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21st May 2023

WORLD COMMUNICATION DAY

7th SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 20 May	5.30 pm	St George's	Rosie Stanton RIP
Sun 21 May	9.30 am	St George's	People of the parish
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	The McCartney & Brogan family
	6.00 pm	St George's	Donor's intention, St Anthony
Mon 22 May	9.30 am	St George's	In thanksgiving, St Anthony
Tue 23 May	9.30 am	St George's	John McGrory RIP (in Ireland)
Wed 24 May	9.30 am	St George's	For the poorest in the world and those who help them
Thu 25 May	9.30 am	St George's	Holy Souls in purgatory and the sick of the parish
Fri 26 May	9.30 am	St George's	Donor's intention, St Anthony of Padua, thanksgiving
Sat 27 May	9.30 pm	St George's	For Holy Souls and the recently dead of our parish
	5.30 pm	St George's	Elen & Thomas O'Reilly RIP
Sun 28 May	9.30 am	St George's	People of the parish
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Thomas Callaghan RIP birthday anniversary
	6.00 pm	St George's	For refugees and asylum seekers

GOSPEL REFLECTION

John 17 concludes the farewell discourse of Jesus, except it isn't a discourse, it's actually a prayer. Moses (Deut: 29-34), Jacob (Gen.49) and Paul (Acts 20:1-38) said farewell to their people too. Jesus' farewell is one long prayer to the heavenly Father, and is a kind of expansion of the Our Father and discloses his intimate relationship with God, who he revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The prayer is often called *Jesus' Priestly Prayer* but could equally be called *Jesus' Prayer for Union*. We might feel reticent about praying *Jesus' Priestly Prayer* because we're not priests but through baptism we're immersed into Jesus' priestly, kingly and prophetic ministry. We all have some share in Jesus' threefold ministry. Jesus' prayer is intimate and loving and reveals the nature of his relationship with the Father. Do you have a relationship with God the Father?

Jesus is the beloved Son of the Father and he alone has the authority to give the gift of eternal life. Eternal life is heaven and only Jesus can give us heaven. We tend to think of heaven as a place we hope we will enter after we die. Jesus' prayer reveals, however, that heaven isn't so much a place but a state of being or knowing. Eternal life is '....and they may know (the Father).... and Jesus Christ whom you have sent' (v.3). To know Jesus is eternal life. Do you know Jesus? We encounter him when we pray and come into his presence. Indeed, he promised that whenever even two or three gather in his name he is present. Jesus is also present in the Eucharist and in the tabernacle.

Our knowing Jesus in this life is the 'eternal life' which transcends death. In other words, we've already received eternal life and our vocation is to cultivate it so that the seed grows and deepens within us. We're called to an ongoing conversion, which could also be called an ongoing revelation: an ever deeper, mature and firmer grasp of God's love poured out upon us through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is eternal life: to proclaim Jesus as Lord, to pray to our heavenly Father, and to call upon the Holy Spirit the Lord and Giver of Life.

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.

2nd COLLECTION at all Masses this weekend is for World Communications Day.

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Thurs 25th May: St Bede the Venerable Priest and Doctor of the Church

Fri 26th May: St Philip Neri, Priest

Sat 27th May: St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop

A Place of Knowing

Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. John 17:3

As a young boy, I was taught the tenets of faith through simple stories and images. The glorious mystery of eternal life was presented on a felt board with cut-out pictures of clouds and angels playing harps. Eternal life was "up there", a place where good people went when they died. Such lessons are the beginnings of faith and play an essential role in our movement toward God.

But for mature Christians, Jesus brings a deeper truth. Eternal life is a place of knowing, a movement toward a more intimate awareness of an ever-present triune God. It is about encountering Jesus now in our lives of prayer and sacrament and service so we can continue to live in that known presence when our lives on earth are complete. We don't wait for eternal life. We live into it.

Jesus, draw me close, now and forever.

Steve Givens

NOTTINGHAM DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

15th – 20th July 2023

Bookings now open:

dioceseofnottingham.uk/events/lourdes2023

or call 01732 886666

NOTTINGHAM DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGES 2023

Sat 17th June* **Walsingham**

Sun. 9th July

Padley

*young adults: 16-18 June

1-6th August

WYD Lisbon