

**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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26th April 2026

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

4th SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

**ST GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS**

Sat 25 Apr	5.30 pm	For peace in the world
Sun 26 Apr	9.30 am	People of the parish
Mon 27 Apr	9.30 am	Sp. Intention for Anne Kelly
Tues 28 Apr	9.30 am	For all parish benefactors
Wed 29 Apr	9.30 am	Thomas Anthony Burbidge and deceased of the family
Thu 30 Apr	9.30 am	For Pope Leo XIV's intentions and especially for world peace
Fri 01 May	9.30 am	For all parishioners who are not well
Sat 02 May	9.30 am	In thanksgiving to St Anthony of Padua, donor's intention
	5.30 pm	People of the parish
Sun 03 May	9.30 am	For all our children preparing for 1 <sup>st</sup> Holy Communion

**GOSPEL REFLECTION:**

Today's Gospel reading contains one of the verses in the bible that it is good to know and even memorise. John 10:10 sums up the essence of the Christian life and why Jesus came: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). But what does this mean? It means that we should be filled to the brim with the fruits of the Spirit, and it is Spirit-filled lives which will make others want to be believers.

In the rather unsavoury world of blogs and social media Christians are hard at it – being indignant, shocked, horrified, defending the Pope (as if the Pope needed defending: he is quite big enough to look after himself and anyway he has a Swiss Guard to do that!) and so on – there is a perception that Christians are easily offended, don't take a joke, and are rather down on sex, alcohol and, yes, living life to the full.

For the record Catholics are not down on sex (sex is one of God's great gifts) or alcohol (Jesus changed water into gallons of the stuff). God created sex and booze, and he created them good. The problem invariably isn't sex or booze but moderation. It isn't food or drink that are evil but their excess. Jesus came so that we could be fully human, fully alive and live this life to the full.

The philosopher Jean Paul Sartre, considered to be the father of modern existentialism (a philosophy which posits that life is meaningless and empty), said once. 'Everything has been figured out, except how to live.' He might have been a great intellect but he got that wrong. Jesus came to show us how to live. The sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes show us how to live the life in the Spirit. We can live holy, joyful and happy lives because God has given us the Spirit. So stop being a sourpuss, stop being miserable and moody, and turn back to the Lord, because he came to bring us the fullness of life and the fullness of joy.

*Each small task of everyday life is part of the total harmony of the universe.' (St Therese of Lisieux).*

**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.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

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

Classes at English Martyrs start Saturday 25th April at 10.30 am

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

**SECOND COLLECTION** this weekend is for the Clergy Foundation Fund.

**SAINTS THIS WEEK:**

Tues 28<sup>th</sup> Apr: St Peter Chanel

Wed 29<sup>th</sup> Apr: St Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe

Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> Apr: St Pius V, Pope

Fri 1<sup>st</sup> May: St Joseph the Worker

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> May: St Anthanasius, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

**A Strengthening Banquet**

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes. PALSM 23:5  
We don't need to look too far to know the presence of the broken body of Christ – in ourselves and each other, and in the wounded outcasts on the margins of our communities. We see the sorrowful, suffering faces wandering the streets. We feel the reality of heartache and loss in our families. And, when we know the suffering that comes from wearying of doing good – from advocating for peace and justice. We can so easily fall into the traps of despair, discouragement and doubt. For sure, imitating Christ is costly.

Devotion to Jesus can make us unpopular, and Love bonds us to the horror of the Cross. But then, God's Word comforts. The psalmist sends a message: *Yes, yes, there are those that oppose love. But don't worry, God provides all you need.* So, we sit up at the table and feast on grace: a banquet that strengthens us to love some more.

**CHRISTIAN MARTYRS OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

Shockingly, the twentieth century was the most violent in recorded history, the roll call of martyrs far exceeding that of any previous period. Ten twentieth-century Christian martyrs are commemorated with statues at Westminster Abbey in London. These martyrs were both witnesses of faith and also witnesses of Christian unity because the call of martyrdom does not discriminate by denomination. The second-century theologian Tertullian said, 'The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church' and his words remain true. Today we remember the witness of these martyrs, who stand on the shoulders of St Stephen.

The Grand Duchess Elizabeth of Russia, killed by the Bolsheviks: Manche Masemola, an Anglican catechumen from South Africa, killed in 1928 by her parents at the age of sixteen; Maximilian Kolbe, a Franciscan Friar killed by the Nazis in 1941; Lucian Tapiedi, an Anglican from Papua New Guinea, killed in 1941 during the Japanese invitation; Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor and theologian killed by the Nazis in 1945; Esther John, a Presbyterian evangelist from Pakistan, allegedly killed by a Muslim fanatic in 1960; Martin Luther King Jr, the civil rights activist assassinated in 1969; Wang Zhiming, a Chinese pastor killed during the Chinese Cultural Revolution; Archbishop Janani Luwum, assassinated during the rule of Idi Amin in Uganda; Archbishop Oscar Romero assassinated in E Salvador in 1980. *Pray for us.*

**CYCLE OF PRAYER DURING EASTERTIDE**, we pray for these intentions:

New Members of the Church

For Vocations

For human work, especially on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> May, Feast of St Joseph the worker

For survivors of abuse, especially on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May.

For the right use of media, especially on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May

For the church, especially on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May.