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

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 November 2026 FEAST OF ALL SAINTS 31st SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

ST GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 31 Oct	5.30 pm	Holy Souls.	*All Saints Vigil Mass*
Sun 01 Nov	9.30 am	People of the parish.	*All Saints*
Mon 02 Nov	9.00 am	School Mass. All welcome.	*All Souls Day*
	10.30 am	Mass of All Souls at St George's Church	
Tues 03 Nov	9.30 am	Dave Potter RIP	
Wed 04 Nov	9.30 am	For the seriously ill of the parish	
Thu 05 Nov	9.30 am	Bernadette O'Riordan RIP, Anniversary	
Fri 06 Nov	9.30 am	Holy Souls	
Sat 07 Nov	9.30 am	Private Intention	
	5.30 pm	Mr Trevor McCandless, 80th anniv. memorial	
Sun 08 Nov	9.30 am	People of the Parish	

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Today we celebrate All Saints, or All Hallows as it used to be called. We are invited today to do something we may not do in the course of our day or indeed very often in the course of a year, and that is to pray and think about heaven. The Church positively and actively encourages us to commemorate and rejoice in those who have reached heaven, or as theologians might say, behold the beatific vision.

Heaven is our blessed hope; it is our destiny and the goal and purpose of the Christian life. We are all on pilgrimage back to the Father's house. Indeed, we begin the most perfect of prayers by proclaiming this: 'Our Father, who art in heaven'.

But what is heaven? Heaven is the perfect life with the Most Holy Trinity: it is a communion of life and love with the Trinity, with the Virgin Mary, the angels and all the blessed. It is the ultimate end and fulfilment of the deepest human longings, a state of supreme and definitive happiness. St Clement of Alexandria said: 'We are made for the contemplation of heaven, and we are in truth a heavenly plant, intended and created to come to the knowledge of God. 'It is the saints themselves who have the clearest insight into heaven because on Earth, day by day, they are living a heavenly life. St Francis of Sales for example, said: 'This world is only peopled in order to people heaven.'

Our problem with heaven, if we are honest, is that it can seem remote and distant. It is a lovely idea for sure, but we all have the nitty gritty day to day to get our minds and hearts around. Consider then the wisdom of St John Henry Newman who said, 'Heaven is at present out of sight, but in due time, as snow melts and discovers what it lay upon, so will this visible creation fade away before those greater splendours which are behind it.

'*Today we keep the festival of your holy city, the heavenly Jerusalem, our mother. Around your throne the saints, our brothers and sisters, sing your praise for ever. Their glory fills us with joy, and their communion with us in your Church gives us inspiration and strength as we hasten on our pilgrimage of faith, eager to meet them.'*

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

SECOND COLLECTION this weekend is for Diocesan Hospices.

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Tues 3rd Nov: St Martin de Porres, Religious
Wed 4th Nov: St Charles Borromeo, Bishop
Sat 7th Nov: St Willibrord

NOVEMBER is the month of Holy Souls. During the month we remember and pray for all the dead (Holy Souls) that they may find peace, love and joy in eternal life. A life in the presence and glory of God for all eternity. And 'eternal life is this, to know you the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent'. *St John's Gospel.*

POPE LEO XIV's PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER:

For the proper use of wealth. Let us pray for the proper use of wealth that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness it may always be put at the service of the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

REFLECTION FOR ALL SOULS DAY:

We don't like to think about death too often. Polite society considers it rather maudlin, morbid and depressing. We tend to only think about death if we really have to and there is no escaping it.

The liturgy since the beginning has encouraged us to prayerfully consider the last things and death is certainly one of them. None of us can escape it, we are mortal, burdened with mortality yet with hope in immortality.

Today, on the Feast of All Souls, we are specifically encouraged to remember and pray for the faithful departed, those members of our families and dearly beloved who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. 'The faithful departed, like the saints in heaven, died in God's grace and friendship and are assured of their eternal salvation. However, they must undergo purification and cleansing so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. For this reason, we pray for our dead calling upon God's mercy, kindness and goodness for those brothers and sisters who have passed over from life into the mystery of death.

Today we pray for all our loved ones who have passed from this world into the next. We ask God, the father of mercy and compassion to cleanse and purify them from all that prevents them from enjoying the beatific vision.

'*Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and may your light shine on them forever.*'