

ENGLISH MARTYRS, Alvaston. Tel: 01332 574474 and St GEORGE's Derby . Tel: 01332 767038

Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Brentnall

Assistant: Canon Alan Burbidge Emeritus

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4th May 2025

3rd SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

St GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

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| Sat 03 May | 5.30 pm | Joseph Ferrie RIP |
| Sun 04 May | 9.30 am | Pope Francis RIP |
| Mon 05 May | 9.30 am | For Pope Francis RIP |
| Tues 06 May | 9.30 am | Mrs Rosemary Mumbray RIP |
| Wed 07 May | NO MASS AT ST GEORGE'S 9.00 am at English Martyrs: Requiem, Tommasina Buonaguro RIP | |
| Thu 08 May | 9.30 am | For Jimmy and family, for good health and deceased of the family |
| Fri 09 May | 9.30 am | Foncie Ward RIP |
| Sat 10 May | 9.30 am | Donor's intention, St Anthony |
| | 5.30 pm | Mrs Maria McIntyre RIP, 10 th Anniversary |
| Sun 11 May | 9.30 am | People of the Parish |

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Do you believe in the resurrection of the body? Every time we say the Creed we proclaim we do. Today we encounter just that, a risen body, the first fruits of Christ's resurrection from the dead. The risen Lord moves among his disciples, initially hidden from them (v.4) and then cooking and sharing breakfast with them.

Our faith is firmly rooted in Jesus' resurrection from the dead. We believe it, proclaim it and live by it. The entire Christian faith is based on this most singular truth that death could not hold Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus is the only human being that death has no power over.

Many of us have seen a corpse – perhaps the body of a loved one. It is always a traumatic experience in which one knows immediately that the person we loved so dearly has gone – the body is simply a shell because the soul has left the body. We do not think too much about these things, and more the pity. Many today think being spiritual as having little to do with the body – as if somehow spirituality is more to do with the soul and the spirit. But this is not Christian teaching.

Jesus came to save and redeem us body and soul. As Paul so eloquently put it: 'If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he ... will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you' (Rom. 8:11)

How confident are you in the resurrection, both Jesus' and your own? Tertullian, the second-century theologian said: 'The confidence of Christians is the resurrection of the dead: believing this we live.' We say a hearty and healthy 'Amen' to this. Of course, there is great mystery surrounding the resurrection. We do not know what kind of body it will be. Most of us don't like our bodies very much, which is a great pity for they are God's gift to us. The problem with the body is that it is subject to corruption, death and decay. However, we live in the hope that God will raise us up body and soul on the last day.

Lord, you are the Resurrection and the Life. Teach me to take hold of the truth that death is not the end but the beginning.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Classes begin this Sunday, 4th May, in the church at 11 am for children and parents. Candidates should be at least Year 3 school age or older children who have not yet made their First Holy Communion. The First Holy Communion Mass will be on Sunday, 1st June at 12 noon at St George's.

Please keep our candidates and families in your prayers.

THE CHURCH AT HOLY SPIRIT: As Fr Brentnall announced when he spoke to the people at Holy Spirit, the church will remain available for prayer and prayer meetings and activities. It will also be available for funerals if families wish to have a Requiem Mass or service at Holy Spirit before burial or cremation of a loved one.

CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY ONLY: 10:15 – 10:45

SECOND COLLECTION at this weekend Masses for the Clergy Formation Fund (sorry the envelopes were wrongly dated).

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

St John of Avila, Priest and Doctor

FORTHCOMING FUNERALS AT ST. GEORGE'S:

For Stephen McCrystall, Friday, 16th May at 12 noon
And at English Martyrs, Alvaston

For Thomasina Buonaguro, Wednesday, 7th May at 9 am. Reception into church on Tuesday, 6th May at 6 pm.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Surprised by Grace

Cast the net... and you will find something. JOHN 21:6

Before every meeting, every workshop and every direction session, I always start with a prayer. I do it for a very specific reason. I have noticed that when I do, the event always goes better. One might presume that God is always present and thus no prayer is needed, but the explicit prayer seems to make a difference.

In today's Gospel, Peter and his co-workers had been fishing all night but caught nothing. But, at Jesus' invitation and with trust in him, they lower their nets again. Their efforts were rewarded with an overflowing catch.

Lifting a prayer before each event reminds us that it is God who gives the abundance. It calls upon the Lord for a special blessing, and no prayer is ever unheeded.

Before you engage in any event or task, you might say a little prayer asking for God's blessing. You might be surprised by the result.

POPE FRANCIS RIP: For many days Pope Francis battled with serious illness and recovered sufficiently to get back to work. On Easter Sunday he gave a short prayer of Easter blessing and then went around St Peter's Square in his popemobile. However, he did not look well but it was quite a shock to hear on Monday morning that he had died. He suffered a stroke and had heart failure.

We thank God for his life and ministry as a Bishop in Argentina and as the universal shepherd of the Catholic Church. He has spoken and written well on many subjects and given a great sense of welcome and inclusion to many people, Catholics and of other faiths and other people. May his good teaching and good example continue to inspire people as the human race deals with many serious challenges. Especially to continuing wars in many parts of the world and the increasing challenges we face with the changes to the world climate and to the world economy.
Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

THE FUTURE LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH: Let us pray hard that God in his providence and by the pouring out of the Holy Spirit may raise up in the Church, a good new Pope and inspire all the Cardinals and Bishops and clergy to be ever renewed in their ministries to preach and teach the Good News of Jesus our risen Lord and Saviour.

NEW CHURCH HEATING AT ST GEORGE'S

Work has started on installing a new boiler and new pipework for the whole church. The work will take two weeks or so and Masses will be in the social centre until the work is completed, unless it is free at the weekends.

READERS FOR SUNDAY AND SATURDAY MASSES: If you would be interested in reading at our weekend Masses, please leave your name with Fr Alan and he will pass it on to our organiser, Mrs P. Greaves.