

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

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Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Company Number 7151646 Charity Number 1134449

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7th April 2024

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

2nd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 06 Apr	5.30 pm	SG	(Fr. Mark to celebrate) Hilary Crosbie for good health
Sun 07 Apr	9.00 am	EM	
	9.30 am	SG	For Doreen Sedat
	11.00 am	EM	
	11.15 am	HS	People of the Parish
Mon 08 Apr	9.30 am	SG	The Annunciation of the Lord
	12 noon	EM	
Tue 09 Apr	9.30 am	SG	Donor's intention, in thanksgiving to St Anthony of Padua
Wed 10 Apr	9.30 am	SG	Donor's intention and Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thu 11 Apr	9.30 am	SG	For all the sick of St George's parish
Fri 12 Apr	9.30 am	SG	Priest's intention
	12 noon	EM	
Sat 13 Apr	9.30 am	SG	For victims of war and violence
	5.30 pm	SG	The Cannon sisters
Sun 14 Apr	9.00 am	EM	
	9.30 am	SG	People of the Parish
	11.00 am	EM	
	11.15 am	HS	The Clarke Family

EM English Martyrs SG St George's HS Holy Spirit

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Thomas made two contradictory and diametrically opposed statements, in quick succession, one after the other. One expressed unbelief: 'Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe' (v.25). The other was a marvellous proclamation of faith in Jesus: 'My Lord and my God (v.28). Thomas was divided in himself. He was a believer: he had believed in Jesus, followed him and become a disciple. But when faced with the cross brought about by the death of Jesus, his faith faltered and failed him. He was cast into doubt and unbelief. Jesus himself overcame Thomas's doubt and unbelief by speaking to him and showing him his hands, feet and side (v.27). Jesus revived Thomas' faith.

Often we are divided in ourselves. Part of us believes but part of us battles and struggles with doubts. Our faith is constantly under challenge and attack. However, although we can think that our faith is weak, it is actually more robust than we imagine. I may be bruised and weakened, yet it is still there, needing only to be revived. Faith is 'the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen' (Heb. 11:1). Thomas was not convince of what he had not seen. Only the presence of the risen Jesus revived his faith. Jesus has returned to his Father but he has not left us orphans. Instead, he sent the Holy Spirit to take his place and be with us. The Spirit therefore does for us what Jesus did for Thomas. His role is to bring us from doubt to faith, to build up our faith and to create living faith. He does this for us every time we participate in the Eucharist and in the sacraments of the Church, or whenever we pray, read the Scriptures or stand firm on the truth that God is sovereign.

Therefore, again and again, we should be turning to the Holy Spirit and asking him to banish our doubts and to revive and renew our faith.

*Holy Spirit, lead me into all truth and give me all that is of Jesus.
Strengthen me to stand faithful before all the challenges which come to me.*

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

ADORATION before the Blessed Sacrament daily before the 9.30 am Mass and then other times as announced.

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Mon 8 April: The Annunciation of the Lord
Thurs 11 April: St Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr
Sat 13 April: St Martin, Pope & Martyr

BEARING CHRIST

God is with us! Isaiah 8:10

Motherhood changes the very fabric of a person. Not only was my physical appearance modified forever, but there was also an invisible and undeniable mark left in my spirit by each pregnancy experience. Nothing less than a miracle of life took place within my body. A human life, known by God the Most High even before the moment of conception, was born of me, through me, making me all at once, and forever, a mother.

One of the gifts of the mystery of the Incarnation is knowing that Mary also experienced this physical and mystical transformation – making it possible to relate to her as a human mother. Even the ponderings in her heart make Mary's responses to the angel Gabriel familiar: "How can this be?" (Luke 1:34)

Yet, beyond our common human experiences our heavenly Mother invites us to a spiritual intimacy rooted in her own mothering: We, too, are pregnant with Love,. Christ is already present within us.

Be born in me, Lord Jesus!

Maria Rutz Scaperlands

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: This Sunday after Mass at St George's and Holy Spirit churches, there will be an opportunity to venerate the Divine Mercy image and to say the prayer. Also, to pray your own prayers at the same time.

On Mercy Sunday, Jesus wants us to come into the rays of his healing. Jesus calls us to cleanse our souls and be prepared for our last day. Our God is a God of everlasting love and mercy who sent his son, Jesus, to save us and not to condemn us.

Through prayer and the celebration of the Eucharist, through confession and contrition and also by our good works and care for others we are on the way to salvation.

DIVINE MERCY RAYERS

Eternal Father I offer you the body and blood, soul and divinity of your dearly beloved son, our Lord Jesus Christ in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

and

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and the whole world.

and

Holy God, Holy Almighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

EASTER THANKS: Many thanks for your Easter cards and good wishes and to all for the great work of preparation for the Easter services which went so well, and all for your generous Easter Offerings. May the peace and love of the Risen Lord Jesus shine ever more strongly in your hearts and lives as we journey on.