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21st January 2024

3rd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 20 Jan	5.30 pm	St George's	Deceased members of the Geelan family
Sun 21 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	Maureen Rafferty RIP (Anniv)
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Marian Worthington RIP (Anniv)
Mon 22 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	Sp. Intention (H,W)
Tue 23 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	For May Heffernan, Sp Intention
Wed 24 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	Sarah Coleman RIP
Thu 25 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	Sp. Intention, Jeanette Barnet
Fri 26 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	For Doreen Sedat suffering from leukaemia
Sat 27 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	Sp. Intention, Joe Uie family
	5.30 pm	St George's	Patrick (Patsy) Garvey RIP
Sun 28 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	May Gallagher RIP
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	Alappatt Joseph RIP

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Four fishermen – two sets of brothers, Andrew and Simon, James and John – left their nets and committed their lives to Christ. What can we glean from this striking and memorable encounter of the power of meeting Christ to transform lives?

Firstly, we glean that the Gospel always involves repentance. The call of repentance and conversion is at the very core, the very heart, of returning to God. Our intrepid fishermen would become pillars of the Church and indeed in Simon Peter's case, the first Pope. We know this because Jesus says: "The time has come...The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" (v.15 NIV).

The idea of repentance is often misunderstood and perceived rather negatively. We have lost a sense of sin and, as a result, have lost a sense of the need to repent. As C S Lewis says in *The Great Divorce*, "if in this life you never say to God, "Thy will be done." Then eventually God will say to you. "All right, have it your way then: your will be done." If you want freedom from God, you will quite justly get what you hope for. "Repentance is crucial because it establishes our relationship with God - God is holy, we are sinners.

The problem with sin and repentance is that we (wrongly) think it's a rather depressing message. But the very opposite is true. To repent, to confess and lay before God our weakness, our darkness and the many ways we let God and other people down, is to face reality. Or, to put it another way, it is to know the truth that sets us free (John 9:3).. The reason it liberates us is because, in facing up to our fallen nature, we take responsibility for our words and deeds and throw ourselves on the mercy of God. Through humility, repentance and conversion we are raised up to become sons and daughters of God. Rooted and established in the grace of repentance we are then equipped to be evangelists - joyful ones at that!

Lord, you call us to be fishers of men and women, although we are weighed down by the burden of sin and guilt. Teach me to be a witness of your grace and of the joy of heartfelt repentance, and in turn to lead others to know deeply and personally your mercy and forgiveness.

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. 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:

Mon 22nd Jan: St Vincent, Deacon & Martyr

Wed 24th Jan: St Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Thurs 25th Jan: The Conversion of St Paul

Fri 26th Jan: Sts Timothy & Titus, Bishops

SECOND COLLECTION next weekend at all Masses for SPUC, Society for the Protection of Unborn Children UK.

We Are Passing Through

For the world in its present form is passing away.

1 Corinthians 7:31

It would be so nice not to worry about anything and live free of material attachments, free of the need to cast our nets into a vast world, hoping to catch something worthwhile. Unfortunately, most things caught by our nets are transitory in nature. Maybe it might be better to see things of this world as just that – transitory. Then maybe we could live freely enough to just put our nets of desire aside and follow Jesus. Understandably, this isn't easy, we know the price of discipleship.

Moreover, we are people who worry; we are people who always need to hold onto something. However, if we lived as though nothing material was permanent, we might find it may be easier to hold everyone around us with gratitude.

We also are passing through, and Jesus wants us to walk with him untethered and unencumbered by temporary things

Lord, please, may I walk with you.

Vivian Amu

Monday, 22nd January: A Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children in U.S.A.

Listen to the Voices of Pregnant Women

My faithfulness and my mercy shall be with him. Psalm 89:25

I am always inspired by pro-life marches and the number of young people, especially young women, who are enthusiastically present. Protection of the unborn very profoundly affects them.

I recall years ago trying to console a young woman who had just had an abortion. She was sobbing and, in the midst of her tears, she cried, "I killed my baby". Her grief was heartrending.

On this Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. I believe that all of us should listen intently to the voices of pregnant women. There is an intimate bond between unborn child and mother.

We offer fervent prayers for the protection of unborn children. And we offer fervent prayers for pregnant women who are often overwhelmed and struggling to support their new lives.

Msgr. Stephen J Rossett.

Saint Benedict Ofsted

We are delighted to share the outcome of the latest Ofsted inspection at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy. Inspectors said that Saint Benedict continues to be a good school.

You can read more on the school's website [Our Ofsted Report - Saint Benedict, A Catholic Voluntary Academy \(srscmat.co.uk\)](http://Our Ofsted Report - Saint Benedict, A Catholic Voluntary Academy (srscmat.co.uk))

Fr. PETER PETERKEN FUNERAL DETAILS:

Reception into Holy Spirit Church for Mass 6 pm Monday, 12th February.

Requiem Mass at 11.30 am on Tuesday, 13th February, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Mickleover.