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28th January 2024

4th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 27 Jan	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
Mon 29 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	Helen Farley RIP
Tue 30 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	William Johnson RIP, 1 st anniversary
Wed 31 Jan	9.30 am	St George's	In thanksgiving for 92 nd birthday, Win Woodcock
Thu 01 Feb	9.30 am	St George's	Sp. Intention, Mary Gladstone
Fri 02 Feb	9.30 am	St George's	Catherine Stanton RIP (in Ireland) The Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)
Sat 03 Feb	9.30 am	St George's	The Swingell Family St Blaise Bishop & Martyr, Blessing of Throats
	5.30 pm	St George's	Joseph Pearson, deceased
Sun 04 Feb	9.30 am	St George's	Rosalie Lindley RIP
	11.15 am	Holy Spirit	People of the Parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Mark's Gospel has an urgency, about it. He captures the power and authority of Jesus' ministry. Today we encounter the teaching that the kingdom is not about talk but about power. Jesus came to overthrow Satan. He came to demolish the work of darkness and liberate us from its deadly grip.

Those who heard Jesus teach in the synagogue and witnessed his healing miracles knew immediately that this was a new teaching and it came with authority. News like this is hard to contain and so it spread like wildfire! The Gospel is about transforming lives and the world. It is a force to be reckoned with – in fact, it's the greatest power in the world.

The Anglican biblical scholar C.H. Dodd, commenting on God's power and miracles, wrote, 'A miracle is the sense of the New Testament is not so much a breach of the laws of nature, but rather a remarkable or exceptional occurrence which brought an undeniable sense of the presence and power of God.' We too can know the undeniable sense of God's presence and power.

We believe in God's power and miracles. This does not mean we chase after the absurd or expect a miraculous answer to every need. It does mean, however, that we have confidence in the authority of the Gospel to transform lives. Ask yourself: do I have a profound confidence in the power of the gospel? Do I wake up each day with an awareness that I have received God's new life! Consider this truth: no problem, no situation, no person is beyond the power of the Gospel to save.

The Holy Spirit can deepen and sustain this confidence within us. As we grow in the assurance of Jesus' victory, we are led to want to praise God. Try this today: whatever circumstances or problems you face, whatever trials or trauma you are going through, praise God for his love and mercy. 'The power of praise releases the power of God into a set of circumstances and enables God to change them if this is his design'.

(Merlin Carothers).

'Lord Jesus, you came with authority and power. Teach me to avail myself of your grace so I may praise your name and know your power.'

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)

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 31st Jan: St John Bosco, Priest

Fri, 2nd Feb: The Presentation of the Lord

Sat, 3rd Feb: St Blaise

SECOND COLLECTION at our Masses this weekend is for SPUC, The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children.

CANDLEMAS DAY: On Friday, 2nd February, we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the temple. Joseph and Mary took the child Jesus to the temple to present him to their Lord and God and make the offerings prescribed by their faith. In the case of the poor, as they were, it would be doves or young pigeons.

Who's in Charge?

He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him.

Mark 1:27

In the Gospels, there are numerous times when Jesus rebukes and expels "unclean spirits" from people. He brings them relief from what is giving them pain and what has taken over their lives. He gives them their lives back because he is more powerful than what is holding them down.

Jesus can certainly deliver us from such spirits, and it's important to remember that Jesus is also Lord over all the daily, ordinary, "unclean" moments and emotions of our lives. We might think of these moments and emotions as spirits that go by common names such as loneliness, grief, worry and anger, among many others. These spirits, too, are not to be ignored for they can ruin lives and families. They grip us, chain us down and will not let go until they hear us call upon the name of Jesus, Lord of All.

Today, Jesus, I pray your name over my life. Take command of my life.

Steve Givens.

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.

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.