



PARISH OF ST GEORGE

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SUNDAY 17th August 2025 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C



Luke 12:49-50

⁴⁹ "I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished!"

- What is the fire he came to cast?
- What does he mean by baptism?

Last week, we, the followers of the Christ, were given a short passage from the Book of Wisdom which spoke about a deep and difficult to grapple with mystery, which most people and priests would not have noticed or glossed over. The mystery being, how the salvation or "*liberation*" of "*the holy children of good people*" that is, the faithful, is worked out, in and through the mystery of iniquity (CCC 675). "*For by the same means by which you punished our enemies you called us to yourself and glorified us.*" (Wisdom 18:8)

This mystery is being continuously acted out, throughout salvation history but it is fully revealed, centred, and exemplified in the Person of Jesus Christ. "*Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or faint-hearted.*" Therefore, us who claim the name Christian are called to take heed and imitate our shepherd by enduring our cross for the good of the whole body and 'the joy that is set before us'.

This concept was coupled with the Lord's teaching in the Gospel of how we should make our storerooms in heaven. How we need to remain awake and tend our lamps while we are moving through this short preparatory life, keeping in mind the reward for faithfulness and the recompense for unfaithfulness. "*Everyone to whom much is given of him much will be required*" (Lk 12:48)

In the Gospel this 20th Sunday of our liturgical lives, the Lord "*the founder and perfecter of our faith*" gives the reason why he has come and revealed Himself to us "to set the world on fire" and this fire, which is unavoidable, will cause division in everyone's life, in our very families, because this the purpose of the fire – sifting by division.

The fire of which the Lord speaks is the fire of God's presence and love, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and the Church at Pentecost and continued in and through the life of the Mystical Body of Christ. To desire and receive the fire of God's presence you are saying yes to its burning and purifying action – baptism by fire.

The teacher speaks of a baptism (plunging) he must undergo and until it is accomplished it will be a time of great distress. Before the Lord can send the baptism of the Holy Spirit, He had to undergo the baptism of His passion and death. And so, it is with us who "*In our struggle against sin we have not yet resisted to the point of shedding our blood.*" We too are called into a time of distress and sifting. Thus, keeping us in the knowledge of how our salvation is worked out, in and through the mystery of iniquity.

To "*run with endurance the race which is set before us*" we must continually lift our eyes to the life of heaven and to the "*great cloud of witnesses*" who with our Mother Mary – assumed into heaven, are a constant source of aid, inspiration and intercession for us before God's throne of mercy.

Grace and peace to all, Fr Humphrey

<u>Readers</u>	Sat 6:30	Sun 09:30	Sun 11:00
	Roland Young	Richard Shrimplin	P. Chiamaka

If you wish to join the Reader's Rota, please complete the form in the porch.

Confession is available before each vigil & Sunday Mass, before 6:00pm Mass on Friday & upon request

Sat 16 th Aug	6:30 PM	(OM: St Stephen of Hungary) 6:00PM Rosary	For us to be awake
Sun 17 th Aug	9:30 AM	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time	For the lapsed to awaken
	11:00 AM		Reawakening of Eucharistic Faith in England
Mon 18 th Aug	10:00 AM	<i>Ferial</i> /Adoration 6-7PM	Alex & Colette Dalberg
Tue 19 th Aug	10:00 AM	OM: St John Eudes /A. 6-7pm	Margaret Allman
Wed 20 th Aug	No Mass	M: St Bernard	
Thu 21 st Aug	10:00 AM	M: St Pius X	Patrica Cummins
Fri 22 nd Aug	6:00 PM	M: The Queenship of the BVM	Eileen O Connor (illness)
		Holy Hour	
Sat 23 rd Aug	6:30 PM	(OM: St Rose of Lima) 6:00PM Rosary	Families of the parish
Sun 24 th Aug	9:30 AM	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time	Spirit of resolution in our Christian calling
	11:00 AM		Children brought up without knowledge, love & faith in Jesus

Weekly Collection We wish to thank you all for your ongoing generosity in the upkeep of the parish.
 Sunday 10th August - £317.42
 Weekly Standing Orders - £112.00

The church will be opened/unlocked during daytime hours from 9:00AM to 5:00PM except on Wednesdays and when the priest is not around/local. All are welcome to drop into the church for quiet prayer with the Lord truly present.

Mon & Tue of this week there will be an additional hour of silent Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.
 If there are any people, house bound or otherwise who would like the priest to visit, Fr Humphrey is very happy to call to see them. Please ring the parish phone and leave a message or send him an email.

THE GREAT DIVIDE

LUKE 12:49-56

REFLECTION – “In all our affections, order is necessary. Love your father, love your mother, love your children after God. If it becomes inevitable to place love of one's relatives and children in the balance with love of God, without it being possible to preserve them both, then not to prefer one's own family, is piety towards God.” ... **St Jerome (343-420) Father & Doctor of the Church**

PRAYER – Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, You glorious Trinity are our lesson in love and unity. Grant us this day the grace of true love for You and true order in all our affections.
 May the intercession of Sts John, Bernard, Pius & Rose strengthen us. Amen.

2nd Appeal: I am trying to organise weekly rotas for two areas of service that need volunteers, church cleaning and maintenance of flowers. Presently we have one lady only, Anna Maria, who cleans the church building once a week. And likewise, we have one lady only, Ann, who renews the flowers once a week or so. Please, I am asking people to offer their service of love by putting their names down on the rota for either of these works. If people are generous, we can work out particular weeks for people to be of service

Our parish safeguarding representative is Helen Clarke