

St George's Newsletter

No.150

2 before Lent

Sunday 12th February 2023

10.00am Parish Mass

Sexagesima Sunday is the name given to the second Sunday before Lent when individuals are encouraged to evaluate their current spiritual state and prepare themselves to enter the season of Lent. Such preparations can include confession and such reflections as would be profitable and in keeping with the themes of Septuagesima

Dear Friends,

In response to the double earthquakes in Turkey and Syria which have already caused thousands of deaths and untold suffering, I urge you all to pray for those affected by this tragedy. These are areas of the world, and these are people, that have already been ravaged by violent conflict and massive displacement. They are amongst the world's most vulnerable. Let us also pray for the work of all the various aid agencies and relief workers who are working tirelessly to help and support people in desperate need.

One of the most tangible ways we can help, despite the distance that separates us, is to donate money towards the relief operation. Consequently, we will be taking a retiring collection after our parish eucharist to help raise funds towards the **Disasters Emergency Committee's appeal for Turkey and Syria** (you can also go to <https://www.dec.org.uk/>). The DEC brings together 15 leading UK aid charities to raise funds quickly and efficiently at times of crisis overseas. These include the Red Cross, Cafod, Christian Aid, Tearfund and Oxfam amongst others. DEC charities and their local partners are among the first responders providing urgent help at this very moment. The funds will go in the first instance towards medical aid, emergency shelter, food and clean water. Longer term support will also be essential. The UK Government has agreed to match pound-for-pound donations made by the public to this appeal up to £5 million.

In the face of such devastation, at a time in our world's history when everything seems harder and bleaker, let us not give in to despair but turn the sorrow, pain and heartache we experience for those we do not know into a deeper and more engaged commitment to solidarity and compassion. Our faith and the humanity we share in common with the people of Turkey and Syria and elsewhere demand it.

Let me also commend the following prayer to you based on Psalm 13 and adapted from Christian Aid:

How long, O Lord?
Can we hide our faces from violence and tragedy?
How long, O Lord,
will the people of Syria and Turkey live with devastations of earthquakes and war?
How long, O Lord,
must the soul of humanity bear the pain of trauma and loss,
and have sorrow in its heart all day long?
Consider and answer us, O Lord our God!
Give protection to all those living in fear of death.
Give strength to endure so tragedy will not prevail.
Give guidance to decision makers who are on the ground.
Give compassion to hearts weary with fatigue.
We trust in your steadfast love,
our hearts will rejoice in your salvation,
as we participate in your kingdom
praying, acting and giving bountifully
with all those preparing and repairing
what violence, earthquake and flood are destroying.
How long, O Lord,
will we bring our prayers of lament to you?
Fr Angus

Friday is my day of rest unless the matter is very urgent.

The Rite of Reconciliation (also known as the Sacrament of Confession) is available to anyone by appointment with Fr Angus.

It is now possible to donate to St George's using your smartphone by scanning the QR Code shown on the right. If you are unsure on how to use it, please seek advice from our Treasurer, Alison Davis, or Fr Angus.



This Week's Diary - February

Monday 13th - St George's Tots in the Centre – 10:30am to 12:00pm

Tuesday 14th – Church Choir rehearsal in the Centre @ 6pm
– NO WRAP Choir – Half Term. Return on 21st.

Wednesday 15th- Said Mass in the Lady Chapel - 11.30am

Thursday 16th - Said Mass in the Lady Chapel - 9.30am

Friday 17th - Fed and Nourished event, formerly the Pop up Pantry – 10.00am

Sunday 19th – Parish Mass - 10.00am

Amendment to Stations of the Cross: This will run from 2 March to 23 March (instead of to 30 March).

Parish Confirmation Service: Bishop Martin will be leading a confirmation service at St George's at our main service on Sunday 12th March. When he will confirm Ginnie, Sam and Emma. Though the service is taking place during Lent, let us celebrate the day as much as possible with our candidates and extend a warm welcome to +Martin.

Because of the confirmation service, the next All-Age service will move to 5th March.

Wednesday Lent Group: Psalms of Lament and Praise – Our Lent Group this year will be exploring the Book of Psalms. The psalms transform every human experience into an expression of profound prayer. During each session, we will be delving into the rich and challenging language of psalms and connecting it to our own experiences. Participants will need to bring a copy of the bible (copies also available in church). **There will be four sessions held at 7:30pm each Wednesday from 8th March to 29th March, meeting in the Centenary Centre.** Fr Angus will lead the sessions, but group participation will be essential! Sign-up sheets are available at the back of church.

St George's Pancake Party for families with young children on **Sunday 19th February**. The season of Lent is approaching. But before the fast comes the feast in the form of pancakes! There will be time for crafts, a story and singing in church, a pancake race and pancakes in the church centre. The afternoon begins at 3:30pm on Sunday 19 February and will finish around 5pm. There is a suggested donation of £3 per family at the door. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

To come, please register on Eventbrite. <https://www.eventbrite.com/.../st-georges-pancake-party...>

All are welcome to our **Happy Cafe Breakfast** in the Centenary Centre, Saturday 25th February 10-12pm
Come and join us for lovely food and fellowship!

Book your places now! [See Jill Merry or Rosemary Lay] £10 per adult £5 per child (over the age of 5yrs)

The Sixteen, a United Kingdom-based choir and period instrument orchestra; conducted by Harry Christophers, are performing their 2023 Choral Pilgrimage at Chichester Cathedral on Saturday 18 March at 7.30pm. The programme celebrates the legacy of one of choral music's most treasured composers, William Byrd, and also includes the world premieres of two specially commissioned works by Dobrinka Tabakova. Tickets are available on website. <https://thesixteen.com/event/the-choral-pilgrimage-2023-chichester/> for a group of 10 or more, a 10% discount is available.

Amazing **Laser Light Show** coming to Chichester, this FREE colourful family spectacle will be coming to the Canal Basin on Friday 17 and Saturday 18 February, welcoming people from 5pm, with displays at 6pm and 7.30pm. There will be extra entertainment on both nights plus food and drink stalls and the Canal Café will also be open. For more details, go to: www.chichester.gov.uk/whatson

WRAP-CHAT meeting – Wednesday 1st March 3pm in The Centre (£2) - This meeting is a Must! Ken Green, will be giving a talk on Chichester Cathedral, going back over 100's of years of history, personalities of the past who have made their mark there, Ken shares titbits on the screen of previous Bishops, artists, shaggy stories. You won't be disappointed!

Contact details:

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