

23<sup>rd</sup> February 20257<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

## MASS TIMES &amp; INTENTIONS

Sat 22 Feb	5.30 pm	SG	Tony McCandless, Anniversary
Sun 23 Feb	9.30 am	SG	Michael, Jimmy's son
	11.15 am	HS	Elizabeth Callaghan RIP
Mon 24 Feb	9.30 am	SG	Marjorie Hamlet/Lilley RIP Anniv. and deceased family members
Tues 25 Feb	9.30 am	SG	In thanksgiving for the living and dead of Godwins family
Wed 26 Feb	9.30 am	SG	Thomas Farrell RIP
Thu 27 Feb	9.30 am	SG	For Marianne Powers for good health and birthday celebration and for her family
Fri 28 Feb	9.30 am	SG	For Joseph Alappatt RIP, 2 <sup>nd</sup> anniversary of death
Sat 01 Mar	9.30 am	SG	Sp. Intention for Michael and for Jimmy and the family
	5.30 pm	SG	Mark Crosbie RIP & Hilary Crosbie RIP
Sun 02 Mar	9.30 am	SG	Phyllis O'Brien RIP
	11.15 am	HS	People of the Parish

SG St George's      HS Holy Spirit

## GOSPEL REFLECTION:

G K Chesterton said, 'The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried.' It is easy to talk about loving our enemy, not judging, turning the other cheek and praying for those who mistreat us – but try doing that when you actually have someone to forgive. Then, of course, it isn't as easy, as Chesterton, prophet that he was, highlights.

So what's the solution? Do we have to try harder, pull our socks up, regroup and buckle down to living the Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes? For many this is the answer and their best response. The only problem – apart from being heretical (Pelagianism) – is that it misses the mark, because the Christian faith isn't about trying harder, buckling down and putting in the effort. Of course, many will claim it is – and without doubt we have to co-operate, we have to want to live Jesus' teaching, but simply trying harder isn't the answer. Because grace is the answer - grace building on our nature, so that we can live a new life in and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

How does this work? As offensive and scandalous as this may sound, we need to be overwhelmed by our complete inability to love our enemy: we need to come into contact with how desperately we need God's grace. Nevertheless, we need not lose heart, for the power of the Holy Spirit enables us to live holy lives, because holiness is the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

We often subscribe to the view that God helps those who help themselves, but this is a myth, because God helps precisely those who cannot help themselves. The point is that when we acknowledge this, when at a deep level we recognise our need for God's grace. God's grace and mercy and his Holy Spirit are poured out into our hearts, so that we can forgive from our hearts, and we can pray for those who persecute and mistreat us.

*Lord, I am a poor sinner, but you can work the miracle of making me a little better.*

CONFESIONS: 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 27<sup>th</sup> Feb: Saints Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line and Margaret Ward, martyrs.

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Mar: St David Bishop, Patron of Wales.

## HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH – FOR FAMILIES IN CRISIS:

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness and rediscovering each other's gifts even in their differences.

## Titanium Hipster

*The first man was from the earth, earthly; the second man from heaven. ....Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one. 1 Corinthians 15:47,49*

St Peregrine is the patron saint of Cancer patients, and St Dymphna is the patron of those suffering mental illnesses.

On retreat, I shared I hope to be the patron saint of joint replacements. People thought I was joking. But I've had three joint replacements, multiple hospital stays and months of physical therapy to mull this over. So, for this titanium hipster, this epistle holds great meaning, as it should for all. While we all resemble "the first earthly man" with obvious early limitations, we believe in the resurrection of the body – thanks to Jesus Christ. So I pray to one day be a saint with a resurrected, glorified body. For we "believe in the true resurrection of this flesh that we now possess" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1017). And while I'm grateful to medical science for prolonging my earthly mobility, my hope in walking through heaven's gate is greater still.

## THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025

We continue to pray the lovely Jubilee prayer at each Mass. We pray for the mission of the church as it works to promote love, peace and joy in our troubled world. May more and more people come to know Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as saviour, healer, friend and brother.

The lead Jubilee Church for Derby is St Mary's. There are regular daily Masses at 1 pm preceded by opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, daily. At the front of the church there will be an appropriate display to advertise the jubilee. Also, the Bishop will celebrate a Jubilee Mass for Derby deanery on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Local parishes and schools are invited to be part of it with contributions to the liturgy. Mass will be at 7 pm with opportunity for confessions and adoration of the blessed sacrament before Mass.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Preparation will begin after Easter. Fr Mark Brentnall, Parish Priest, will take classes after Sunday Mass at St George's.