

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

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19th February 2023

7th SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 18 Feb	5.30 pm	St George's	The deceased of the Tornyusen and Goodman families
Sun 19 Feb	9.30 am	St George's	Nuala O'Riordan RIP
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Marian Worthington RIP
	6.00 pm	St George's	For Pope Francis & church leaders
Mon 20 Feb	9.30 am	St George's	Priest's own intention
Tue 21 Feb	9.30 am	St George's	Canon Roger Maher, 10th Anniv.
Wed 22 Feb	9.30 am	St George's	Kath and Colum Keenan RIP
ASH WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm	Holy Spirit	Priest's own intention
Thu 23 Feb	9.30 am	St George's	In thanksgiving, St Anthony
Fri 24 Feb	9.30 am	St George's	For the dead of war, especially in Ukraine
Sat 25 Feb	9.30 am	St George's	Private intention
	5.30 pm	St George's	Anniversaries for Tony McCandless RIP (22 years) and Annie McCandless RIP (21 years)
Sun 26 Feb	9.30 am	St George's	Gretta Freeman RIP, 1st Anniv
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	People of the Parish
	6.00 pm	St George's	For the dead of the Turkey and Syria earthquake.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Jesus didn't come to abolish the law but to fulfil it. The Sermon on the Mount fulfils and completes the Ten Commandments. He underlines certain teachings – "You have heard that it was said..." (v.38)... and moves on to, 'But I say to you...' (v.39). His new understanding expands, rather than reduces, the message of the law, making it more radical, yet at the same time, more loving: 'Be perfect...as your heavenly Father is perfect' (v.48). That perfection includes loving both your friends and your enemies.

We're all called to a radical commitment to the good news, which involves being more generous, more prayerful and more willing to set aside our own needs for the good of others. But loving our enemies sounds like an impossible goal. Jesus is trying to show us the world as God sees it: for God, there's goodness within each person.

Our task is to make room for everyone, firstly because that's what God does, but secondly because we don't want to be in bondage in our resentments and thus fail to grow in our own relationship with the Lord of love. Our efforts will demand much of us spiritually and emotionally, but will pay dividends in a new kind of interior freedom. We've already seen this attitude lived out in Jesus himself, who shows us what God is like.

Jesus loved his enemies, and forgave those who mocked, scourged and crucified him. In this sense, we can say that the Sermon on the Mount predisposes us to live a life of self-giving, in imitation of Christ. Of course, we can't live like this, but God's grace, enables us to live in a different way, that of the Spirit.

Love your enemy – it will drive them nuts!! Going the extra mile and being accommodating, kind and understanding drives those who oppose, resist and loathe us into confusion. Resentment, anger, revenge, etc, is the human way, whereas God's way is the way of the Spirit and where the Spirit is there is freedom. *Lord, help us to be attentive to your Word, to re-discover in Jesus the living God in our midst, and to radiate his love in our needy work.*

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 10TH JUNE 2023

First Holy Communion classes start end of February

Information and dates regarding First Holy Communion now available on the parish website. Please email Sacrament Derby <sacramentsstgeorgesrcderby@gmail.com> for further information.

DROP IN COFFEE MORNING - Fri 10.30- 2 midday St George's Social Centre.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served.

Everyone welcome to drop in for a warm drink and a chat.

CATHOLIC NEWS: Have you got your copy. Lots of interesting reading in the February edition eg CAFOD launches Big Lent Walk to fight global poverty; Cardinal Nichols visits St Peter's Basilica to pray as Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI lies in state; Bumper Operation ELF helps mums and dads in prison.

CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY ONLY: 10:15 – 10:45

SAINTS THIS WEEK: *Tues 21st Feb:* St Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor. *Thurs 23rd Feb:* St Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr.

ASH WEDNESDAY. The season of Lent begins on this coming Wednesday, Ash Wednesday. There will be blessing of and imposition of ashes at the 9.30 am Mass at St George's and the 7 pm Mass at Holy Spirit this Wednesday, 22nd February. We hope to see as many of you as possible to begin your Lenten penance of prayer, fasting and alms giving.

TEACH ME TO LOVE

You shall not bear hatred for your brother or sister in your heart.

Leviticus 19:17

In today's first reading, the Lord instructed Moses that the Israelites must not hate their brothers or sisters and "cherish no grudge against any of your people. You shall love your neighbour as yourself" (verse 18). In the Gospel, Jesus expands our awareness of whom our neighbour might be and asks us to go further: to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (Matthew 5:44). Yet from the time of Moses until now, this has been a difficult lesson. Today we face a divided country on many levels. There is much anger on differing sides of our debates, and peace seems nearly impossible.

Perhaps, in the readings today, God is challenging us to pray for those we disagree with or dislike, to see them as our neighbour.

Jesus, you who were innocent forgave your persecutors. Teach me to love even those I must struggle with.

Greg Erlanson

CONFIRMATION, 9TH JULY 2023: We invite applications for candidates for Confirmation. There are young or not so young people of secondary school age or over who have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation. We hope to celebrate the Sacrament with our Bishop on Sunday, 9th July, most likely at our sister parish of English Martyrs, Alvaston, perhaps depending on numbers.

Please take a form to make your application and return it as soon as possible.

THE TURKISH & SYRIA EARTHQUAKES

In prayerful solidarity with our Muslim brothers and sisters, we pray for God's acceptance and mercy for the great numbers of those who have died. We pray for the recovery of the massive numbers of those who have been injured, so many so seriously. We pray also for all involved in the care of the survivors and for the ongoing recovery of those still missing. May much help and aid get through quickly. **Special collection this weekend.**

JOB VACANCY

Youth Formation Lead at Our Lady of Lourdes, Mickleover

We are looking for a committed practicing Catholic with experience of working with young people in a Catholic context, who has a passion for parish based youth ministry. The successful applicant will work part-time to build, coordinate and resource a team of volunteers to provide a variety of opportunities for those aged 8 to 18 in the parish. Closing date, 24 February 2023. For more details please visit www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers/youth-formation-lead.

CALLING CATHOLIC TEACHERS: If you are a Catholic teacher currently working outside of Catholic education and would like to find out more about the joys of working in a Catholic school within the Diocese of Nottingham, a virtual information session will take place on Wednesday 29 March from 7.00pm – 8.30pm. Please see the poster on the parish notice board. For further information, please contact: Julie Sweeney at the Diocesan Education Service (julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk).