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16th July 2023

SEA SUNDAY, DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR SEAFARERS

15TH WEEK OF THE CHURCH YEAR

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 15 July	5.30 pm	St George's	Mary O'Riordan RIP, Anniversary
Sun 16 July	9.30 am	St George's	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Mary Pauline Negy RIP, Anniversary and birthday memorial
	6.00 pm	St George's	Margaret Fortune RIP
Mon 17 July	9.30 am	St George's	Holy Souls and donor's intention GDF
Tue 18 July	9.30 am	St George's	Emma Celebrar RIP (time of 10 th anniversary) and Pedro Celebrar
Wed 19 July	9.30 am	St George's	Marko Tominac RIP (anniversary)
Thu 20 July	9.30 am	St George's	In thanksgiving for all happenings, Barbara Nalukwago
	11.30 am	St George's	Requiem Mass, Davide Calcagni RIP
Fri 21 July	9.30 am	St George's	Kathleen & Tom Connolly RIP
Sat 22 July	9.30 pm	St George's	Edward O'Rourke (Snr) for good health
	5.30 pm	St George's	People of the Parish
Sun 23 July	9.30 am	St George's	For the deceased of the parish, especially those of anniversaries at this time.
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	
	6.00 pm	St George's	Deceased clergy, intentions

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Parables were a common device in storytelling in the ancient world but Jesus' parables are unique. Great scholars throughout the world, whether believers or not, recognise in Jesus' parables the hand, work and mind of divine genius. When we contemplate the parables, especially the Parable of the Sower, we leave the world of human understanding and enter the mystery of God. Even the disciples didn't understand the meaning of this parable at first: they had to ask Jesus to explain it to them.

The Parable of the Sower teaches us that the Word of God, like seed sown in a ploughed field by a farmer, needs to take root in our hearts and minds. It's God who provides water and sunshine to make it grow. We, for our part, need to ensure that the soil of our lives is prepared to receive it. It needs to be tilled, and the stones and weeds must be removed. Without this essential preparation the seed won't be able to flourish: the roots that it produces won't be able to go down deep into our lives and the young seedling will be strangled and choked, and eventually uprooted. God's Word leads to this divine life. We hear this Word in Scripture or in prayer and it brings God's wisdom, light and life. For example, we might hear, 'Forgive your brother and sister. Let go of resentment, know you are forgiven' (see Eph.4:31-32; Luke 6:37). This Word spoken into our hearts is from God. If we hold on to this Word, protect it and cultivate it, we learn to forgive and let go of the anger, hurt or resentment. God speaks his Word to us in many and varied ways. Here is a Word from God for us today: 'Cherish and revere the parables. Seek to understand the Parable of the Sower and its hidden depths. Ask the Holy Spirit for insight and for the grace of revelation.'

Lord God, by your grace may I produce fruit in my life by cultivating a heart which is open to receiving the gift of revelation and insight and so enter ever more deeply into the profound mystery of faith.

PARISHIONERS WHO ARE NOT WELL: We have a number of parishioners who are not well, either at home or in hospital. Please pray for them that they may recover and feel a lot better. Please pray especially for any cancer sufferers that their treatment will be effective.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Now that First Holy Communion classes are finished. We can commence Children's Liturgy at our Sunday morning Family Mass. If any adult wishes to support Tammie in these classes, please speak to Tammie or Fr Alan for more information. Thank you.

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.-

SECOND COLLECTION for the Apostleship of the Sea, Stella Maris, supporting seafarers and fishers, worldwide.

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Sat 22 July: St Mary Magdalene (feast)

A RECENT DEATH: Please pray for Davide Calcagni of Bethulie Road who has died recently.

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

Requiem Mass at St George's on Thursday, 20th July at 11.30am.

We extend our sincere sympathies to his family.

The Seed is the Word

Hear then the parable of the sowers. Matthew 13-18

In the agricultural environment where Jesus was raised, he often saw farmers casting seeds by hand to the left and right as they walked through the fields. That ancient practice of scattering the seed was the original meaning of our modern term broadcasting. That image became the basis for Jesus' famous parable to explain the Word of God. The seeds are Good News: words of wisdom, cast to the world to produce a harvest of love and peace.

I especially like this parable because I was raised on our family farm. I often remember my dad walking through the fields broadly casting alfalfa seeds as I helped clear away some stones. After Jesus had preached this parable, he explained it to his Apostles. The Word of God is pure, sacred and powerful. Our souls are the soil to keep clear of thorns, stones and briars. There, the Word can be planted to grow into a spiritually fulfilled life.

Fr James McKarns.

THE LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: Please keep the Bishop and all the Lourdes pilgrims in your prayers as they go to Lourdes from the 16th – 21st July. We can join them in spirit as we pray our rosaries and visit Our Lady Chapel to pray and light a candle.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

LIVING FAITH:

Copies at church for July, August, September.

Three months of daily devotions based on a bible passage for the day's Mass. A team of writers produce these very inspirational thoughts to help us in our daily prayers. Please get your copy and leave a donation of £1 to help cover the cost of supply.

CATHOLIC NEWS:

Lots of news about activities in our diocese including a picture and thoughts of Fr Peter on his 70th anniversary of priestly ordination. Get your free copy.

CATHOLIC POST:

News and articles of the wider church of England and Wales. Free copies available.