

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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21st June 2026

12th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

ST GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 20 June	5.30 pm	For the Crosbie and Donavan families
Sun 21 June	9.30 am	People of the parish
Mon 22 June	9.30 am	For Maria & Neil's family, for those who have passed away and for those alive
Tues 23 June	9.30 am 1.30 pm	For Michael, Jimmy's son (RIP) Service for Rose Gilligan at Markeaton Crematorium
Wed 24 June	10.00 am	Requiem for Geoffrey Boulter RIP
Thu 25 June	9.30 am	Donor's intention, St Anthony of Padua, in thanksgiving
Fri 26 June	9.30 am	For the safety of all our children in serious danger from harmful online materials
Sat 27 June	9.30 am 5.30 pm	Tom & Kathleen Connolly RIP Mary Murray RIP Ss Peter & Paul, Apostles
Sun 28 June	9.30 am	Mary & Trevor Savage RIP

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Courage is grace under pressure and believers need this virtue more than ever. Try standing up for your faith in the public square or market place or at work or in the street and you will face very likely ridicule, scorn, contempt, hatred and persecution. Some years ago the late Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue, then Bishop of Lancaster was summoned to appear before a select committee of MPs to answer for his views on Catholic education. The Chairman of the select committee concluded: 'It seems to me that faith education works alright as long as people are not that serious about their faith. But as soon as there is a more doctrinaire attitude, questions have to be asked.'

This MP highlights an important point in saying that when Christians toe the line, don't kick against secular wisdom, don't make a fuss, don't stand up for what they believe in, then everything is 'hunky-dory'. The problem comes when Christians don't toe the line, when they do kick against secular culture, do make a fuss, do protest and do stand up for what they believe in. He is saying that faith education will work well for everybody involved as long as believers don't take their faith too seriously; however, the minute they do, there is a problem.

Jesus knew that those who follow him would become involved in exactly this kind of struggle. Believers have always been a threat because we look beyond this world and (by God's grace) are given the courage and strength to stand up under pressure and persecution. God will give us the courage we need – and make no mistake – we need courage. It is too easy to say nothing, to hide away or simply 'leave it alone' and maintain the status quo, afraid of upsetting others or of finding ourselves out of favour.

'Courage can be learned by following the example of Job. Here was a man who suffered a complete reversal of fate and having once been rich and the father of numerous children was reduced in a single moment to poverty and childlessness. And yet he managed to remain completely unchanged, never ceasing to attend to the wellbeing of his soul and even showing no anger towards those friends of his who had come to console him but who ended up by insulting him and merely increasing his afflictions.' (St Basil the Great)

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

SECOND COLLECTION this weekend is for Day of Life.
Next weekend 2nd collection is for Peter's Pence

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Mon 22nd June Ss John Fisher & Thomas More, Martyrs
Wed 24th June: The Nativity of St John the Baptist
Sat 27th June: St Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop & Doctor

RECENT DEATHS AND COMING FUNERALS:

Please pray for Geoffrey Boulter of Padston Close, Derby, who died a short time ago. Requiem Mass will take place at St George's Church on Wednesday, 24th June 2026 at 10 am.
Also, please pray for Rosa (Rose) Gilligan of Moorside Crescent, Sinfen, Derby, who died recently. The funeral service will take place at Markeaton Crematorium on 23rd June 2026 at 1.30 pm.
We continue to pray for the families in their sad loss and the deceased.
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

GOD'S GRACE OF FORGIVENESS

Corrie ten Boom endured unthinkable suffering at the Ravensbruck concentration camp. In her book *Tramp for the Lord*, she writes of her struggle to forgive a former Ravensbruck guard. She knew in her heart that she had to forgive him, but recalling how her sister Betsy had died at that camp, she simply couldn't find it in her.

Through a series of providential coincidences (are there any other?) her former captor stood before her, hand outstretched, asking for forgiveness, Corrie prayed; she told the Lord that she would stretch out her hand, but that he would have to do the rest. And he did! Corrie writes: 'woodenly, mechanically, I thrust my hand into the one stretched out to me. And as I did, an incredible thing took place. The current started in my shoulder, raced down my arm, sprang into our joined hands. And then this healing warmth seemed to flood my whole being, bringing tears to my eyes. "I forgive you, brother!" I cried. "With all my heart!" A hated and feared enemy was transformed into a beloved brother.

It's easy to love those who love us. It's even easier to hate those who hate us! Jesus not only asks us to check our natural reactions, he commands us to respond in a manner that is not so much unnatural as supernatural. For he challenges us to imitate the Heavenly Father, who does not discriminate between the 'good' and 'evil' person but loves everyone regardless.

THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR JUNE

For the values of sport; Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounters and dialogue among cultures and nations; that they promote values such as respect, solidarity and personal growth.

CONFIRMATION

The classes have begun at English Martyrs Church led by Fr Mark Brentnall. Confirmation will be celebrated at English Martyrs on Sunday, 12th July at 11 am.
Please keep the candidates and their families in your prayers.