

PARISH OF ST GEORGE

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Fifth Sunday of Lent March 17th 2024

GOSPEL : John 12:20-33



Gospel exegesis:

The Context: Some Greek pilgrims who were either new converts to Judaism or mere 'truth-seekers' were greatly impressed by the royal reception given to Jesus on Palm Sunday and by the subsequent cleansing of the Temple by Jesus. Hence, they approached the apostle Philip (who had a Greek name), and requested a private interview with the Master. Jesus uses the occasion to declare that he is the "Son of Man" prophesied by Daniel, and that his time of glorification is at hand. He immediately corrects the then-current and accepted false notion of a political messiah by stating that he will be glorified by his suffering, death and Resurrection.

The term "Son of Man" (translated as "a son of man" by the RSV), is taken from Dn 7:13. The seventh chapter begins with the description of a frightening vision of Daniel in which he sees the cruel, savage world powers – the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Medes and the Persians – as wild beasts: a winged lion, a bear with three tusks, a four-headed leopard and a terrible, ten-horned wild beast. At last, Daniel sees a gentle, humane and gracious ruler in the form of a man. The Jews, under repeated foreign rules and bondages, dreamed of such a God-sent ruler and preferred to call this "promised Messiah" by the name "Son of Man." In the apocryphal Book of Enoch, this Jewish dream of a world conqueror is clearly stated. It was but natural that the apostles shared this view and consequently saw Daniel's "Son of Man" in Jesus. Jesus promptly corrected them, however, replacing their dream of conquest and political power with a vision of His cross and suffering.

The metaphors of the "dying grain of wheat" and of the "surrendered life": Jesus explains to his apostles that it is by his suffering and death that he is bringing life and liberation to the sinful world, just as a grain of wheat sown in the field ceases to remain itself alone, "just a seed," by germinating and then growing into a plant which produces many new grains of wheat. In the same way, it is by the self-sacrificial lives of holy men and women that life and salvation come to mankind. In other words, when we "die" to our selfishness, we "rise" to new life in Jesus Christ. To be "buried in the earth" means avoiding sin, accepting suffering and living for others.

LIFE MESSAGE

Life messages: 1) Today's Gospel teaches us that new life and eternal life are possible only by the death of the self through obedience, suffering, and service. Salt delivers its taste by dissolving in water; a candle gives light by having its wick burned and its wax melted. The oyster produces a priceless pearl by a long and painful process. Loving parents sacrifice themselves so that their children can enjoy a better life than they themselves have had. Let us pray for this self-sacrificial spirit, especially during Lent.

Prayer to St Joseph

St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interest and desires. O St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



**Say your daily rosary
for peace in the
world**



Anima Christi:

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, embolden me.
Water from the side of Christ, Wash me.
Passion of Christ, Strengthen me.
O Good Jesus, hear me.
Within your wounds hide me.

Permit me not to be separated from you.
From the wicked foe, defend me.
At the hour of my death, call me and bid
me come to you.
That with your saints I may praise you
For ever and ever.
Amen



Mass Times

Saturday 16 March	6:30pm	Souls in Purgatory
Sunday 17 March	9:30 am 11:00pm	Pat Cummins Thanksgiving
Monday 18 March St. Casimir St. Cyril of Jerusalem	10:00am	Margret Allman
Tuesday 19 March ST. JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF MARY. SOLEMNITY	10:00am	Tony Podester Peader Spencer
Wednesday 20 March	Sacristy	private
Thursday 21 March	10:00am	Sanctification of Priests
Friday 22 March	6:00pm	Vocations
Saturday 23 March	6:30pm	Souls in Purgatory
Sunday 24 March	9:30am 11am	Parishoners Parishioners

Readers

Sat 6:30pm	Sun. 9:30am	Sun. 11:00am
JO Williams	Richard Shrimplin	Liz Greaves

PILGRIMAGE

We are planning to go on pilgrimage to Medjugorje from 8 - 15 October 2024, flying from Manchester. The cost is £790 (single room supplement £150) which includes flight, transfers to and from Split to Medjugorje and half board accommodation. There is a lot of interest in this trip so if you would like to come you should call or text Mary Pettifor on 07581 496961

Holy Communion and Confirmation

All those preparing for confirmation and first Holy Communion should wait with their parents at the end of the second Mass.

Holy Week

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday - the beginning of Holy Week. Those who will like to join in the reading of the passion and washing of the feet should indicate and see the Parish Priest.

**There will be penitential Service/Sacrament of Reconciliation on Tuesday -26/3/24-
Time : 6pm**

We appreciate those who will like to donate for the Easter flowers.

CAFOD --2ND COLLECTION -£124.74-

Mass Offering for 18th Feb---£314.82

Standing orders-----£118.25

Confession is Saturdays 5-6pm, 30mins before and after mass and on request.

Our Parish Safeguarding representative is Helen Clarke