

PARISH OF ST GEORGE

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: FATHER THADDEUS OPARA

Tel: 01948 662935 Email: parishprieststg@gmail.com

[www.https://saintgeorgeswhitchurch.org.uk](https://saintgeorgeswhitchurch.org.uk)



Third Sunday of Lent 23 March 2025

Gospel: Luke 13: 1--9

Jesus says: Cultivate the fig, it will bear fruit.



All three of today's readings speak of God's mercy and compassion in disciplining His children by occasional punishment, while giving them many "second chances" despite their repeated sins. Although God's love for us is constant and consistent, He will not save us without our co-operation. That is why He invites us during Lent to repent of our sins and to renew our lives by producing good fruits.

Today's Gospel reading emphasizes the Christian call to metanoia, (=conversion, repentance, and inner change). This Gospel also heartens us with the reality of God's patient mercy. It explains how God disciplines His people, invites them to repent of their sins, to renew their lives, and to produce the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Citing two tragic events, Jesus exhorts the Jews to repent and reform their lives. With the parable of the barren fig tree, he also warns them that the merciful God will not put up with them indefinitely. Although God patiently waits for sinners to repent, giving them grace to do so, He will not wait forever. Time may run out; therefore, timely repentance is necessary. Hence one can say, "A Lent missed is a year lost from the spiritual life."

LIFE MESSAGE

1) We need to live lives of repentance: (a) Let us turn to Christ, acknowledge our faults and failings, and receive from him mercy, forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. b) There is no better way to take these words of Jesus to heart than to go to sacramental confession, and there is no better time to go to confession than during Lent. (c) Repentance helps us in life and in death. It helps us to live as forgiven people and helps us to face death without fear.

2) We need to be fruitful trees in God's orchard. Lent is an ideal time "to dig around and manure" the tree of our life so that it may bring forth fruits of repentance, reconciliation, forgiveness, humble service, and sensitivity to the feelings of others.

3) We need to make the best use of the "second chances" God gives us. Our merciful Father always gives us second chances. During Lent, too, we are given another chance to repent and return to our Heavenly Father's love through the sacrament of reconciliation, the "Sacrament of the second chance."

Prayer to St. Joseph

Oh, 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. Oh, 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. Amen



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 22 March	Souls in Purgatory	6:30pm
Sunday 23 March	Dennis Lloyd Gerard Dolan	9:30am 11:00pm
Monday 24 March	J C	10:00am
Tuesday 25 March THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	Kate Pettifor Jacob Bayliss	10:00am
Wed. 26 March Sacristy	Private intentions	10:00am
Thursday 27 March	Sanctification of Priests	10:00am
Friday 28 March	Peace in the world	6:00pm
Saturday 29 March	Souls in Purgatory	6:30pm
Sunday 30 March	Parishioners	9,30am 11am

Say your daily rosary for peace in the world



Our Lady says: I promise my special
protection and the greatest graces to all
those who shall recite the Rosary.

ANNOUNCEMENT

St George's Lent Lunch – Wednesday 26th
March

Our lunch will be served at the Watergate
Centre in Whitchurch from 12pm. Thank
you for your offers of help and to make
soup but more would be welcome! We
look forward to seeing you there on
Wednesday!

The Big Brew – Friday 28th March
The Transform Trade (Fairtrade group) are
holding a coffee morning in the Market
Hall from 9.30am. Please join us for
coffee, tea and cake!

Sat 6:30pm	Sun. 9:30am	Sun. 11:00am
Roland Young	Eileen Livesey	Tim O'Keefee

Mass Offering for 16 March----£343.06

Standing orders-----£112.00

**Confession is before and after
mass or at any convenient time
you want. Arrange with the Parish
Priest**

Our Parish Safeguarding representative is Helen Clarke