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26th March 2023

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

5th SUNDAY OF LENT

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 25 Mar	5.30 pm	St George's	Jimmy and John Doolan RIP
Sun 26 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Eily Mitchell RIP
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	People of the parish
	6.00 pm	St George's	Gordon Addison RIP
Mon 27 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Sp. Intention, Mercy Sisters
Tue 28 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Alpatt Joseph RIP (in India)
Wed 29 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Harold & Kathleen Dunkerley RIP
Thu 30 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	In thanksgiving, St Anthony
Fri 31 Mar	9.30 am	St George's	Maureen Kearns RIP (in Ireland)
Sat 01 Apr	9.30 am	St George's	For the dead of recent war and violence
	5.30 pm	St George's	Intention of the donor for good health P.G.
Sun 02 Apr	9.30 am	St George's	Geraldine Maughan RIP
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Priest's own intention
	6.00 pm	St George's	People of the parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Lazarus' death is one of the greatest stories of the New Testament. In that we encounter Jesus' deep humanity: his concern for his friends in their bereavement: his response to the emotional and sensitive Mary: and his words of encouragement to the more practical Martha. What's truly touching about this incident is John's insistence on the deep love that Jesus felt for this family.

Family and friends had come to mourn Lazarus. There was no doubt he was dead. The rabbis believed that the soul hovered near the body for three days, and so with Lazarus having been four days in the tomb no one held any hope of resuscitation. The raising of the dead was one of the surest signs that Jesus worked by God's power. Yet Lazarus' restoration to life points forward to something even greater, namely resurrection and eternal life. Lazarus would eventually die again but those who believe in Jesus will never die.

Why didn't Jesus prevent the death, rather than wait to overcome it? John, looking back at the incident, can see that it was all for the best. The miracle sign has shown God's glory. The God of healing love is revealed through the work of his Son. Hidden deep within the episode is a further truth: that Jesus' gift of life to Lazarus involved his own death, the offering of his own life. To love Lazarus and give him life Jesus had to be willing to risk and lose his own.

Do we believe Jesus' words that whoever lives and believes in him will never die? Can we profess our faith as Martha did? Jesus' death gives life. Sent by the Father, Jesus reveals to us the true meaning of life and death. In these last weeks of Lent, we can take the opportunity to examine our faith in times of suffering and our hope in the face of death. We're asked to look beyond the signs, however wonderful they may be. The signs point to Jesus, the Son of God. Our faith is in him.

Lord Jesus, I believe that you are the resurrection and the life. Help me to know and to proclaim your victory over suffering and death.

JESUS – HUMAN AND DIVINE

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. John 11:17

The story of the raising of Lazarus shows a moment when Jesus is most human and most divine. He is most human: He really loves Martha, Mary and Lazarus. When he sees the others weeping for Lazarus he is "perturbed and deeply troubled" (verse 33). And when he stands outside the tomb of his good friend, he himself weeps. Such actions make us say of him. "He is truly one of us." At the same time, the account powerfully shows Jesus' divinity. He prays to his heavenly Father, he calls Lazarus to come forth and a dead human being – now alive – stumbles out of a dark tomb still wrapped in his burial shroud. Some of the onlookers begin to believe in Jesus. But others run to the authorities to report what Jesus has done. The raising of Lazarus is the last straw: Jesus must be stopped, permanently.

Loving Jesus, may I never forget that you are both human and divine.

Sr Melannie Svoboda. S.N.D.

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

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.

2ND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND is for LEPRAS, the charity that gives care and support for lepers in Asia.

THOUGHTS FROM MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA

Mother Teresa said "Jesus has made himself the Bread of Life for us, to give us life. Night and day He is there for us." This Lent spend time in prayer and you will know God's mercy.

Mother Teresa also said people are often unreasonable ...and self-centred. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind people may accuse you of selfish motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are successful you will win some false friends and some true enemies. Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you, be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight. Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today will often be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis it is between you and God.

1ST HOLY COMMUNION

The preparation on Sunday mornings from 9 am is going well. We are very grateful to Tammie McNamara and her family for all their efforts in preparing our young people for their First Holy Communion. Please keep all of them and their families in your prayers at this very important stage in their spiritual journey.

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.

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