

PARISH OF ST GEORGE

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Third Sunday of Lent March 03, 2024

GOSPEL : John 2:13-25

JESUS CLEANSED THE TEMPLE



Today's Gospel gives us the dramatic account of Jesus' cleansing the Temple of its merchants and moneychangers, followed by a prediction of his death and Resurrection. The synoptic Gospels place the "cleansing of the Temple" immediately after Jesus' triumphant arrival in Jerusalem on the back of a colt on Palm Sunday, while John places it at the beginning of his Gospel. The abuses which kindled the prophetic indignation of Jesus were the conversion of God's Temple into a "noisy marketplace" by the animal merchants and into a "hideout of thieves" by the moneychangers with their grossly unjust business practices - sacrilege in God's Holy Place. Thus Jesus constructed a whip of cords, and used it to drive out the merchants and moneychangers from the Court of the Gentiles.

LIFE MESSAGE

1.) Let us remember that we are the temples of the Holy Spirit: St. Paul reminds us that we are God's temples, body and soul, because the Spirit of God dwells in us. Hence, we have no right to desecrate God's temple by impurity, injustice, pride, hatred, or jealousy. Let us be cleansed by asking God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

2.) Let us love our parish Church as our "Heavenly Father's house" and make it a holier place by our care for it, by our active participation in the liturgy, by offering our time and talents in the various ministries, and by our financial support for its maintenance and development.

The Temple Jesus cleansed: The Temple in Jerusalem was the symbol of Jewish religion and the only center for Israel's common worship and sacrifices. Weekly Sabbath prayers and the teaching of the Law were conducted in local synagogues. King Solomon built the first Temple on Mount Moriah in 966 BC to replace the tabernacle that had been Israel's portable place of worship; 1 Kgs 5, gives a detailed description of that Temple's solemn blessing. That Temple area covered some 35 acres. After 379 years, the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar destroyed that Temple in 587 BC and took all the healthy Jews as slaves. On their return from exile, after some 70 years of Babylonian exile, the Jews rebuilt the Temple in 515 BC under the leadership of Zerubbabel (who was of the House of David). Next, that rebuilt Temple was damaged, plundered, and desecrated by Greek conqueror Antiochus IV Epiphanes in 167 BC, and stripped of everything of value. This Temple was cleansed and restored by Judas Maccabaeus in 164 B.C. But it was plundered and damaged again, first by Roman general Pompey in 63 BC and then by Crassus in 54 BC. King Herod the Great began to renovate it in 20 BC. Since Herod's Temple was constructed over the foundation of the temple built under Zerubbabel in 515 BC (though greatly expanded), it is known by Jews today as the Second Temple. Jesus did the cleansing of this Temple, in the outer courtyard. This courtyard was called the Court of the Gentiles, because Gentiles were allowed to enter in it for prayer to the Most High, if they wished to do so.

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 02 March	6:30pm	Souls in Purgatory
Sunday 03 March	9:30 am	Mary & Peter Allman & Fam
	11:00pm	Allman & Mccaffecy Fam
Monday 04 March St. Casimir	10:00am	J.C. OPara
Tuesday 05 March	10:00am	For the Sick
Wednesday 06 March	Sacristy	Cynthia Smith
Thursday 07 March Ss Perpetua & Felicity	10:00am	Sanctification of Priests
Friday 08 March St. John of God	6:00pm	Vocations
Saturday 09 March St. Frances of Rome	6:30pm	Souls in Purgatory
Sunday 10 March	9:30am 11am	Parishoners Parishioners

Sat 6:30pm	Sun. 9:30am	Sun. 11:00am
Hazel Spencer	Gerard Dolan	Tim O'Keeffe

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

Our Parish Safeguarding representative is Helen Clarke

Lenten Lunches

Thank you to everyone who supported St George's lunch last week, especially those who helped to serve it. The next lunch is on Wednesday 6th March at the Watergate Centre.

Film Evening - Friday 8th March - Sir John Talbot's 7.30pm

'Undaunted' is the story of a boy growing up in harsh and difficult circumstances but whose life was turned around by faith. 'Churches Together' in Whitchurch are promoting this event and admission with refreshments is free for a voluntary contribution. Everyone welcome.

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

REMEMBER MASS AND FRIDAYS STATIONS OF THE CROSS 6PM

THERE IS MASS IN ST JOSEPH MALPAS, THIS SUNDAY 3RD OF MARCH -6PM

There will be second collections for CAFOD next Sunday--10/03/24

Mass Offering for 18th Feb--£365.84

Standing orders-----£118.25