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18th March 2023

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

4th SUNDAY OF LENT

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 18 Mar	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
Mon 20 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Maureen Kearns RIP
Tue 21 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Priest's own intentions
Wed 22 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Geraldine Maughan RIP
Thu 23 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Anne & Ray Wagg and family
Fri 24 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Joan Flannery (for good health)
Sat 25 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	In thanksgiving, St Anthony
	5.30 pm	St George's	Jimmy and John Doolan RIP
Sun 26 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	For peace in the world
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	People of the parish
	6.00 pm	St George's	Gordon Addison RIP

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

In the UK, 100 people start to lose their sight every day and almost 2 million other people are living with significant sight loss. Furthermore, around 360,000 people are registered blind or partially sighted, and an estimated 25,000 children are blind or partially sighted. Lastly, 86% of people value their sight above any other sense. Jesus' healing of the man born blind takes up the whole of John 9. This remarkable miracle is a sign pointing to the mystery that Jesus is the light of the world. We can divide the chapter into three parts: the first part is the account of the miracle itself (vv.1-12), the second is the investigation of the Pharisees (vv.13-34) and the third is the problem of spiritual blindness (vv.35-41), which is the part we will focus on here.

It is said that there are none so blind as those who will not see. When someone doesn't understand our point of view or what we're trying to say we protest, "You just don't see, do you?" What's seen is temporary but what's unseen is eternal, and God wants us to see with eyes of faith.

Perhaps the following story might help to explain this. A man once stood on a soapbox at Hyde Park Corner and scorned the Christian faith by mocking. 'People tell me that God exists, but I can't see him. People tell me that there's life after death, but I can't see it. People tell me that there's a heaven and a hell. But I can't see them. The gathered crowd cheered and congratulated him, loud and effusive in their praise. Suddenly, a second man was helped into the soapbox. He tottered on the fragile podium before collecting himself and saying, 'People tell me that there's green grass all around, but I can't see it. People tell me that there's blue sky above, but I can't see it. People tell me that there are trees nearby, but I can't see them. You see, I'm blind.'

Lord, remove the scales from my eyes that prevent me from seeing those things that you want me to see - the darkness and shadows in my own life - so that I may walk more clearly in your light.

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.

CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY ONLY: 10:15 - 10:45

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Mon 20th March: St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2ND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND for LEPRA in conjunction with World Leprosy Day.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS this Friday and during the Fridays of Lent will be at 6 pm to facilitate attendance.

ADORATION before the Blessed Sacrament daily before the 9.30 am Mass and then other times as announced.

LET CHRIST FREE US

Do not judge from his appearance...Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart. 1 Samuel 16:7

On this date nineteen years ago, a spiritual teacher of mine, Peter, died. He died alone and rather afraid in a care home for the impoverished. Born poor, raised poor, he also had medical and cognitive impairments that kept him on social assistance and in rooming houses all his life. He met Jesus in his middle age. And the light that had been hidden within him shone out, more brightly and more stunning each day. He touched the hearts of many, including me.

Who is spiritually blind? We are, whenever, we, like the religious people in today's Gospel (John 9), judge and reject another. Who is freed of such blindness? We are, whenever we, like the man born blind, judged unworthy and disowned by all, receive the touch of Christ and let him free us.

The light shines where it will.

Holy Spirit, move in my life, that I may reflect the light of Christ.

Mary Marrocco

LIVING FAITH, daily catholic devotions.

The copy for April, May, June, is now available at St George's and Holy Spirit churches.

There are inspiring articles for each day based on a short piece of scripture from one of the bible passages for the day. Each different writer shares their insight into God's world. Please get your copy and place your donation in the wall box at St George's or to Barbara at Holy Spirit or John.

A suggested donation of £1 helps with the cost of provision.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS for March has been available for a while.

Please get your copy at the church. It gives a nice overview of things that are happening in parishes and schools. It is good to read about the ground-breaking on the site for St Mary's new school. It will take some time to build the replacement for the one which was destroyed by the local young arsonist.

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

Happy Mother's Day to all of our mothers.