

ST GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 24 Jan	5.30 pm	People of the Parish
Sun 25 Jan	9.30 am	For world peace
Mon 26 Jan	9.30 am	Holy Souls, especially deceased parishioners
Tues 27Jan	9.30 am	N M George RIP, 1 st anniversary of death
Wed 28 Jan	9.30 am	Peter Bennett RIP
Thu 29 Jan	9.30 am	Josephine Jennings RIP
Fri 30 Jan	9.30 am	Kathleen Monaghan RIP
Sat 31 Jan	9.30 am	People of the Parish
	5.30 pm	Deceased members of the Geelan family
Sun 01 Feb	9.30 am	Mass in thanksgiving for Winifred Woodcock, 94 th birthday

GOSPEL REFLECTION: To fulfil the words of the prophet Isaiah Jesus began his public ministry in Galilee (see Isa 9:1-2). One of the ironies of this – or was it a tragedy? – was that the chief priests and Pharisees, who were familiar with the Scriptures, were stubborn, blind and resistant, saying: “Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee” (John 7:52). They were fixed in their thinking; they had made their minds up; their minds and hearts were closed. The only remedy to this is repentance and yet how difficult and truly a work of grace this is!

Jesus’ preaching began with a simple proclamation about the need for conversion and change: ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near’ (v.17).

Repentance doesn’t sit very comfortably with us today. We have lost a sense of sin and a sense of the need to repent and turn back to God. We strive for a different vocabulary of faith to replace concepts like sin, repentance, contrition and conversation. This is futile because the Scriptures and the teaching of the Church speak to the human condition and the human condition is fallen. The Greek word *metanoia* means to change one’s mind or change direction. The Holy Spirit works in us to convict us of sin and lead us towards repentance; in other words, to change our minds and direction. The Holy Spirit is the mind changer but more importantly the heart-changer.

God created us with the gift of free will and respects our ability to choose and decide whether to sin or not to sin to turn back to God or to remain in our rebellion. When we take that first step, we open ourselves up to the healing mercy of God. Repentance unlocks the door to the royal road, the highway of holiness, the way of the Spirit. *Lord, thank you for the gift of repentance, the chance to change, turn over a new leaf and renounce ways of thinking and acting which hurt and harm me and others.*

Enabling Our Mission Campaign

Our parish is currently undertaking the **Enabling Our Mission Campaign** which aims to support our mission of becoming more outward looking, while also striving to ensure that the fewer priests now available for active ministry across the Diocese are best able to serve our communities. We will be hosting some small gatherings in the Parish Centre to explain the initiative to members of the laity and hope you are able to make one of the following dates:

Tuesday, 27th January at 10.15 am
Thursday, 5th February at 5.30 pm

To RSVP, please call the parish office on 01332 574474 or email stgeorges.holyspiritderby@gmail.com

I appreciate you considering my invitation and look forward to speaking with you soon. Yours in Christ, Fr Brentnall

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)
on Saturday 10.15-10.45 am.**

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Mon 26 Jan: SS Timothy & Titus, Bishops
Tues 27 Jan: St Angela Merici, Virgin
Wed 28 Jan: St Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor
Sat 31st Jan: St John Bosco, Priest

SECOND COLLECTION this weekend for the Society for Protection of Unborn Children. SPUC.

Divine Illumination

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light
upon those who dwell in the land of gloom
a light has shone. ISAIAH 9:1*

If we’re accustomed to having reliable access to artificial light, we may never have experienced total darkness. Some years ago, in pre-cell-phone days, I was staying by myself in a tiny cabin in a dense forest in Maine when I lost electricity following a hurricane. Once evening blanketed the area, I was relieved at the difference even the flickering flame of a small candle made in piercing the night and keeping me company.

Perhaps many of us have experienced a different kind of walking in darkness at times in our lives. Lingering pain and illness, devastating loss, a sense of failure, chronic worry – all of these and more may leave us feeling that we live in the land of gloom. Yet, no matter what might be unfolding in our lives, the Holy One, the source of light, accompanies us always. We are never left alone in the dark.

CYCLE OF PRAYER DURING ORDINARY TIME – WINTER

Peace on earth, especially on Sunday 18th January.
Openness to the Word of God, especially on Sunday, 25th January
Christian Unity, especially on days Sunday 18th – Sunday 25th January.
Victims of trafficking and those who work to combat it, especially on
Sunday, 8th February.
The sick and those who care for them, especially on
Wednesday,
11th February
The unemployed, especially on Sunday, 15th February.