

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

Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Brentnall

Pastor Emeritus: Canon Alan Burbidge

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17th May 2026

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

7th SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

ST GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat	16 May	5.30 pm	The Crosbie family
Sun	17 May	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Mon	18 May	9.30 am	Bill Eadie RIP (anniversary time)
Tues	19 May	9.30 am	For an end to war among the nations, especially in the Ukraine
Wed	20 May	9.30 am	For the many thousands of people killed by war in Gaza, of all faiths and none
Thu	21 May	9.30 am	Sp. Intention of the donor
Fri	22 May	9.30 am	Donor's intention, St Anthony
Sat	23 May	9.30 am	For Michael, Jimmy's son RIP and the family
		5.30 pm	Pentecost Vigil Mass, Holy Souls
Sun	24 May	9.30 am	Pentecost Sunday: People of the parish and First Holy Communion families

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

The seventeenth chapter of John's Gospel (John 17) concludes the farewell discourse of Jesus, except it isn't a discourse, it's actually a prayer. Moses (Deut. 29-34), Jacob (Gen.49) and Paul (Acts 20:17-38) said farewell to their people too.

Jesus' farewell is one long prayer to the heavenly Father, and is a kind of expansion of the *Our Father* and discloses his intimate relationship with God, whom he revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The prayer is often called Jesus' Priestly Prayer but could equally be called Jesus' Prayer for Union. We might feel reticent about praying Jesus' Priestly Prayer because we're not priests but through baptism we're immersed into Jesus' priestly, kingly and prophetic ministry. We all have some share in Jesus' threefold ministry, Jesus' prayer is intimate and loving and reveals the nature of his relationship with the Father. Do you have a relationship with God the Father?"

Jesus is the beloved Son of the Father and he alone has the authority to give the gift of eternal life. Eternal life is heaven and only Jesus can give us heaven. We tend to think of heaven as a place we hope we will enter after we die. Jesus' prayer reveals, however, that heaven isn't so much a place but a state of being or knowing. Eternal life is '...that they may know [the Father]... and Jesus Christ whom you have sent' (v.3). To know Jesus is eternal life. Do you know Jesus? We encounter him when we pray and come into his presence. Indeed, he promised that whenever even two or three gather in his name he is present. Jesus is also present in the Eucharist and in the tabernacle.

Our knowing Jesus in this life is the 'eternal life' which transcends death. In other words, we've already received eternal life and our vocation is to cultivate it so that its seed grows and deepens within us. We're called to an ongoing conversion, which could also be called an ongoing revelation; an ever deeper, mature and firmer grasp of God's love poured out upon us through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is eternal life: to proclaim Jesus as Lord, to pray to our heavenly Father, and to call upon the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life.

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION ON 12TH JULY AT 11 am

As announced in St George's, the Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated at English Martyrs Church on Sunday, 12th July, at 11 am. Please complete an application form and return it to church. Classes will begin on Saturday, 13th June, at 10.30 am in English Martyrs Church.

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

SECOND COLLECTION this weekend for Catholic Communications.

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Mon 18 May: St John, 1st Pope & Martyr
Tues 19 May: St Dunstan, Bishop
Wed 20 May: St Bernadine of Siena, Priest
Thurs 21 May:: St Christopher of Magallanes, Priest and
Companions, Martyrs
Fri 22 May: St Rita of Cascia, Religious

Suffering Transformed

Rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ ...?
1 PETER 4:13

When our daughter was fifteen months old, she was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. Her whole childhood has been one of small sufferings, insulin injections, finger pricks to check her blood sugar, regular doctor visits. It hasn't been easy, and many were the days when she would lament how her condition has made her life more difficult.

The question of suffering is a common one in today's sceptical world: How can an all-loving God allow pain and humiliation? There's no single answer that will be satisfying to every person – but in some ways, it's the wrong question. More vitally, where is God when we suffer?

The answer is: on the Cross. Our God doesn't sit removed from human suffering but has entered into it, taking on our pains, toils and humiliations. We can rejoice in our suffering because Jesus has transformed it through his resurrection. When we offer our suffering along with his, it is redeemed and becomes grace for us and for the world.

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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, 24th May, St George's, 9.30 am.

Please pray for our children preparing for their 1st Holy Communion, and for their families

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.

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