

St Francis of Assisi, Baddesley Clinton

[Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216]

Fr John Sharp

www.sfachurch.org.uk

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Fourth Sunday of Easter (B)

22nd April 2018

PARISH LITURGY – MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS

Saturday	6.00 pm	Martin McDonnell
Sunday	9.30 am	People of the Parish

Second Collection for the Clergy Training Fund

Monday [St George, martyr, patron of England]

9.00 am No Mass

Tuesday [Feria in Eastertide]

9.00 am No Mass

Wednesday [St Mark, evangelist]

9.00 am No Mass

Thursday [Feria in Eastertide]

9.00 am No Mass

Friday [Feria in Eastertide]

9.00 am No Mass

Saturday [Feria in Eastertide]

9.00 am No Mass

Confessions: Saturday, 4.30-5.00 pm

Please pray for the sick in our parish and for those who have died: **Sr M. Brigid; Mary Kate O'Hara; Sr M. Veronica** (anniversaries).

Please note that there are no weekdays Masses this week.

Last Week's Collection: £401.77. Thank you

Bible Study will resume on Tuesday, 8th May.

The parish website has had a make-over and has a new url. To access it, go to www.sfachurch.org.uk

Today's feast, my dear people, doubles our joy in the glory of Eastertide like a precious jewel whose shining beauty adds to the splendour of the gold in which it is set.

Clearly Saint George was transported from one kind of military service into another, since he laid aside the earthly office of tribune to join the ranks of the army of Christ. Like a truly keen soldier he first threw away the burden of his earthly possessions by giving all he had to the poor, and this free and unencumbered and wearing the breastplate of faith, he advanced into the thick of the fray, a valiant soldier of Christ.

From this we learn a clear lesson, that nobody can fight properly and boldly for the faith if he clings to a fear of being stripped of earthly possessions.

Saint George aflame with the fire of the Holy Spirit and invincibly defended by the banner of the cross, not only fought with a wicked king but defeated also the Prince of all the wicked in the person of his minion, and encouraged the soldiers of Christ to bear themselves valiantly.

Clearly he had at his side the supreme and invincible Judge, who by his free choice allowed the hands of the wicked to wreak their violence even on Saint George. Although God gave the body of his martyr over to murderers, he guarded his soul with his unceasing protection, defended as it was by the unconquerable fortress of faith.

My dear brothers, let us not merely admire this soldier of the heavenly realm: let us also imitate him. Let us raise up our spirits to think on that heavenly reward, and fix our hearts on it in contemplation, and so never flinch whether the world smiles on us with its blandishments or menaces us with adversities.

Let us purify ourselves, according to Saint Paul's advice, from every uncleanness of body and soul, so that we too may be worthy to enter that temple of blessedness on which our minds are fixed.

Whoever wishes to sacrifice himself to God in the tabernacle of Christ, which is the Church, must first be made clean by washing in the sacred font, and then be clothed in various garments, that is, virtues, as it is written: 'Your priests shall be clothed in justice.' For he who in baptism is reborn as a new man in Christ must not put on the signs of his mortality; he must put away the old man and live in him, being made new himself by striving to live a pure life.

And so, purged of the stain of our old sin and shining with the brightness of our new way of life, we can worthily celebrate the paschal mystery and truly imitate the example of the blessed martyrs.

Sermon of St Peter Damian (c.1007-1072/3) on Saint George
