Eighteen Benedictions, a beautiful tapestry of praise and petition. Jesus learnt to pray in the words and rhythms of the Jewish people in his Father's presence. Our home too can be a house of prayer, where we learn that, wherever two or three are gathered in Jesus' name, he is there in our midst. Jesus is present when we say grace before meals, a decade of the rosary together or pray the Our Father and the Glory Be.

Resolve to spend more time in prayer and rich will be our blessings. Dedicate time to prayer and abundant and lavish is the outpouring of God's grace.

Lord, on the eve of the New Year, teach me to pray, to hallow your name, that your kingdom may come, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

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 1st Jan: Mary mother of God

Tues 2nd Jan: Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen,
Bishops & Doctors

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

Family Matters

....they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

Luke 2-39

I'm always struck by this celebration of this Feast of the Holy Family just days after Christmas – when a lot of us have had about as much family as we can take. In the middle of the celebrating, stress and overall exhaustion of family obligations, we have this Sunday to remind us of what matters.

What matters, it turns out, is fairly ordinary.

Luke's Gospel describes how Jesus, Mary and Joseph fulfilled their duties as faithful Jews and then quietly returned to their home in Nazareth. The rest is a mystery.

That mystery captivated St. Charles de Foucauld, who found inspiration in the "hidden" years of Jesus in Nazareth – years of grace, humility and love.

That time can teach us so much. During this season of overspending and extravagance (and often, for families, disappointment and aggravation), let's take a page from the Holy Family. Savor simplicity, patience and peace. Spare a moment today and celebrate Nazareth.

Dcn. Greg Kandra

CHRISTMAS THANKS AND NEW YEAR WISHES

Sincere thanks from Fr Alan & Fr Peter for all your help with the preparations for, and the celebration of Christmas. Thanks to everybody who helped in any way to prepare the church and the Masses at St George's and Holy Spirit. Thanks also for your kind thoughts with cards and gifts and for your generous donations to the church and to the Christmas offerings.

And every good wish and blessings as we travel into a New Year. We continue our sincere prayers and offer Masses for an end to warfare and violence and pray also for all the many initiatives in the battle to preserve our climate for future generations.
May God be with us in all our prayers and efforts.

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to you all.