

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

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19th November 2023

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE POOR

33rd Sunday of the Year

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 18 Nov	5.30 pm	St George's	Mark Crosbie RIP
Sun 19 Nov	9.30 am	St George's	Joseph Uranie & all the deceased of the family
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Priest's own intention
Mon 20 Nov	9.30 am	St George's	Baby Joseph Power and all the Power family
Tue 21 Nov	9.30 am	St George's	The intentions of AC and CC
Wed 22 Nov	9.30 am	St George's	Deceased of the O'Riordan family
Thu 23 Nov	9.30 am	St George's	Kath & Colum Keenan RIP
Fri 24 Nov	9.30 am	St George	Liam Rooney RIP
Sat 25 Nov	9.30 pm	St George's	Pauline & John Ryan RIP
	5.30 pm	St George's	For the Toryusen family, deceased
Sun 26 Nov	9.30 am	St George's	Philip McHugh RIP
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	The People of the Parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Today's Gospel reading forms part of Jesus' Eschatological Discourse, which begins in Matthew 24 and goes on until the end of chapter 25. Earlier in his Discourse, Jesus emphasised that the Second Coming would be unmistakable (24:27-31), unknown (v.36) and unexpected (v.44). His focus, however, wasn't the where or when of his return, but the response expected of faithful disciples. This emphasis is captured in the phrase 'Keep awake', which occurs in Matthew 24:42 and is repeated in Matthew 25:13.

The in-between section comprises three parables (the thief and the house owner: the slave who remains faithful; and the wise and foolish bridesmaids) which stress both the unexpectedness of the master's return, and the absolute necessity for his servants to be prepared or to 'keep awake'. But what does 'keep awake' involve?

The focus in this parable isn't the uncertainty or unexpectedness of the master's return, but the conduct expected of his servants during this indeterminate absence. Readiness for Jesus' return isn't achieved by idle speculation about dates or times but in responsible stewardship of what's been entrusted to us and invested in us by God. It's about keeping the faith in difficult and trying circumstances, for the master will be gone a long time (v.19) and the date of his return is uncertain.

'Talents' here don't refer to gifts or abilities, but to a unit of money. The servants were to engage in trading in their master's name (v.16). To be identified with Jesus and to do business in his name is seldom profitable from a purely human viewpoint. It's also, frequently, a risky business! It's far safer not to get too involved, like the third slave who opted for safety, rather than service.

Yet 'keeping awake' is never about passive waiting, but demands an active involvement in anything and everything which is God's business. Our faith is expressed not only in Creeds and confessions, but by putting our money where our mouth is, that is, living as 'children of light and children of the day....' (1 Thess. 5:5).

With God as our Investment Advisor, the ride maybe rocky but the returns will be out of this world!

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.

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.

SECOND COLLECTION this weekend for the annual Mission Appeal this year on behalf of the Comboni Missionaries, Verona Fathers.

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Tues 21 Nov: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wed 22 Nov: St Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr
Thurs 23 Nov: St Clement, Pope & Martyr
Fri 24 Nov: St Andrew Dung-Lac, priest and Companions martyrs
Sat 25 Nov: Saturday Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A RECENT DEATH:

Please pray for Gordon Perry who has died recently. Gordon is the brother of Dave Perry, Holy Spirit church.
Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE ESPECIALLY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Next Saturday, November 25th, at St Mary's there will be a prayerful vigil for peace especially in the Middle East. The vigil is using some material produced by Christian Aid and begins at 2 pm for about an hour. We will be praying for an end to the war and violence and especially for all those who are suffering so much at present, for the release of hostages and access to humanitarian needs. There will be prayers, hymns and words from those who are suffering. All welcome.

CAFOD's WORLD GIFTS 2023-24

Copies of the above Christmas catalogue are available at St George's and Holy Spirit. Take a look, you're sure to find something for everyone. From people living on the front lines of the climate crisis, through refugees fleeing conflict, to families who live on one meal a day, Every gift bought through CAFOD's World Gifts helps real people and makes a massive positive difference.

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.