

Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Brentnall

Pastor Emeritus: Canon Alan Burbidge

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3rd May 2026

5th SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

ST GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat	02 May	5.30 pm	People of the parish
Sun	03 May	9.30 am	For all our children preparing for 1st Holy Communion
Mon	04 May	9.30 am	For all our parish families
Tues	05 May	9.30 am	Donor's intention, St Anthony
Wed	06 May	9.30 am	Sheila Smith RIP
Thu	07 May	9.30 am	For our travellers
Fri	08 May	9.30 am	Sp. Intention of the donor
Sat	09 May	9.30 am	People of the parish
		5.30 pm	Mrs Maria McIntyre RIP
Sun	10 May	9.30 am	For peace in the world, for an end to warfare and violence

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Judaism has invoked God as Father from the very beginning. God is Father because he is Creator (Mal. 2:10). God is also the Father to the poor, the orphaned and the widowed, who are under his loving protection (2 Sam. 7:14). Jesus, however, revealed that God is Father in a unique and totally unheard of sense: God is Father in relation to the Son. Jesus claimed that to know Him is to know his Father and that only the Son can reveal the Father (Matt. 11:27). What revelation makes known to us is that Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the exact representation of his being, God's Eternal and Only Son. Knowing God's love is about knowing something of the love that exists between God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. A key part of Jesus' mission was to reveal the Father.

A key part of our walk with Christ is that we are growing and deepening in our sense of the Fatherhood of God. Writing to the Ephesian believers, Paul urged them to pray to the Father to enlighten them in their inner being so that they could grasp the love of Christ. We are invited, if you like, to partake in the relationship that exists within the Blessed Trinity: the Father reveals the Son, the Son reveals the Father. We are drawn into the communion of love that exists between each person of the Trinity, and we can become increasingly rooted and established in the love that exists within the Godhead, growing and maturing in a living sense that God is our Father and to him we cry 'Father', 'Abba'. This interior knowledge, understanding, revelation, insight, call it what you will, gives us a living sensitivity that God our heavenly father protects us, cares for us and has his hand on our lives (see Matt. 6:26).

This means we can move through our lives confident in the sure knowledge of God the Father's love for us. 'Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom' (Luke 12:32). **'See what great love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!' (1 John 3:1)**

PARISH PRAYER MEETINGS: Mother's Prayers meets every Monday in church after Mass. All welcome.

On Thursdays from 2.45 pm a prayer group prays the Divine Mercy, the Rosary and prayers for peace. All are welcome.

THE BEAUVALE PILGRIMAGE is celebrated today 3rd May. Pilgrims gather for a procession with the praying of the rosary followed by Mass at Beauvale Priory ruins at 3 pm. It is open to all who want to go and remember the Beauvale Martyrs, St John Houghton and Robert Lawrence, who were monks of the priory and were executed in London. They refused to bow to the claims of King Henry VIII who made himself the head of the church in England and rejected the authority of the Pope. Many devout Catholics, clergy and laity suffered.

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

SAINTS THIS WEEK: Mon 4th May: The English Martyrs

Heart to Heart

Do not let your hearts be troubled. JOHN 14:1

What can you tell a troubled heart? Whenever I have the chance, I like to use this Gospel reading at wakes or funerals. It gives us a chance to hear from Jesus himself, offering the same tender advice he offered his Apostles just hours before he would suffer and die.

Put simply, he told them something we all need to hear at one time or another: Don't worry. It's going to be okay. His words promise relief, restoration and rest. "Have faith in me", he said. "I'm preparing a place for you" (see vv.1-2). We won't be alone for long.

How often we forget these words or just shrug them off when all our plans get rewritten, revised or scrapped. But in our troubled times, I think our troubled hearts could use this blessed reminder. No matter the pain or grief, the frustration or setbacks, Jesus has shown us the way. Just follow. As his mother reminded the servants at Cana. "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5). Worried? Lost? Don't be troubled. Jesus has given us the map.

CHRISTIAN MARTYRS OF THE 20TH CENTURY

Shockingly, the twentieth century was the most violent in recorded history, the roll call of martyrs far exceeding that of any previous period. Ten twentieth-century Christian martyrs are commemorated with statues at Westminster Abbey in London. These martyrs were both witnesses of faith and also witnesses of Christian unity because the call of martyrdom does not discriminate by denomination. The second-century theologian Tertullian said, 'The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church' and his words remain true. Today we remember the witness of these martyrs, who stand on the shoulders of St Stephen.

The Grand Duchess Elizabeth of Russia, killed by the Bolsheviks; Manche Masemola, an Anglican catechumen from South Africa, killed in 1928 by her parents at the age of sixteen; Maximilian Kolbe, a Franciscan Friar killed by the Nazis in 1941; Lucian Tapiedi, an Anglican from Papua New Guinea, killed in 1941 during the Japanese invasion; Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor and theologian killed by the Nazis in 1945; Esther John, a Presbyterian evangelist from Pakistan, allegedly killed by a Muslim fanatic in 1960; Martin Luther King Jr, the civil rights activist assassinated in 1969; Wang Zhiming, a Chinese pastor killed during the Chinese Cultural Revolution; Archbishop Janani Luwum, assassinated during the rule of Idi Amin in Uganda; Archbishop Oscar Romero assassinated in E Salvador in 1980. *Pray for us.*

CYCLE OF PRAYER DURING EASTERTIDE, we pray for these intentions:

New Members of the Church

For Vocations

For human work, especially on Friday, 1st May, Feast of St Joseph the worker

For survivors of abuse, especially on Tuesday, 5th May.

For the right use of media, especially on Sunday 17th May

For the church, especially on Sunday 24th May.