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8th October 2023

27th Sunday of the Year

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 07 Oct	5.30 pm	St George's	Mary Sheehan RIP & James McCandless RIP (Anniv)
Sun 08 Oct	9.30 am	St George's	Christine Meehan & the deceased of the family (5th Anniv)
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Lourdes Watter RIP M & T.C.
Mon 09 Oct	9.30 am	St George's	In thanksgiving, St Anthony
Tue 10 Oct	9.30 am	St George's	For deceased clergy as requested
Wed 11 Oct	9.30 am	St George's	Holy Souls in Purgatory and Donor's intentions
Thu 12 Oct	9.30 am	St George's	Patrick Gilligan RIP (in London)
Fri 13 Oct	9.30 am	St George	For the recently dead of our parish
Sat 14 Oct	9.30 pm	St George's	For the victims of violence and war
	5.30 pm	St George's	People of the Parish
Sun 15 Oct	9.30 am	St George's	Nellie & John Lenihan RIP (Anniv.time)
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Priest's own intention

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Today's parable has an interesting link to the theme of yesterday's Gospel, which focused on the joy of being made sharers in Jesus' mission. The parable declares that the vineyard will be leased to other tenants who will be more faithful and will deliver the produce when the season arrives. The context is that Jesus was being challenged by the chief priests and elders, who were questioning his authority.

Jesus answered them in three ways. First of all, he asked them what they thought about John the Baptist's authority. Then he presented a scenario of two sons being asked by their father to go and work in his vineyard. One says he won't go, but then thinks better of it and goes, while the other says he will go but in fact doesn't. Jesus used this example to say that it was the tax collectors and sinners who responded to John the Baptist's preaching (and Jesus' own teaching), while the Jewish leaders didn't.

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants was the third part of Jesus' response. Notably, Matthew tells us that, 'When the chief priests and ...Pharisees heard his parables, they realised that he was speaking about them' (v.45). They were angry at this because the implication wasn't only that they were like the wicked tenants, but also that their position was to be given to others, who would take responsibility for God's vineyard.

As we saw in yesterday's reading. Jesus has shared responsibility for the Father's vineyard with new tenants. However, the deeper truth isn't that the Jewish leaders have simply been replaced by new Christian leaders. Something much more radical has occurred. It's Jesus himself who has replaced the tenants! In the end, no one could shepherd God's people faithfully, no one could really care for God's vineyard in the way God wanted. Only the Son could fulfil the role. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus is now and forever the One who cares for the vineyard. In fact, he has become the Vine itself. Our life and mission is simply a sharing in his life and mission.

Lord Jesus, you are the Vine, we are the branches. You are the true Shepherd, we are the sheep. Lead us in the way of salvation.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: It was very pleasing that a good number of our younger members of the parish attended Mass and Children's Church last Sunday. It is such a good way for the children to gain understanding of their faith. Children's Church is every Sunday at 9.30 am at St George's and 11.15 am at Holy Spirit Church. Sincere thanks to our dedicated leaders.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY: The month of October is a month of devotion to Our Lady, mother of Jesus, mother of God. We are encouraged to say the Rosary and in church there will be our usual devotions before Mass for a short while each day. At Lourdes, Mary encouraged St Bernadette to say her Rosary and devotion to the Rosary has been more widespread since that time although it was well known at the time of St Dominic in the late Middle Ages, who gave the Rosary great encouragement. The great victory of the Christian naval forces at the battle of Lepanto in 1571 over a more numerous Islamic and Turkish fleet and troops was attributed to prayer and penance and the saying of the Rosary.

WORDS OF LIFE: Jesus our Saviour says, "After I have gone and prepared you a place I shall return to take you with me, so that where I am you may be too".

For the next two weeks during weekend Masses. Please can you offer Harvest food and toiletries gift donations for the foodbank

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:

Mon 9th Oct: St John Henry Newman, Priest

Tues 10th Oct: St Paulinus, Bishop.

The anglo saxon saints of our diocese

Wed 11th Oct: St John XXIII Pope

Sat 14th Oct: Saturday Mass of Our Lady

The True Fruits That Jesus Wants

Then (the vineyard owner) looked for the crop of grapes, but what it yielded was wild grapes. Isaiah 5:2)

Many of us may feel like that vineyard owner – that our lives are not bearing fruit in ways we had hoped. Perhaps we have not been successful as the world see us. Perhaps our families have not been a source of concord and harmony. Perhaps we look back at our years and are a bit disappointed.

Jesus tells us: "I...chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain" (John 15:16). How can we think of our lives as bearing fruit?

The fruit that Jesus asks for is not worldly success. It is not devoid of conflict and heartache. Rather, following in his footsteps, we are fruitful when we submit ourselves to God's will each day, no matter how difficult. We are fruitful when we trust God to sustain us. We are fruitful when we do our best to love others even when that love is not returned. These are the fruits that Jesus wants. May we bear such fruit in abundance today and always!

RECENT DEATHS: Please pray for Mark Crosbie, son of Cath Crosbie, who has died recently. Mark was a regular worshipper at the Saturday evening Mass and enjoyed a little chat about the Rams, especially after they had won. He suffered with a heart condition which led to his sudden death at the Royal Derby Hospital with his family at the bedside. He was strengthened by the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. We extend our sincere sympathies and prayers to his family. He will be sadly missed. Funeral preparations will be announced when they have been arranged.

Also, please pray for Martin Francis Finnegan of Gerard Street who died recently. We extend to his family our sincere sympathies and prayers. The funeral service will take place a Trent Valley Crematorium on Thursday, 12th October at 1.30 pm.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

FROM AN AMERICAN POET ON DEATH

I have seen death too often to believe in death

It is not an ending but a withdrawal

As one who finishes a long journey

Stills the motor, turns off the lights, steps from his car

And walks up the path to the home that awaits him.

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY: The CAFOD envelopes and other donations will be collected at all Masses this weekend in a second collection. Self-denial and the giving of what we save is a valuable way to help our Catholic Agency for overseas development in support of their many projects around the world. We know our world is not a just and fair world with many people barely existing and suffering hunger and disease.

It was very heartening to hear this week of the new malaria vaccine that has been developed. Soon millions of doses will be available especially in Africa which is the epicentre of malaria which takes the lives of 100s of thousands of young children every year. Trials have shown the new vaccine to be very effective. Thank God also for the continuing rollout of mosquito nets which protect children and adults from being bitten by those insects which carry and pass on the deadly malaria parasite.