

ST GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 28 Mar	5.30 pm	The recently deceased of the parish
Sun 29 Mar	9.30 am	People of the parish
Mon 30 Mar	9.30 am	Harold & Kathleen Dunkerley RIP
Tues 31 Mar	9.30 am	Tony Bennett RIP
Wed 01 Apr	9.30 am	Dave Holby for good health
Thu 02 Apr	NB: No 9.30 am Mass 7.00 pm	Evening Mass for the Lord's Supper For the repose of the soul of Francis RIP
Fri 03 Apr	NB: No 9.30 am Mass 3.00 pm	The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
Sat 04 Apr	NB: No 9.30 am Mass 6.00 pm	The Easter Vigil (NB: time 6.00 pm) Special Intention, T & M Litchfield
Sun 05 Mar	9.30 am	People of the Parish

EASTER SUNDAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

It is important to bear in mind as you read or hear St Matthew's account of Jesus' Passion that his brutal death was not the result of chance or an unfortunate coincidence of circumstances but part of the mystery of God's plan.

In other words, every detail, every movement, every nuance, every word, action and event was precisely according to God's definite plan and foreknowledge. As we saw yesterday, this does not mean that all the key players were merely passive - they were not - but be conscious and aware of God's purpose and Jesus' authority freely to lay down his life and freely to take it up again.

All four Evangelists highlight the crucifixion as the reason why the Son of God became man. He was destined to suffer and to die and to raise us up with him. Underpinning all of this is love: God's love for us. Jesus' heart was full of the Father's love for each one of us. He spent himself out of love for us and the cross became the source of our eternal salvation. Jesus' death on the cross justifies every human being who believes in him - it makes us righteous and holy and pleasing to God.

Jesus' death is the most important death in human history because it alone saved the human race. His cross was a unique sacrifice, and Jesus is the one and only mediator between God and humankind. As God incarnate he has united himself to each and every one of us and holds out to each and every one of us the opportunity to be sharers in his Paschal Mystery.

We are all called to take up our cross and follow Christ, for just as he suffered, so too must we. Our vocation is to follow in Jesus' steps. Our hope and prayer is that, in this most holy and special of weeks, each of us can grow in our love, devotion and worship of Jesus on the cross: the crucified One who is the Saviour of the world.

Hail, O Cross, our only hope.

PARISH PRAYER MEETINGS

Mother's Prayers meets every Monday in church after Mass.

All welcome.

On Thursdays from 2.45 pm a prayer group prays the Divine Mercy, the Rosary and prayers for peace. All are welcome.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 24th May at St George's 9.30 am.

Classes at English Martyrs start Saturday 25th April at 10.30 am.

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

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR MARCH

For Disarmament and Peace: Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

On Good Friday the collection for the holy places in Palestine will be taken at the 3 pm service.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maudy Thursday:

The Mass of the Lord's Supper, Thursday, 2nd April 7 pm. Eucharistic Ministers are invited to renew their commitment to serve at Holy Communion and take Holy Communion to the housebound. After Mass people may stay available to pray before the Blessed Sacrament in the Altar of Repose in the Lady Chapel.

Good Friday:

The service of the Passion of the Lord, Friday, 3rd April at 3 pm. Readings, the Adoration of the Cross and Holy Communion.

Easter Vigil:

Saturday 4th April 6 pm. The Blessing of the New Fire, Blessing of the Easter Candle, Renewal of Baptismal Vows, Liturgy of the Eucharist and Holy Communion.

What We Carry

Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
MATTHEW 21:9

This Sunday is unique: It's the only one that gives us two gospel readings, and the only one that provides us with props. I'm talking, of course, about those palms that figure so prominently in that first reading and give this Sunday its name.

We wave them, we weave them, we take them home as keepsakes. But there's more that is easy to forget: Lent is bookended by palms. We started the season with ashes, burned palms - marks of mortality and sin. Today, we hold new palms, fresh growth, signs of renewal. As we embark on the journey of Holy Week, let's appreciate the journey of Lent that brought us here. How have we changed? Grown? Become new?

Whether we realise it or not, we carry home today a sign of possibility and hope. The promise of a new life in Christ is in our hands.

Darkness Swept Away

We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him. ROMANS 6:9

Have you ever hit rock bottom? Have you ever been in a situation of such sadness and darkness that you could not imagine ever - I mean ever - feeling anything close to joy again? That there was simply no way to loosen the chains, to not feel the weight of grief, frustration or helplessness that afflicted you in that moment? And have you ever made it through? Have you found that with time and grace, light glimmers and the weight that seemed to define your days has lightened? That glimpse? Take that and blow it up, expand it to eternity and let it surround and then sweep away all the heavy darkness of your entire life - of the world. That's resurrection. That's the promise. That, in Christ, none of that has any power anymore. Ever.