

Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Brentnall

Pastor Emeritus: Canon Alan Burbidge

Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Company Number 7151646 Charity Number 1134449 Registered Office: Willson House, 25 Derby Road, Nottingham. NG1 5AW

1st February 2026

RACIAL JUSTICE DAY, DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER

4TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

ST GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat	31 Jan	5.30 pm	Deceased members of the Geelan family
Sun	01 Feb	9.30 am	Mass in thanksgiving for Winifred Woodcock, 94th birthday
Mon	02 Feb	9.30 am	Marie Flanagan, for good health
Tues	03 Feb	9.30 am	Peter Kavanagh RIP
Wed	04 Feb	9.30 am	For the victims of war and violence
Thu	05 Feb	9.30 am	Eamonn Murray RIP
Fri	06 Feb	9.30 am	For all who are not well, especially in our parish
Sat	07 Feb	9.30 am	Martin Irwin RIP
		5.30 pm	Michael Donovan RIP
Sun	08 Feb	9.30 am	People of the Parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Moses descended a mountain to give us the law, the ten commandments. Jesus ascended a mount to give us a new law, the Beatitudes. There are ten commandments and eight beatitudes. The ten commandments are the letter of the law, the beatitudes the spirit of the law. 'The Beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus' preaching. They take up the promises made to the chosen people since Abraham. The Beatitudes fulfil the promises by ordering them no longer merely to the possession of a territory, but to the kingdom of heaven' (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1716). The Sermon on the mount is the first and longest of Matthew's collection of Jesus' teaching, outlining the basic qualities required for membership of God's kingdom. The Beatitudes express Jesus' mission to the needy and the dawn of a new era of salvation history. The 'poor', the 'mourners' and the 'hungry' all refer to the same people. They are blessed not because they are morally better than others but because of God's special care for them. God's first priority is the care of the poor. It is not merely material poverty that is blessed: it is those who know their need of God, who accept their status as creatures and do not make themselves the centre of the universe. To live in such an attitude is to accept everything as a gift and to grow in sensitivity to the materially poor – how can we be poor in spirit if we close our hearts to our brothers and sisters in need?

The Beatitudes put forward a whole series of qualities worthy of approval by God – they do not include success or achievement. It's not making money or power or popularity that wins God's approval. Rather is the attitude of putting God's values first. 'The Beatitudes reveal the goal of human existence, the ultimate end of human acts: God calls us to his own beatitude. This vocation is addressed to each individual personally, but also to the Church as a whole, the new people made up of those who have accepted the promise to live from it in faith' (CCC 1719).

Lord Jesus, through your Holy Spirit, mould me into your image, that I may live according to the values of your kingdom.

SUNDAY MORNING TEA/COFFEE GROUP

In the past 3 months we have donated £200 to Mary's Meals from kind donations at our Sunday morning Tea/Coffee group. Their acknowledgment:

"Thank you so much for your precious gift, which is helping us to transform the lives of hungry children around the world with a nutritious daily meal in school. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your incredible generosity which will have a life-changing impact on some of the world's poorest children, providing them with food, education and hope for a brighter future."

CYCLE OF PRAYER DURING ORDINARY TIME – WINTER

Peace on earth, especially on Sunday 18th January.
 Openness to the Word of God, especially on Sunday, 25th January
 Christian Unity, especially on days Sunday 18th – Sunday 25th January.
 Victims of trafficking and those who work to combat it, especially on Sunday, 8th February.
 The sick and those who care for them, especially on Wednesday, 11th February
 The unemployed, especially on Sunday, 15th February.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)
 on Saturday 10.15-10.45 am.**

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

- Mon 2nd Feb: The Presentation of the Lord – Candlemas. Blessing of candles
- Tues 3rd Feb: St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr
- Wed 4th Feb: St Gilbert of Sempringham, Religious
- Thurs 5th Feb: St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr
- Fri 6th Feb: Ss Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs of Japan
- Sat 7th Feb: Saturday Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary

THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY

For children with incurable diseases. Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

Best Things First

*He began to teach them, saying:
 "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
 for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." MATTHEW 5:2-3*

Sometimes, the order of a list matters greatly. In baseball, a manager will usually put his most versatile hitter in the lead-off position because he's most likely to get a hit and start a rally. Just so, when Jesus begins his preaching of the Beatitudes, it's not by chance that he begins with "Blessed are the poor in spirit."

For this phrase is more than just the first Beatitude. It's the one on which all the others are built, according to Dominican theologian Gustavo Gutierrez. The requirements of our discipleship begin with poverty of spirit, he says. That professed spirit demands, above all, that we let go of notions of independence and throw ourselves into the lap of God. To become poor in spirit is to become a child again. It's a radical understanding of how much God loves us. It's where we must begin, always.

Lord, give me the poor and trusting heart of a child.

RECENT DEATHS:

Please pray for Anna Maria, Barbara's mother, who has died recently in Uganda. Barbara is very grateful for all your prayers at this difficult time.

Also, please pray for Peter Kavanagh who died recently in hospital after a time of illness. We pray for Josie his mother also who is ill in hospital and for all the family at this sad time.

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

ENABLING MISSION CAMPAIGN

Thanks to all who have been to the meetings to date with Fr Mark Brentnall, Fr Alan and the campaign organiser for the Diocese of Nottingham

It is an urgent initiative in the light of fewer priests and the increasing demands of the church in so many areas of maintenance of churches and property and safeguarding and catechesis of our people.

Fr Mark outlined also the use that will be made of the upper rooms of the social centre which will be a hub for deanery support and outreach, staffed by diocesan employees. The work of getting it ready is underway. The ground floor of the social centre will be refurbished with a new enlarged kitchen and new boiler, essentially for parish use as before.

The next meeting of the Enabling Mission Campaign will be on Thursday 5th February at 5.30 pm in the social centre.