

ST GEORGE'S, 40 Village St, Derby DE3 8SZ Tel: 01332 767038 and HOLY SPIRIT, Redwood Rd, Sinfen, Derby

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Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Company Number 7151646 Charity Number 1134449

Registered Office: Willson House, 25 Derby Road, Nottingham. NG1 5AW

5th November 2023

31st Sunday of the Year

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 04 Nov	5.30 pm	St George's	Sp. Intention for Ray & Denise O'Neil
Sun 05 Nov	9.30 am	St George's	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Alma Mullarkey RIP, 13th Anniv.
Mon 06 Nov	9.30 am	St George's	Patrick McAndrew RIP
Tue 07 Nov	9.30 am	St George's	For peace in Gaza and Israel
Wed 08 Nov	9.30 am	St George's	Roland Bond RIP
Thu 09 Nov	9.30 am	St George's	Jackie Conway RIP
Fri 10 Nov	9.30 am	St George	Donor's intention, in thanksgiving, St Anthony
Sat 11 Nov	9.30 pm	St George's	For all who are not well, especially locally and in our parish.
	5.30 pm	St George's	Mark Crosbie RIP
Sun 12 Nov	9.30 am	St George's	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY For all the dead of war, especially WW1 and WW2.
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	The People of the Parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Who are today's Pharisees? Pope Francis gives an example of a modern Pharisee: 'I have heard... of parish priests who did not baptise the children of the mothers because they were not born into canonical marriages. They closed the door, scandalising the People of God. Why? Because the heart of these parish priests had lost the key to knowledge. Three months ago... a mother wanted to baptise her newly born son, but she was married civilly to a divorced man. The priest said, "Yes, yes. Baptise the baby. But your husband is divorced. So he cannot be present at the ceremony" This is happening today. The Pharisees, or Doctors of the Law, are not people of the past, even today, there are many of them. That is why we shepherds need prayers. Pray that we do not lose the key to knowledge and do not close the door to ourselves and the people who want to enter."

Jesus' focus in today's Gospel is on the Pharisees' behaviour, which he highlights is motivated by a desire to draw attention to themselves, rather than leading others to worshipping God. The Pharisees occupy the seat of Moses and their responsibility – and right – is to teach the ways of God, based on God's Word. Jesus says we shouldn't imitate their behaviour, because it's not of God. Their actions, and many of their words of argument (as opposed to the teaching of the Word of God), arise out of their own fallen nature, self-will and self-justification. Even the way that they liked to be addressed, as 'Rabbi' or 'Teacher' (vv. 7-8). Jesus implies, has turned into a self-elevation, rather than a description of service or servanthood.

The truth is, there's something of the Pharisee and hypocrite in us all. We can practice our faith for people to see and be ostentatious and self-seeking. But rather than hungering for self-righteousness and self-justification, let us hunger for the new life that Jesus came to bring. It's Jesus who now occupies Moses' seat. In fact, it turns out that it was always Jesus' seat (of authority) – Moses was merely keeping it warm! *Jesus, let me be humble today, so that I might be exalted by you and with you.*

ST GEORGE'S PRIMARY VOLUNTARY ACADEMY is looking to appoint 2 new school governors as soon as possible. If you are interested in applying please speak to Fr Alan or to the head-teacher at the school.

HOLY SPIRIT: Time of prayer for peace in the world on Tuesdays from 4.30 – 5.30 pm. The Pope has asked for sincere and regular prayers, especially for peace in Israel and Gaza and many times for peace in the Ukraine.

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.

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Thurs 9 Nov: The dedication of the Lateran Basilica.

Fri 10 Nov: St Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor

Sat 11 Nov: St Martin of Tours, Bishop

Do Good Anyway

And now, O priests,

.....if you do not...

give glory to my name, says the Lord of hosts,

I will send a curse upon you

and of your blessing I will make a curse. Malachi 2:1-2

God, through Malachi, warns his priests: If they – the persons who bring God's blessings into the world – turn away from God's ways, they provoke the opposite. We've witnessed this to be true. We've been hurt and scandalised by the sins of some errant priests and certain leaders. The fallout has been devastating.

In the Gospel, Jesus instructs us to disregard religious leaders who abuse their offices: "...do not follow their example" (Matthew 23:3). These verses remind us that there will always be some leaders who do evil. Amid these challenges we are all –priests and laity – called to follow God and his Word, even when it seems hard or unpopular. Lord God, strengthen us and especially your priests and church leaders with the fortitude to pray, take heart and do good anyway – bearing hope and healing through Christ.

Pat Gohn

ALPHA TRAINING COURSES at Holy Spirit Church.

Starting Saturday 4th Nov 2023. Followed: Saturday 11th Nov 2023. 6.30 pm for 7 pm start. Refreshments provided. If attending, I would appreciate your details so that I can keep you informed and provide any appropriate information regarding the courses.

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FOR ALL OUR DEAD: The month of November is a time when we remember all the dead of our family and parish in a special way. We pray for all our departed loved ones that they come safely into Heaven, to live and be happy with our God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We call it the month of the Holy Souls and we offer Masses for family and friends.

Please place the names of those you wish to be remembered in the box at church, St George's and Holy Spirit.

If you wish to have a Mass offered please write the name of the person on a piece of paper and give it in to Fr Alan or Fr Peter or place the envelope through the letter-box of the presbytery, 40 Village St, together with your Mass offering.