

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

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12th July 2026

DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR SEAFARERS

15th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

ST GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 11 July	5.30 pm	Stanley Brown RIP
Sun 12 July	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Mon 13 July	9.30 am	Sp. Intention, Joseph Dussroth
Tues 14 July	9.30 am	Mary O'Riordan RIP, 10 th anniversary
Wed 15 July	9.30 am	Ruth Walker RIP
Thu 16 July	9.30 am	For all parishioners, young and old and those not well and thanksgiving.
Fri 17 July	9.30 am	For the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, that all goes well.
Sat 18 July	9.30 am	For the work of SPUC, Society for the Protection of Unborn Children
	5.30 pm	Sarah Fortune RIP, 35 th anniversary
Sun 19 July	9.30 am	People of the Parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

The Parable of the Sower is crucial for understanding the other parables but also the Beatitudes and Sermon on the Mount. The Parable of the Sower is the key that unlocks the door. Jesus describes it as the doorway through which we enter all of the parables: 'Don't you understand this parable' (Mark 4:13)

A real problem with this or any other parable is familiarity. Many have heard it since they were children and conclude that they have understood its meaning and there are no more treasures to mine. When we are familiar with something we stop looking at it closely. What's that saying about contempt and familiarity? Ironically, this way of thinking is at the heart of the sower parable.

The parable is about the battle not just for our minds, but also our hearts. It speaks about the daily struggle to fight the good fight of faith and the way we respond to the word of God (the seed). In fact, the soil in the parable can be interpreted as a metaphor for the soil of our mind and the importance for it to be a healthy environment in which the good seed of God's word can flourish.

Of course, we need to meet God halfway by reading his Word (the scriptures) and allowing this very word to root out the thorns and thistles and other impediments to the seed's healthy growth. The question facing us every day is: how can our minds be rich, fertile and productive soil in which God's word can take root. Of course, if we don't carve out a time and place to read, study and contemplate Scripture, our minds cannot be renewed, refreshed and enlightened by it. We remain barren soil. This can be challenging: for many of us time is one of our most precious commodities. However, we all know that we make time for what we want to make time for. We cannot understand God's Word without the help, action and movement of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was given so that we would understand the things of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit reignites our love for the Scriptures so that they come alive and we develop a thirst to read them and a hunger to hear and understand them.

Lord, may my heart be 'good soil' that your word would take deep root in me and I would bear fruit for the kingdom, thirty, sixty and even a hundred times what was sown.

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

SECOND COLLECTION this weekend for seafarers, Stella Maris

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Mon 13th July: St Henry
Tues 14th July: St Camillus de Lellis
Wed 15th July: St Bonaventure, Bishop & Doctor
Thurs 16th July: Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Sat 18th July: Saturday Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary

MASTER GARDENER

The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it...MATTHEW 13:23

If you have ever tried to grow anything, you can probably relate to today's Gospel. I know I can. Once I planted arugula seeds, but birds came and ate everything. Another time, I tried planting tulip bulbs, but it was nearly impossible because the ground was hard and rocky, not to mention about the weeds, especially the thorny ones. In today's Gospel, Jesus uses everyday experiences in creation to speak to us. In short, he is asking us to examine our soil, or rather, our soul.

Is there a habit in my life that prevents God's Word from penetrating my soul?

Have I been hardened because of my inability to forgive?
Does the busyness of life crowd out my time for God?

Whatever is holding us back from hearing God's Word, let us ask the Master Gardener to cultivate the rich soil that will allow seeds to grow and bear much fruit.

CATHOLIC POST & CATHOLIC NEWS

Please take a copy of each for July.

I recommend especially the article in the Catholic Post on the Pope's new encyclical letter all about artificial intelligence. Also, lots of other interesting news and articles on events and spirituality.

THE PADLEY PILGRIMAGE in honour of the martyrs Nicolas Garlic, Robert Ludlum and Richard Simpson, who were executed on the Padley Bridge in Derby in 1588, takes place on Sunday 12th July from 3 pm.

CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered by our Bishop Patrick McKinney at English Martyrs Church, Alvaston, at 11 am this Sunday. 12th July. Please pray for the 40 or so young people to be confirmed and their families, including a number from St George's. The Sacrament of Confirmation strengthens us in our faith as we face the many counter challenges to belief in God and the following of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.