

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

19th July 2026

16th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

ST GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 18 July	5.30 pm	Sarah Fortune RIP, 35th anniversary
Sun 19 July	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Mon 20 July	9.30 am	Christopher Cole RIP (brother of Fr Andrew Cole)
Tues 21 July	9.30 am	Martin McAleavey RIP (birthday remembrance)
Wed 22 July	9.30 am	For world peace, especially Ukraine-Russia and Iran-USA
Thu 23 July	9.30 am	For Jimmy's son, Michael RIP
Fri 24 July	9.30 am	.Sp. Intention for Margaret Johnson
Sat 25 July	9.30 am	For the victims of natural disasters and wildfires
	5.30 pm	Mark and Hillary Crosbie RIP
Sun 26 July	9.30 am	People of the Parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

A common reason given why people don't become Christians or a member of the Catholic Church is 'because the Church is full of hypocrites'. It's true but one possible response might be: 'Ah well, don't worry, one more won't make any difference.' Of course, the Church is full of hypocrites, it is a Church of sinners after all but it is also full of saints, men and women who strive to live holy lives. It goes without saying that the institutional Church's history – including the child abuse scandal, the covering up of abuse, the millions (billions) paid in compensation and many other examples of shocking scandal are humiliating, embarrassing and yes, to be ashamed of.

But the truth is that the wheat grows with the tares, good subsists with evil, the good fruit grows alongside the bad. St Pope Paul VI said that 'the smoke of Satan has entered the Church', referring to the practice of the darker arts regarding church finances and various power struggles. Pope Francis was equally forthright: 'There are also cases of malicious resistance, which spring up in misguided minds and come to the fore when the devil inspires ill intentions (often cloaked in sheep's clothing). This last kind of resistance..... takes refuge in traditions, appearances, formalities, in the familiar. Dear brothers and sisters, it isn't wrinkles, we need to worry about in the Church, but stains!'

The Church is always in need of reform, and so are we. There is evil in the Church and the whiff of Satan can be found just as much in the parish or diocese as in the world. However, final judgement belongs to God when the wheat will be separated by God at the harvest at 'the end of the age' (v. 39) NIV). We know the devil roams like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. We trust in God and we trust in our conscience, and we trust that the Holy Spirit will always direct and guide Pope Leo and the bishops as they lead the Church.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, St Michael the Archangel, illustrious leader of the heavenly army, defend us in the battle against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the world of darkness and the spirit of wickedness in high places.

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

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Mon 20th July: St Apollinaris, Bishop & Martyr
Tues 21st July: St Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor
Wed 22nd July: St Mary Magdalene (Feast)
Thurs 23rd July: St Bridget of Sweden, Religious, Patron of Europe (Feast)
Fri 24th July: St Sharbel Makhluf, Priest
Sat 25th July: St James, Apostle (Feast)

It's Simple, Be Kind

.....those who are just must be kind. WISDOM 2:19

It is probably a sad commentary on the world that we need reminders to be kind. In a parish that I served one individual often wore a shirt or a lapel button that said "Be kind". That simple statement is really a secular iteration of the great command of Jesus to love one another. If your experience of life is like mine, almost daily we see examples of people not being kind.

In 2025, a priest seminary classmate of mine passed away unexpectedly. His death was circulated all throughout social media. I was perusing the comments on a post, and someone wrote, "He deserved to die because of...". When I read that, I was appalled and I realised why we need a near daily reminder to be kind. The scriptures today tell us those who are just must be kind. To be just means we give to the other what they are due. And what a person ultimately is due to kindness.

Lord, let me be kind to all I meet.

RECENT DEATHS:

Please pray for Mary Brigid Reid of Arkwright St, Derby, who died recently. Requiem Mass will take place at St George's on Wednesday, 29th July, t 12.30 pm.

We extend our sincere sympathies to the family and our prayers.

Also, please pray for Frances Constantino Guiseppe Saccone of Sinfen Ave, Shelton Lock, Derby, who died recently. Requiem Mass will take place at St George's on Thursday, 6th August at 10.30 am.

We extend our sincere sympathies to the family and our prayers.

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

THE LOURDES PILGRIMAGE, *Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.*

As I write this newsletter our pilgrims, led by Bishop Patrick and a number of priests and other helpers, will be in Lourdes. Our Lady appeared to St Bernadette in 1858 and issued her call for pilgrimage and prayer. Over the many years a great outpouring of prayer and pilgrimage has resulted. A good number of pilgrims have been physically healed and many more spiritually renewed.

**CONFIRMATION at ENGLISH MARTYRS, ALVASTON
On SUNDAY, 12TH JULY at 11 am**

Candidates from English Martyrs and St George's churches, and travellers, over 40 in number, were confirmed at English Martyrs Church, Alvaston, last Sunday. Bishop Patrick, together with Fr Mark and Fr Alan, led us in a lovely ceremony with fine singing in a packed church. The Bishop spoke eloquently on the meaning of Confirmation and the work of the Holy Spirit. He spoke of the Gospel of the sower and the harvest from the seeds in good and fertile soil. We pray that our young people, attentive and well supported by family and friends, will continue to grow in their faith and love of their neighbour. We pray for them as they meet the challenges of life, especially for our youth, that we are hearing so much about in these times. May our government, under new leadership, be more successful in their efforts for all of us.