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12th March 2023

ST GEORGE'S - STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR LENT- FRIDAYS 6pm

3rd SUNDAY OF LENT

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 11 Mar	5.30 pm	St George's	Mr Wayne Ginnivan RIP, 1st Anniv.
Sun 12 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Josie Murphy RIP, 21 st Anniv.
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Elizabeth Callaghan RIP, Anniv
	6.00 pm	St George's	Holy Souls, especially those who have no-one to pray for them.
Mon 13 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	In thanksgiving, St Anthony
Tue 14 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Priest's own intention
Wed 15 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Mrs Margaret Morgan RIP
Thu 16 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Mary and James O'Riordan RIP
Fri 17 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	For all the deceased of our parish, especially those whose anniversaries occur at this time of the year
Sat 18 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	For all the dead of recent warfare
	5.30 pm	St George's	Kevin Sheppard RIP
Sun 19 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	John Bruen RIP, in Ireland
	6.00 pm	St George's	The deceased members of the Geelan family

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

John presents us with a dramatic, even theatrical encounter. Jesus is described in very human terms, sitting at the well, exhausted from his journey. The woman too is very human. Her appearance at the well at about noon, long after the other village women would've replenished their water supply for the day, may indicate her isolated position in society. She was shunned because of her many sins yet it is she who becomes a missionary to her people.

The bad relationship between the Jews and Samaritans was historically conditioned. About 722 BC the Assyrian army descended on Northern Israel, took its population into exile and colonized its land with foreigners who partially adopted Israel's religion over the centuries but were always viewed by the original inhabitants as hated, semi-pagan invaders. The woman was therefore stunned when Jesus spoke to her and even more astonished when he asked her for a drink.

Water becomes the sign by which both baptism and faith are explained to us. Water is the means, but the Holy Spirit flowing into us is the reality. Therefore, there's a vital connection between the flowing of water and the outpouring of the Spirit. The 'living water' of which Jesus speaks brings to her not only awareness of her sins, but also forgiveness, hope in the person of Jesus as the Messiah, and faith in his words.

The water Jesus offers is a pure gift of God, water which, when drunk, becomes within a spring of life. Jesus is referring to his own words of salvation, because whoever listens to and lives by them will continue to share God's life. The water has a deeper meaning as a symbol of the Holy Spirit (John 7:38-39). The Spirit enables us to understand Jesus' words and respond to them with a willing heart. 'The wonder of prayer is revealed beside the well where we come seeking water: there, Christ comes to meet every human being. It is he who first seeks us and asks us for a drink. Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him.' (CCC 2560)

CONFIRMATION will take place for St George's candidates in July. Please take an application form if you are a candidate for Confirmation. Young people should be of secondary school age or upwards if not yet confirmed.

ST PATRICK'S DAY, 17TH MARCH: May God's blessings for peace and prosperity come upon all the people of Ireland as they celebrate in many ways the feast of their patron saint. It is indeed a great day in Ireland with St Patrick's Day Masses in all the churches and cathedrals. Also, Irish people in many other countries honour their patron saint, especially in the USA where millions of people of Irish descent have found a new homeland and have prospered. There is always a great parade in New York with a massive turnout of supporters. Here in our diocese of Nottingham there are grand celebrations in Derby and Nottingham.

May the people of Ireland and those of Irish descent stay strong in the "Faith of Our Fathers" kept alive by many of our ancestors in spite of dungeon, fire and sword.

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

SAINTS THIS WEEK: Fri 17th Mar :: St Patrick, Bishop, Patron Saint of Ireland. Sat 18th Mar: St Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

2ND COLLECTION FOR CAFOD: Sincere thanks on behalf of CAFOD for your great generosity. Donations from St George's came to £516.00 and from Holy Spirit £352. Total was £868.00.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS this Friday and during the Fridays of Lent will be at 6 pm to facilitate attendance. Please note the new time, 6 pm and NOT 7 pm.

DIFFICULT CHOICES MATTER

In those days, in their thirst for water, the people grumble against Moses, saying, "Why did you ever make us leave Egypt? Was it just to have us die here of thirst with our children and our livestock?"

Exodus 17:3

Ah, yes, I can identify with the grumbling pilgrims in Exodus. I, too, want freedom from what enslaves me. But when the going gets tough, if I must make difficult choices to leave old habits and unloving behaviours behind, I can get a little huffy: Spiritual growth ought to be easier. I'm tired of this. How come this is taking so long? What difference do Lenten practices make anyhow?

We are probably each tempted from time to time during Lent to turn around and head back to our own Egypts, to sink into old familiar patterns that do not demand much from us. Today's grumblers in Exodus give us a little poke in the spiritual ribs to encourage us: "Keep at it. You'll make it through the desert just like we did."

Sr Joyce Rupp, O.S.M.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 10th JUNE 2023: The series of preparation classes based on the lovely workbook "I Belong, preparing for my First Holy Communion", will begin today, Sunday, 12th March, in the social centre. We will begin at 9 am with parents and children together. At 9.30 am parents will go into St George's church for Mass. The children will continue their class with their work books until 10 am when they will come into Mass at the Offertory. It is important that the children attend all the sessions so that they can have a good grasp, for their age, of the meaning and importance of their faith and especially of the Eucharist and Holy Communion. "I am the bread of life" says the Lord Jesus, "those who eat of this bread will never go hungry". May the Lord bless all our efforts as we try to do the best for these children.

First Holy Communion in St George's parish is for children and young people of school age Year 3 and upwards and for older young people who have not yet made their First Holy Communion. Information and dates regarding First Holy Communion now available on the parish website. Please email [Sacrament Derby <sacramentsstgeorgesrcderby@gmail.com>](mailto:sacramentsstgeorgesrcderby@gmail.com) for further information.

'Christus Vivit,' An Evening for Young Adults: 6.15pm Thursday 16 March, St Mary's Church. Every third Thursday of the month young adults aged 18-35 from across Derby gather for an evening of prayer, formation and fellowship. The evening begins with a time of Adoration and personal prayer with confession available. Canon John Cahill will then be speaking to us about the Season of Lent, after we will go for some social time at the Dolphin pub.

CAFOD Big Lent Walk Derby – Thursday 16th March

Join CAFOD for the Big Lent Walk in Derby and raise vital funds for communities around the world. We will gather at 10.30am on Thurs 16th March at St. Alban's Parish (DE21 6ET) for a 5km/3mile walk in the local area. It will be a great opportunity to bring our community together this Lent and learn more about CAFOD's work. For more details contact Will Cruddace on wcruddace@cafod.org.uk, or go to walk.cafod.org.uk to find out more and donate.