

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

4th January 2026

2nd SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 03 Jan	5.30 pm	Intention of the donor, M & D for good health
Sun 04 Jan	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Mon 05 Jan	9.30 am	Madge McCartney and family
	12.30 pm	Requiem for Peter Nolan RIP
Tues 06 Jan	9.30 am	Sp. Intention for Mai Heffernan
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD. HOLYDAY	7.00 pm	Private Intention
Wed 07 Jan	9.30 am	Special Intention for Mai Heffernan
Thu 08 Jan	9.30 am	Mass of thanksgiving for Joseph Nakibuule on her Graduation
Fri 09 Jan	11.00 am	Requiem for Josephine Jennings RIP
	NB: no 9.30 am Mass	
Sat 10 Jan	9.30 am	For the intentions of Maura Litchfield
	5.30 pm	Nuala O'Riordan RIP (anniversary)
Sun 11 Jan	9.30 am	People of the Parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

How do you introduce yourself? What exactly defines us? Is it our talents, our qualifications, our status, our looks, our house, where we live, our family background? We would take people aback if we said: 'I am a unique manifestation of God.' This is how a friend of Gerard Hughes, author of *God of Surprises*, was tempted to introduce himself. What an enormous difference it would make to our lives if we did believe that our ultimate identity is in God; that we are one undivided person with Christ. We may each be made differently, but we each have a unique and special role to play and no one can take our place.

Today we celebrate the Epiphany and recall the manifestation of God on earth in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, first as a baby, to whom the Magi from the East were drawn by a shining star: later as a mature man, who would draw people to himself and to his Father in heaven. He said, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one comes to the Father, but by me' (John 14:6). But he went on to say that, after his death, others also would continue this work: 'Anyone who has faith in me....will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father' (John 14:12). We are called, as followers of Christ, to do as he did and lead others to God.

We are all meant to shine, as children do. We are born to manifest the glory of God that is within us. How can we, too, 'let our light shine' and manifest the glory of God?

'The prayer of St John Henry Newman sheds light on this: 'God has created me to do him some definite service. He has committed some work for me which he has not committed to another. I shall do good. I shall do his work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place- while not intending it - if I do but keep his commandments and serve him in my calling. Therefore I will trust him.'

THE EPIPHANY

The feast of the Epiphany of the Lord will be celebrated on Tuesday, 6th January. There will be Mass at St George's at 9.30 am and at 7 pm, so that all will have the opportunity of keeping this important feastday which is a holyday in the life of the church.

CHRISTMAS THANKS AND THE NEW YEAR 2026

Once again on behalf of Fr Mark Brentnall and Fr Alan Burbidge, sincere thanks to all who helped us to have a lovely celebration of Christmas. Thanks to all who worked so hard to prepare the church with lots of window decorations, sanctuary and Lady Chapel decorations, and the tree at church and the crib in the Lady Chapel and hall. Thank you also for cards and gifts and your generous Christmas Offerings. We now ask God's blessing as we begin the New Year 2026. May it go well for all of us and especially with an end to warfare and violence.

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

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Wed 7th Jan: St Raymond of Penafort, Priest

SECOND COLLECTION next weekend is for the Sick & Retired Priests Fund.

That Star

...behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying "where is the newborn king of the Jews?" MATTHEW 2:1-2

The term magi is the plural of an old Persian word meaning priests or wise men. They were noble pilgrims "from the east". We may wonder why these non-Jewish wise men would travel at least 1,200 miles to Jerusalem to pay homage to the newborn king of the Jews. St Matthew says it was that star or heavenly light that attracted them to seek and find a two year old future king.

The Jewish people knew the Hebrew Scriptures had foretold the coming of a king, a messiah, but many assumed he was for the Jews only. However, these gentiles felt this celestial light was an invitation for them to come to offer homage and present gifts to this royal child. This was surprising: it was an epiphany, a clear sign from God that Jesus would be the Lord and Saviour of all people, from everywhere. What a surprise revelation!"

COMING FUNERALS

Mon 5th January at 12.30 pm for Peter Nolan RIP

Fri 9th January at 11 am for Josephine Jennings RIP

Wed 14th January at 11.30 am for Kathleen Monaghan RIP

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

THE JUBILEE YEAR

2025 the Jubilee Year has now come to an end and we pray that all the sentiments of the Jubilee Year Prayer can come about. Here it is again for the final time and it is well worth keeping a copy in our prayer book to say from time to time.

Jubilee Prayer

God our Father in Heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son Jesus Christ, our Saviour,
and the flame of charity unkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit
awaken in us this Jubilee Year a missionary heart
for the coming of your Kingdom

May the gift of your grace
transform us, Pilgrims of Hope,
into your missionary disciples,
blessed with the gifts and talents you give us.

Strengthen us to share our Saviour's message
of love, joy, and peace
with all the people we meet this year,
so that we may help build up your Kingdom on earth.

To you our God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be glory and praise for ever and ever
Amen.