

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

Parish Priest: Canon Alan Burbidge

Assistant Parish Priest: Fr Peter Peterken

NRCDDT a registered charity

e-mail: stgeorges.holyspiritderby@gmail.com

Parish website: <https://stgeorges-holyspiritderby.org.uk/>

Twitter: @SpeStGeorgesRCDer2

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

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

17th September 2023

DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL, EVANGELII GAUDIUM

24TH Sunday of the Year

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 16 Sept	5.30 pm	St George's	Ollie Dunne RIP
Sun 17 Sept	9.30 am	St George's	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	The Doherty & Connors Families
Mon 18 Sept	9.30 am	St George's	Donor's intention, St Anthony
Tue 19 Sept	9.30 am	St George's	Lourdes Watters RIP
Wed 20 Sept	9.30 am	St George's	For the Morocco earthquake victims
Thu 21 Sept	9.30 am	St George's	Fiona McGonagle RIP
Fri 22 Sept	9.30 am	St George's	Oliver Dunne RIP
Sat 23 Sept	9.30 pm	St George's	Holy Souls, especially our families deceased
	5.30 pm	St George's	People of the Parish
Sun 24 Sept	9.30 am	St George's	Jimmy Mooney RIP
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Holy Souls and donor's intentions G.F. and D.F.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: C S Lewis said, 'Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive'. When we celebrate the Eucharist we pray, 'Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us'. Yet, when sinned against by someone, how ready are we to forgive? And how do we forgive: reluctantly and resentfully? Or readily, from the heart?

When Peter asked Jesus how often he should forgive, proposing, 'As many as seven times?' (v.21), he was really trying to set a limit, to see how few times he could forgive and get away with it! 'Seventy-seven times' (or 'seventy times seven') (v.22) signified a countless number. C S Lewis offers this explanation: 'We forgive, we mortify our resentment; a week later some chain of thought carries us back to the original offence and we discover the old resentment blazing away as if nothing had been done about it at all. We need to forgive our brother seventy times seven not only for 490 offences but for one offence'.

The closer a relationship, the more frequently and heavily we tend to tread on one another's toes. Our deepest hurts aren't usually inflicted by our worst enemy, but by our best beloved. The man in Jesus' parable owed 10,000 talents – this figure combines the largest Greek numeral with the largest unit of currency (see *New Bible Commentary*, OM Books International). Here is not merely a daunting debt, but one that can never be repaid.

So, what's the point of the parable? God offers us grace and forgiveness beyond measure. And, forgiveness extended to others is inextricably linked with the forgiveness received from our heavenly Father.

Jesus gave witness to unconditional and unlimited forgiveness as he hung on the cross. To err may be human, but to forgive is truly to imitate the divine.

Father, I forgive everyone from the bottom of my heart, because you've forgiven me from the bottom of your heart.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS: A warm welcome to students new to Derby, and a welcome back to those returning to continue your studies. The Catholic Chaplaincy to the University of Derby organises regular Masses, socials, talks & discussions, prayer opportunities, retreats, and pilgrimages for you.

Visit www.derbyunicatholic.co.uk to find out more, and do come and say hello to Fr Jonathan, Sr Sneha, and the Union of Students CathSoc, at Freshers' Fair.

UNIVERSITY OF DERBY – What's on for Catholics?

Christus Vivit:

6.15 pm, 3rd Thursday of the month in St Joseph's (Burton Rd DE1 1TJ). A young adults group (19-35) meeting for prayer, formation, fellowship and fun!

Masses:

11 am in St Joseph's (Burton Rd DE1 1TJ) is popular with students

1.15 pm Tuesday in the Multi-Faith Centre on Kedleston Rd Campus

6 pm, 1st Thursday of the month in St Joseph's, a Mass just for students, followed by a shared meal.

Find out more – www.derbyunicatholic.co.uk Visit our website for more Chaplaincy, Catholic Society and local Catholic news and events.

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 at all Masses this weekend for Evangelii Gaudium Sunday (formerly called Mission Sunday)

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Wed 20 Sept: Martyrs of Vietnam

Thurs 21 Sept: St Matthew Apostle & Evangelist

Sat 23 Sept: St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)

Receiving and Giving

Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive?

Matthew 18:21

I can never hear today's parable without being troubled. The question it poses is direct and unambiguous, and it cuts to the quick. How is it that, aware as I am of how much God has forgiven me, I so begrudge the extension of that forgiveness to others? When it comes to these things, I am too much the miser – carefully calculating the harm suffered and then nursing my grievance. Receiving and giving is the very logic and dynamic of the Christian life, and that's why forgiveness is so much at the heart of it. We have received the grace to act toward others the way God acts with us. If I fail to forgive, then I short-circuit this gracious loop of receiving and giving. I set myself up as an idol, judging others with a harshness that belies the mercy God offers to me over and over again.

Lord, help me to forgive others as you have forgiven me.

Fr Dennis Gallagher. A.A

A RECENT DEATH: Please pray for Irene Otter of Hartshorne Road, who has died recently. Irene battled bravely for many years with serious illness, supported by her lovely family. May she now rest in the peace and love of Almighty God in the Kingdom of Heaven. *Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.* Funeral arrangements: Tuesday, 26th September, 11.30 am at Trent Valley Crematorium.

THE COUNTING OF MASS ATTENDANCE

From this weekend we will begin the Mass count for the four weekends as requested by the Bishop's office. These numbers help the Bishop and his advisers in the planning of the future of our parishes, especially where the Bishop decides to deploy his clergy. With the massive decline in students for the priesthood from the UK our Bishop has been working very hard to recruit priests from overseas.

This weekend as we celebrate Mission Sunday, Evangelii Gaudium, let us pray for Vocations to the priesthood and religious life and thank God for all our committed people who do so much to support their priests in their ministry of sharing with and encouraging our people in their faith.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Please continue to keep in your prayers all the staff and pupils of our St George's and St Benedict schools and all our Catholic schools of Derby and of our Multi Academy Trust (MAT) of which there are 26 schools. One of our schools at Swadlincote has this concrete problem that has been so widely reported on the news. We pray that the school will be passed as safe with whatever needs to be put right.

Pray especially for all pupils and their families whether just starting school or beginning their secondary education.

St Mary's new school is nearly ready and staff and pupils should be in their excellent new building by Advent. It has taken quite a long time to rebuild after the arson attack destroyed the not so old St Mary's Primary Academy.