

**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 Priests: Fr Peter Peterken & Fr Jude Ebere Eze**

**NRCDDT a registered charity**

**e-mail: stgeorges.holyspiritderby@gmail.com**

**Parish website: <https://stgeorges-holyspiritderby.org.uk/>**

**Twitter: @SpeStGeorgesRCDer2**

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

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

**26<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT**

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS**

|            |          |             |                                                                                      |
|------------|----------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat 25 Feb | 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                                      |
| Mon 27 Feb | 9.30 am  | St George's | Rita Morgan RIP                                                                      |
| Tue 28 Feb | 9.30 am  | St George's | Priest's own intention                                                               |
| Wed 01 Mar | 9.30 am  | St George's | In thanksgiving, St Anthony                                                          |
| Thu 02 Mar | 9.30 am  | St George's | Bridie Rooney RIP (in Ireland)                                                       |
| Fri 03 Mar | 9.30 am  | St George's | For the dead of war and disasters                                                    |
| Sat 04 Mar | 9.30 am  | St George's | Donor's intention, St Anthony of Padua                                               |
|            | 5.30 pm  | St George's | People of the Parish                                                                 |
| Sun 05 Mar | 9.30 am  | St George's | Peter Judson RIP, 11 <sup>th</sup> anniversary                                       |
|            | 11.15 am | Holy Spirit | Chris and Tom Govan, 45 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary                            |
|            | 6.00 pm  | St George's | India Smith, for good health                                                         |

**GOSPEL REFLECTION:**

During Lent we're led by the Spirit into the mystery of Jesus' sojourn in the desert: 'By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself...to the mystery of Jesus in the desert' (CCC 540). Isn't it amazing to ponder that in a mystical way, through our own struggles and temptations, we have some share in Jesus' testing in the desert?

The story of Jesus' temptations appears in all three synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke), but not John. Each of the Evangelists is clear that Jesus was tempted by Satan. The name Satan means 'adversary'. In the Book of Job we're given a vivid picture of Satan in God's heavenly court, where he has the role of accuser or prosecutor (see 1:6-12). The Scriptures identify Satan as the serpent in the Garden of Eden who tempted Adam and Eve (Gen.3) and, therefore, as the origin of sin and temptation.

What the Scriptures and tradition make clear is that humankind has a mortal enemy who, although a finite being created by God, is in a desperate struggle to overthrow God's reign, usurp his Lordship and lead his creation into darkness and death. How interesting that when we renew our baptismal vows over Easter we're invited to reject Satan and all his empty promises.

We're constantly tempted in many and varied ways. But temptation isn't a sin: it doesn't become one until we succumb. Jesus didn't succumb and because he was tempted he can identify with the suffering we endure when we're tempted.

Perhaps our religious formation put the accent on resisting sexual sin and temptation is often perceived in these terms. However, we're tempted in many and varied ways: to gossip, spite, arrogance, resentment and anger, and so on. Lent then, is a time of spiritual combat: and every soldier knows the dictum: know thy enemy. The devil is finite, merely a creature who can be defeated. Our struggle then, isn't against flesh and blood but against the devil and his spiritual forces.

*Lord, armed with truth, righteousness and readiness to proclaim the Gospel, I say with confidence. 'Get behind me, Satan!' (Matt. 16:23)*

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 10<sup>TH</sup> 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.

**EARTHQUAKE – TURKEY – SYRIA:** Sincere thanks on behalf of CAFOD and The Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal for your most generous donations to support this most urgent appeal. A total of £1501.00 has been collected to date. Cheques to the total of £2000.00 have been sent to CAFOD, which includes donations from the clergy and parish funds. Again thanks for your most generous support.

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

**SAINTS THIS WEEK:**

Wed 1<sup>st</sup> March: St David, Patron Saint of Wales

**CAFOD Envelopes** will be given out at all Masses this weekend. Please take one per family and on Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, do something special for Lent Fast Day. A Catholic Friday fast used to be not eating meat and many families had fish instead. Today, fish, chips and peas for a family of four would be very expensive if bought at the chip shop. As Lent is underway we should each take on something of self-denial. CAFOD envelopes will be taken in a CAFOD 2<sup>nd</sup> collection on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> March.

**DAILY CONVERSION**

**The Lord, your God, shall you worship  
And him alone shall you serve. Matthew 4:10**

Fresh from cataract surgery on both eyes, I am seeing the world with a clarity and brightness and colour that I did not think possible. Now I have to work on my spiritual vision.

The temptations of Jesus in the desert were nothing if not clarifying. In the face of every possible allurements, our Lord makes the decision to serve the will of his Father in all things. This kind of decision – for us it's called daily conversion – is the best antidote to the drift that so easily sneaks its way into our lives.

In all things, we seek the will of God. This is our Lenten Itinerary. As we make efforts, through God's grace, to dissipate the cloud of selfishness and sin, our eyes are opened to see the world with a fresh set of eyes. We begin to see as God sees. How good is that. Fr Dennis Gallagher. A.A.

**THE TURKISH & SYRIA EARTHQUAKES**

In prayerful solidarity with our Muslim brothers and sisters, we pray for God's acceptance in heaven 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.

**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](mailto:julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk)).

**WORD ALIVE:** A daily online publication of scripture reading for each day of the week, 1<sup>st</sup> reading, psalm and gospel of the day, plus Sunday Bible readings also. Access website [www.alivepublishing.co.uk/daily-mass-readings](http://www.alivepublishing.co.uk/daily-mass-readings) Free of charge.

**BIBLE ALIVE**

*"Bible Alive is a great way to get to know the Scriptures from the daily and Sunday liturgy. The daily reflections are accessible, informative and encouraging"*

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster.

For a month free trial, visit [www.alivepublishing.co.uk](http://www.alivepublishing.co.uk)