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

15th November 2026 WORLD DAY OF PEACE 33RD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

ST GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 14 Nov	5.30 pm	P J Crosbie and deceased of the family
Sun 15 Nov	9.30 am	People of the parish
Mon 16 Nov	9.30 am	For Michael White for good health
Tues 17 Nov	9.30 am	In thanksgiving Matthew Peter Aliguuma, for successful job application
Wed 18 Nov	9.30 am	For Geoff Boulter and the deceased members of the Boulter family
Thu 19 Nov	9.30 am	Intention for Den Read
Fri 20 Nov	9.30 am	Tom Farrell RIP
Sat 21 Nov	9.30 am	The deceased members of the Sameresinghe and Brennan families
	5.30 pm	The deceased members of the Donovan fam.
Sun 22 Nov	9.30 am	People of the parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION: 'Eschatology' is the study of the end-times. Today's Gospel reading forms part of Jesus' eschatological discourse which begins at Matthew 24 and goes on until the end of chapter 25. Earlier in his discourse, Jesus emphasised that the Second Coming would be unmistakable (24:27ff), unknown (v.36) and unexpected (v.44). His focus, however was not on the where or when of his return, but the response expected of faithful disciples. This emphasis is captured in the phrases 'Stay awake' and 'Watch', which occur in Matthew 24:42 and then in Matthew 25;13. In between these two verses there are three parables (the thief and the house-owner: the slave who remains faithful the wise and foolish virgins) which stress both the unexpectedness of the Master's return, and the absolute necessity for his servants to be prepared or to 'stay awake and watch'.

But what does keeping awake and watchful involve? That's the question today's Gospel passage seeks to answer. It is about keeping the faith in trying circumstances – for the master is gone a long time (v.19) and the date of his return is uncertain.

'Talents' here do not refer to gifts or abilities (although the Greek word used is the root of the English word 'talent'), but to a large unit of money. The servants were to engage in trading (v.16) in their Master's name. To be identified with Jesus and to do business in his name is seldom profitable from a purely human viewpoint. It is also, frequently, a risky business! It is far safer not to get too involved. Like the third slave who opted for safety, rather than service.

Yet 'staying awake' or 'keeping watch' is never about passive waiting but demands an active involvement in anything and everything which is God's business. Our faith is expressed not only in creeds and confessions but by putting our money (and everything else we possess) where our mouth is, that is, living as 'sons of light and sons of the day…' (1 Thessalonians 5:5).

With God as our Investment Advisor, the ride may be rocky – but the returns will be out of this world!

ENGLISH MARTYRS SVP SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The SVP at English Martyrs are holding their annual Christmas Party on 29 November and we warmly invite St George's senior citizens to join us. We start with Mass and anointing at 3.00pm followed by refreshments and entertainment in the Parish Hall.

If you would like to join us please fill in your name and address on the sheets at the back of Church. We look forward to having you join us.

Unfortunately we are not able to offer transport as we don't have the capacity to do so. If family or friends are giving the senior citizens a lift, they are very welcome to stay for the mass, but unfortunately we can't accommodate them at the party. They will need to leave and pick them up later.

MOTHER'S PRAYERS: The Mother's Prayer Group continues to meet every Monday morning after the 9.30 am Mass. All are welcome.

Also, Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament continues every day before the morning Masses.

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

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Mon 16th Nov: St Margaret of Scotland
Tues 17th Nov: St Hugh of Lincoln, Patron of our diocese
Wed 18th Nov: The Dedication of the Basilicas of SS Peter and Paul, Apostles
Thus 19th Nov: St Elizabeth of Hungary
Sat 21st Nov: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: The new boxes of envelopes have arrived and begin on 6th December. Please take your box which has your name on it. Also, we have a few extra boxes for those who may wish to use an offertory donation envelope.

POPE LEO XIV: Let us all keep Pope Leo XIV in our daily prayers and in our Masses for his continuing good health and for many blessings of the people on his grand visitations of countries of Latin America. May those nations and all in South America continue to grow in the faith and Good News of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

UNBURIED TREASURE

Well done, my good and faithful servant. MATTHEW 25;21

What are we doing with God's gifts?

The servants are told to watch over their master's money. Two of them make something from what they've been given. But the third just buries it. Afraid of doing the wrong thing, or just taking a risk, he does absolutely nothing. And he ends up paying the price. Fundamentally, this seems to be a parable about the choices we make – to act, to build, to grow or to just settle for the status quo.

But it's also about fear. How often do we hear these words, "Do not be afraid"?
Yet, sometimes fear gets the best of us. We cling to what's comfortable. We don't want to risk.

Jesus continually challenges us to risk – to love, to sacrifice and to do it boldly, even fearlessly. His lesson is clear: I've handed you these treasures in my teachings. Don't bury them. Put them to use.

Are we courageous enough to do that? What we need to bury are our fears – and then let grace grow.

MASS FOR OUR DEAD: If you wish to have a mass offered particularly for a deceased family member or friend, please write their name and place it in an envelope and give it in at church or through the parish house, 40 Village Street, together with your mass offering.