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14th January 2024

2nd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS**

|            |          |             |                                        |
|------------|----------|-------------|----------------------------------------|
| Sat 13 Jan | 5.30 pm  | St George's | Donor's intention for good health MD   |
| Sun 14 Jan | 9.30 am  | St George's | People of the Parish                   |
|            | 11.15 am | Holy Spirit | Gordon Perry RIP                       |
| Mon 15 Jan | 9.30 am  | St George's | Mary Daly RIP (16th anniversary)       |
| Tue 16 Jan | 9.30 am  | St George's | Service of The Word and Holy Communion |
|            | 11.00 am | St George's | Requiem: May Gallagher RIP             |
| Wed 17 Jan | 9.30 am  | St George's | Diana Katarina Dutton RIP (Anniv)      |
| Thu 18 Jan | 9.30 am  | St George's | In thanksgiving, Barbara Nalukwago     |
| Fri 19 Jan | 9.30 am  | St George's | Service of The Word and Holy Communion |
|            | 11.00 am | St George's | Requiem: Dennis Rafferty RIP           |
| Sat 20 Jan | 9.30 am  | St George's | Dr Molly Owen RIP                      |
|            | 5.30 pm  | St George's | Deceased members of the Geelan family  |
| Sun 21 Jan | 9.30 am  | St George's | Dr Maureen Rafferty RIP (Anniv)        |
|            | 11.15 am | Holy Spirit | Marian Worthington RIP (Anniv)         |

**GOSPEL REFLECTION:** A newborn lamb leaping in a field is a sight to behold. Only the hardest of hearts couldn't be moved by the joy of it. That's one side of the lamb coin. The other side is that roast lamb is a culinary delight and a favourite treat of many. Lambs play an important part in Israel's history. The Jewish people had precise and prescriptive instructions for sacrificing lambs identified with their liberation from the Pharaoh and the burden of their captivity in Egypt. The lamb was to be 'without blemish, a male a year old' (Exod. 12:5). They were to eat it at night and daub the lintels of their doorways with its blood. The blood of the lamb protected them from the destructive power of the avenging angel.

The imagery of the sacrificial lamb became an important symbol in the life of the people of Israel. We see this in the ministry of the prophets. Jeremiah described himself as a lamb led to the slaughter (Jer. 11:19). Isaiah's Servant was like a lamb led to the slaughter, silent and resigned in the face of death (Isa, 53:7). Jesus is the Paschal Lamb (John 1:29; 1 Pet 1:19). He is the One who is pure, blameless and without stain or sin (John 8:46; 1 John 3:5; Heb, 9:14). In John's Gospel, the similarities between Jesus' death and the Passover lamb are striking. Jesus was crucified at the very hour when, according to the Torah, the lambs for the Passover sacrifice were killed in the temple. Like the sacrificial lamb, none of Jesus' bones were broken (John 19:36; Exod. 12:46). Jesus is the innocent Lamb of God, the sacrifice that takes away the sin of the world.

*Lord, wash and cleanse me in the Blood of the Lamb who takes away our sin and leads us besides quiet waters to restore our soul.*

**FR. PETER PETERKEN RIP:** A Book of Condolence has been opened at Holy Spirit Church, Sinfin, and all are invited to put in their words and to sign it. Fr Peter's funeral will take place, as he has stipulated to his family, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Mickleover. For family reasons it will not be until early February at a date to be agreed. Bishop Patrick will lead the Requiem Mass which is open for all to attend.

We have been praying sincerely for the happy repose of the soul of Fr Peter at our Masses and many will have been remembering him in their daily prayers. The final fulfilment of love and service of God and neighbour is union with our Creator, Father, Saviour in the kingdom beyond our knowledge and imagination. A kingdom of light and love, joy and peace. That kingdom for which Fr Peter strived for most of his 95 years since reaching the age of reason and in the many, many years of his priestly ministry and activity which he never really retired from. Indeed he led the service of Carols by Candlelight shortly before he passed to his heavenly reward.

May the angels lead him into paradise, may the saints and martyrs welcome him as he draws near and lead him into the heavenly Jerusalem to contemplate the awesome, wonder and beauty of the divine being. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the loving mercy of God, rest in love, joy and peace.

**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:**

**Wed 17th Jan:** St Anthony, Abbot

**Sat 20th Jan:** St Sebastian, Martyr and Blessed Cyprian Tansi, Priest & Religious

**SECOND COLLECTION this weekend for the Sick & Retired Priests Fund.**

**When God Calls**

**Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening."**

1 Samuel 3:10

My wife sometimes has a "Samuel Moment": She thinks she hears me calling from another room and comes and asks, "What do you want? Did you call me?" I tell her no. I was just grumbling at something I was reading. She rolls her eyes and wanders away. The story of Samuel reminds us God has a way of getting our attention.

Yet, he is surprisingly unobtrusive. God makes himself known through a whisper in the wind or a quiet call in the night. He doesn't bark orders; rather, he invites us to seek him – just as Jesus in today's Gospel invites followers to "Come, and you will see" (v.39). No pressure. No demands. No rolling thunder or flashes of lightning.

God may give us a nudge. But he wants us to find him on our own. Are we willing to look? Are we willing to listen? Are we open to the possibility of an unexpected call in the night? Den. Greg Kandra

**RECENT DEATHS AND FUNERALS:**

Please pray for Mary (May) Gallagher, wife of Michael Gallagher, deceased, who has died recently. Michael and May were long time parishioners of St George's and lived on Donnington Drive, Littleover. May's funeral will take place at St George's on Tuesday, 16th January at 11 am. Reception into St George's on Monday, 15th January at 6 pm.

The funeral of Dennis Rafferty of Littleover as announced will take place at St George's on Friday 19th January at 11 am.

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

**BACK TO SCHOOL:**

Please pray for all the staff and pupils of St George's and St Benedict's and our other local Catholic schools as they return for a new term and a new year. We do thank God for the really good schools that we have and wish them continued good progress and achievement in 2024.

**CATHOLIC NEWS & CATHOLIC POST:**

Free copies available at church with quite a lot of interesting news and articles from the diocese and nationally. Please take a copy.