

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

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Mark Brentnall

**Assistant:** Canon Alan Burbidge Emeritus

*Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Company Number 7151646 Charity Number 1134449 Registered Office: Willson House, 25 Derby Road, Nottingham. NG1 5AW*

27<sup>th</sup> April 2025

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

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

Sat 26 Apr	5.30 pm	Pope Francis RIP
Sun 27 Apr	9.30 am	Michael White for good health
Mon 28 Apr	9.30 am	For all the victims of war and violence, especially in the Ukraine, Gaza, the Sudan and the Yemen
Tues 29 Apr	9.30 am	In thanksgiving to St Anthony
Wed 30 Apr	9.30 am	Colum and Kath Keenan RIP
	11.45 am	Funeral service for Edward Dunne RIP
Thu 01 May	9.30 am	For all who are not well, especially those in our Derby Hospital
Fri 02 May	9.30 am	The Doherty family for good health
Sat 03 May	9.30 am	People of the Parish
	5.30 pm	Joseph Ferrie RIP
Sun 04 May	9.30 am	Pope Francis RIP

**GOSPEL REFLECTION:**

St Thomas is the patron saint of doubters and waverers. This makes him very much the patron saint of our age, which is an age of doubt and scepticism. Atheism, less a doubt more a dogman requiring faith, is all the rage. And rage is very much the order of the day. Richard Dawkins and the late Christopher Hitchens wrote books like *The God Delusion* and *God is Not Great*.

Although St Thomas is referred to as 'Doubting Thomas' it is an unfair epithet because, as St John Henry Newman once reflected, 'Ten thousand difficulties do not make one doubt.' In other words, while St Thomas certainly questioned and struggled, this was part and parcel of his journey of faith. Faith in God and acceptance of Jesus is often reached through a process which invariably involves questions, struggles and difficulties.

Indeed, doubt and unbelief is no more or less than fear dressed up: 'For I kept my heart from assenting to anything, fearing to fall headlong; but hanging in suspense I was worse killed' (St Augustine).

Doubt can be the gateway into faith. In his poem *Bishop Blougram's Apology* Robert Browning wrote, 'The more of doubt, the stronger faith, I say, if faith o'ercomes doubt.' In St Thomas' case faith overcame doubt – although admittedly he was blessed and privileged to see the risen Lord and touch his wounds. Unlike the disciples we were not chosen to actually see the Lord, but we have been chosen to receive great comfort and consolation from him, and he assures us that we are blessed indeed because we believe but have not seen (John 20:29)

The biblical definition of faith is to be sure of what we hope for and certain of what we cannot see (see Heb.11:1). Faith invites us to live by a different faculty from just reason. Faith invites us to trust in the promises of Christ, to rely on them and to base our lives on them. God will never disappoint us, God will never let us down. Faith is the currency of the kingdom. We can only live by faith, but a time will come when faith will no longer be required because we will see God face to face.

*Come, Lord Jesus, Come.*

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** Classes will begin on Sunday, 4th May. Fr Mark Brentnall will address parents and children after the Sunday Masses during May. Forms for application will be available at church. Candidates are children of Year 3 school age or older children who have not yet made their First Holy Communion.

**THE CHURCH AT HOLY SPIRIT:** As Fr Brentnall announced when he spoke to the people at Holy Spirit, the church will remain available for prayer and prayer meetings and activities. It will also be available for funerals if families wish to have a Requiem Mass or service at Holy Spirit before burial or cremation of a loved one.

**EASTER THANKS**

Many thanks to all who helped in preparation and celebration of Holy Week and Easter, in preparing the church and in the services. Sincere thanks also for your generous Easter Offerings.

**CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY ONLY: 10:15 – 10:45**

**SECOND COLLECTION for Clergy Formation Fund to be taken next Sunday.**

**SAINTS THIS WEEK:**

Mon 28<sup>th</sup> April: St George, Martyr, Patron of England (transferred from 23 April)

Tues 29<sup>th</sup> April: St Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor, Patron of Europe

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

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

Fri 2<sup>n</sup> May: St Anthanasius, Bishop & Doctor

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> May: Sts Philip & James, Apostles.

**FORTHCOMING FUNERALS AT ST. GEORGE'S:**

For Edward Dunne, Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 11.45 am

For Stephen McCrystal, Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> May at 12 noon

And at English Martyrs, Alvaston

For Thomasina Buonaguro, Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May at 9 am. Reception into church on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May at 6 pm.

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

**Filling Our Sails**

*The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.* JOHN 3:8

I don't know much about sailing, but I do know this: The sailor doesn't control from which direction the wind comes. The wind just is. The wind just blows. The sailor's job is to turn into that wind and let it fill the sails so the boat moves.

In the same way, the Holy Spirit just is. The Spirit just blows through our lives. Our calling is to learn to receive and harness the power of the Holy Spirit, allowing it into our lives, letting it move us forward in the direction God wants us to go. To be born of the Spirit means to give that wind the central and dominant place in our lives.

*Holy Spirit, help me to know this more fully: I live and move and have my being because of your precious, sacred breath in me.*

**POPE FRANCIS RIP:** For many days Pope Francis battled with serious illness and recovered sufficiently to get back to work. On Easter Sunday he gave a short prayer of Easter blessing and then went around St Peter's Square in his popemobile. However, he did not look well but it was quite a shock to hear on Monday morning that he had died. He suffered a stroke and had heart failure.

We thank God for his life and ministry as a Bishop in Argentina and as the universal shepherd of the Catholic Church. He has spoken and written well on many subjects and given a great sense of welcome and inclusion to many people, Catholics and of other faiths and other people. May his good teaching and good example continue to inspire people as the human race deals with many serious challenges. Especially to continuing wars in many parts of the world and the increasing challenges we face with the changes to the world climate and to the world economy. *Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.*

**THE FUTURE LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH:** Let us pray hard that God in his providence and by the pouring out of the Holy Spirit may raise up in the Church, a good new Pope and inspire all the Cardinals and Bishops and clergy to be ever renewed in their ministries to preach and teach the Good News of Jesus our risen Lord and Saviour.