

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

6th September 2026

23rd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

ST GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 05 Sept	5.30 pm	Hilary Crosbie RIP & Mark Crosbie RIP
Sun 06 Sept	9.30 am	People of the parish
Mon 07 Sept	9.30 am	For all our children and young people as they return to school
Tues 08 Sept	9.30 am	Donor's intention, St Anthony
Wed 09 Sept	9.30 am	For all the victims of ongoing warfare and violence
Thu 10 Sept	9.30 am	Joseph Dussroth RIP
Fri 11 Sept	9.30 am	For all suicide casualties and those in danger of suicide, especially young people
Sat 12 Sept	9.30 am	For the priests of our diocese, especially those retired and those not well
	5.30 pm	People of the parish
Sun 13 Sept	9.30 am	For victims of wild fires at home and abroad

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

The steps Jesus recommends for dealing with being sinned against are geared to bringing healing and restoration of the relationship. How do we deal with conflict and breakdown in our relationships? Is our first concern to bring about a restoration to a broken relationship? Being hurt does not easily lead us to want to be reconciled. Our focus is usually on our wound rather than with helping the other person. The problem with being sinned against is that it leads us to strike back. This is hard to recognise or even acknowledge. At the very least, we know something within ourselves isn't right or needs to be put right so that our inner peace may be restored. The danger is that, rather than seeking peace and consolation in the Lord, we take refuge in justifying our resentment and anger. From there the spiral can only go downwards.

Once we become fixed in that state, we can find ourselves doing some of the things that Jesus suggests – but for the opposite reasons! Certainly, we know the experience of cutting the other person off – refusing to speak to him or her. But this is merely Punishment by Mood (very common in daily life). We can also – and frequently do – rush to tell others about their shortcomings to garnish support and further justify our resentment. The most difficult step is the one Jesus asks us to do first – to speak to the person concerned. Perhaps we really fear such an encounter – what happens if it blows up again, will I get hurt again? We fear another confrontation and we tend to avoid conflict like the plague.

The key seems to be whether or not we have put ourselves right with God before any steps are taken. Perhaps this is part of the meaning of Jesus' words: 'whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven'. Are we bound or loosed? Our freedom to reconcile others really depends upon being loosed ourselves – and this is a work of grace. *Lord, loosen the chains of resentment, set me free to courageously face up to anger and lead me to repentance and reconciliation.*

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE - 30TH September – 7th October 2026

All are welcome to join Fr Andrew on pilgrimage to Medjugorje, flying from East Midlands Airport, costing £794 based on sharing a room, half-board, in accommodation near to St James' Church, with a local guide.

For more information, please contact Alison Riggott (07934 419753 / aliriggott@yahoo.co.uk) or see the poster in church.

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

SECOND COLLECTION today for the Catholic Education Service

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Tues, 8th Sept: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wed 9th Sept: St Peter Claver, priest

Sat 12th Sept: The Most Holy Name of Mary

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

For students and teachers; especially on Sunday, 13th Sept.

For the spread of the Gospel; especially on Sunday 20th Sept.

For the harvest, especially on Sunday, 27th Sept.

For the fruits of human work and the reverent use of creation; especially on Tuesday 1st September

For justice and peace in the world and Holy Father's prayer intentions for September

For the care of water and for equal access to it.

A RECENT DEATH:

Please pray for John Whittamore of Village Street who died recently after a time of illness. We pray for his family at this sad time.

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

The Summary

...and whatever other commandments there may be, are summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself."
ROMANS 13:9

It's striking that loving one's neighbour as oneself is second in importance only to the *Shema*, the great commandment to love the Holy One with one's entire being (Deuteronomy 6:4-5).

So how might I more fully love my neighbour as myself? In light of the Incarnation where the Son of God fully inhabited our human condition, save sin, do I live with awareness of how God is part of the stuff of my own life and others' lives? Do I find space in my day for some stillness and deep listening to inform my actions toward those I'll encounter that day? Do I practice gratitude, recognising the gifts I've received and desiring them for everyone in our world whom God names as neighbour, no exceptions?

Loving God, Holy One, may I enter this day ready to love as you do.

OUR SCHOOLS: We thank God for our Catholic schools, established with great effort and sacrifice by priests and people. We thank God for those of our diocese, and especially for our local Academy Trust for Derbyshire and our Derby academies. We hope all our great staff have been well refreshed by their summer holidays and we pray for the year ahead for great achievements by staff and pupils.