

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

15th January 2023

2nd SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 14 Jan	5.30 pm	St George's	Karan & Hedley O'Connor RIP
Sun 15 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	Nuala O'Riordan RIP
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Priest's own intention
	6.00 pm	St George's	For deceased clergy, especially of our parish
Mon 16 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	Bridie Rooney RIP (in Ireland)
Tue 17 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	Priest's own intention
Wed 18 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	In thanksgiving, St Anthony of Padua
Thu 19 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	Holy Souls, especially deceased members of our parish
Fri 20 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	Sp. Intention, Barbara and family
Sat 21 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	Donor's intention, St Anthony
	5.30 pm	St George's	People of the parish
Sun 22 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	Valerie Stone RIP
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	For Christian unity
	6.00 pm	Holy Spirit	Penny Earley RIP

GOSPEL REFLECTION: A primary headteacher once complained bitterly about the front cover of one of our publications. The publication displayed Francisco de Zurbaran's strikingly beautiful and powerful paint, *Agnus Dei*. The headteacher was vexed that an image of a poor lam, trussed up and ready for slaughter, could be deemed as an appropriate image for Lent! She had a point and we were sympathetic that religious imagery can shock and even offend our modern sensibilities.

If you think about it, is this image more offensive or shocking than that of a man dying on a cross? For the cross, the symbol of terrible torture and suffering, is at the very heart of our faith. Jesus is the innocent, sinless one, the perfect sacrifice, whose death on the cross reconciled us to the Father.

We can't remove the cross from our understanding of Christianity because it's at the very heart of our faith. In Genesis, Isaac asks Abraham, "... where is the lamb of a burnt offering?" (22:7), to which Abraham responds, 'God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering' (v.8). Ultimately, it was a ram and not a lamb which was sacrificed in Isaac's place, but sacrifice is a central theme of Judaism and Christianity. We need the Holy Spirit to show us that Jesus is truly the Lamb who takes away the sin of the whole world.

This same grace also imparts a joy through which we learn to rejoice in our salvation. Jesus is the High Priest, and his priesthood is the only priesthood – every priest shares in Christ's priesthood and through baptism we too have some share in it. Therefore, Jesus is both the priest and the victim (the Lamb) who forgives our sins and reconciles us with the Father. Lent – which will be upon us before we know it – offers us a wonderful opportunity to deepen our understanding of the cross, to grasp in a new and exciting way God's love poured out upon the cross. How much does God love us? Jesus held out his arms on the cross and said, 'This much.'

'The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.' (Ps.23:1-3 NIV)

CHRISTIAN UNITY: The Octave, eight days of prayers for Christian unity, begins on Wednesday, 18th January until Wednesday, 25th January. We pray that as many Christians and denominations as possible will be united by their authentic teaching and proclaiming of Jesus Our Lord and Saviour. There is one Lord, one faith and one baptism, one Lord Jesus Christ the saviour of all humankind. May all Christians be faithful to his divine teaching and guidance so more people will come to accept him and follow him.

CATHOLIC NEWS FOR JANUARY: A few copies still at church. Lots of interesting news of events in our Diocese of Nottingham.

OUR SCHOOLS: A new term and a New Year 2023. We pray for our schools, especially St George's and St Benedict's. We thank God for all the staff and pupils as they begin a new year of learning and development. May God keep them safe and well and inspire all to make good progress.

Meeting for potential Friday morning drop in café volunteers on Friday 20th of January at 10:30am in the social centre. Please bring your completed registration forms with you if not already handed them in.

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

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND FOR THE SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS FUND

SAINTS THIS WEEK: Tues 17th Jan: St Anthony, Abbot
Fri 20th Jan: Blessed Cyprian Tansi, Priest & Religious (He was a monk for a number of years at Mount St Bernard's Abbey, Leics).
Sat 21st Jan: St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr

A RECENT DEATH: Please pray for Nuala O'Riordan of Sunnyfields, Sunnyhill, who has died recently after a short illness. Nuala with her sister Marie and with their late parents, were long-time members of St George's parish and well-known to many of you. We extend to Marie and the extended family our sincere sympathies in their sad and unexpected loss of Nuala.

Requiem Mass will take place at St George's on Wednesday, 25th January, at 10.30 am.

Reception into St George's will be on Tuesday, 24th January at 6.30pm.

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

POPE EMERITUS, BENEDICT XVI (Retired) RIP

After a time of illness, the former Pope Benedict XVI has died in Rome at the grand old age of 95 years.

His funeral Requiem Mass at St Peter's has taken place, It received a worldwide audience on Sky TV.

After a relatively short reign as Pope, Benedict XVI stepped down as Pope because of failing health some 10 years ago. He was the first Pope to leave office (Pope's usually died in office) for 600 years and most Catholics thought what a wise and courageous move.

The office of leader of the Catholic church in modern times is very onerous with many big decisions to make and lots and lots of troubles of all kinds to deal with both theologically and practically. Pope Benedict in his life as a priest, Bishop, Cardinal and Pope was always a scholarly thinker and teacher and writer. Deep learning and scholarship and years of intense study were his forte. His two volume books on Jesus of Nazareth contains the fruits of the vast learning of a brilliant scholar, the passionate searching of a great mind, and the deep compassion of a pastor's heart. In this work written in his retirement Pope Benedict dares his readers to grapple with the meaning of Jesus' life, teaching, death and resurrection. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has been laid to rest in St Peter's, Rome.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

CELEBRATE LIFE: Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Psalm 85:11

January 23rd marks the 50th anniversary of the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States to legalise abortion, and it has a different feel to it. Decades of passionate pro-life labours on many fronts and intense prayers were rewarded in the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. Is it simply a matter of chance that this event took place last June on the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus?

As the field of action shifts away from the courts to the minds and hearts of citizens and their legislators, the reverencing of life from womb to tomb remains a Gospel imperative. No one can claim full victory until the giftedness of life at every stage is restored to its proper place in our throwaway culture.

Through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, may we all do the part given us to affirm and celebrate life. *Fr Dennis Gallagher. A.A.*