

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

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3rd August 2025

18th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

St GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 02 Aug	5.30 pm	Leonard Raymond Heath, RIP, benefactor
Sun 03 Aug	9.30 am	Albert Woodcock RIP, 2nd Anniversary
Mon 04 Aug	9.30 am	Gordon Pomford RIP
Tues 05 Aug	9.30 am	Donor's intention, St Anthony
Wed 06 Aug	9.30 am	Kenny Morton RIP
Thu 07 Aug	9.30 am	For those in hospital, especially Michael White and John Redfearn
Fri 08 Aug	9.30 am	For Hanni Rupik RIP, benefactor and her sister Susan Rupik RIP
Sat 09 Aug	9.30 am	For all our families of the parish, the living and dead
	5.30 pm	Zdenek Kurecaj RIP
Sun 10 Aug	9.30 am	People of the Parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

The man in the crowd asking Jesus to settle a family dispute wanted him to act like a rabbi. Jesus, however, is instantly aware that his request stems from greed and envy. He chooses to expose the motives of the man's heart rather than settle his grievance. The Lord teaches that the purpose and meaning of life is to make oneself 'rich toward God' (v.21).

Greed and envy focus a person on self. Those who pursue wealth seek security and safety. They use their riches to shield themselves from life's vicissitudes and to find comfort and confidence in material things. In the pursuit of wealth they lose sight of the real meaning of life because they are seduced by the illusion that with their fortune they cannot control their lives. Yet one day everyone will die – possessions cannot protect against that day.

Furthermore, the pursuit of affluence and pleasure eliminates both God and neighbour from sight since the focus is exclusively on obtaining possessions in order to feel secure: 'I will say to my soul. Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years: take your ease, eat, drink, be merry' (v.19). Finally wealth creates the desire for greater wealth, making the circle of illusion complete.

Being rich in the sight of God, on the other hand, brings into sharp focus the purpose of life and allows us to live according to truth. The real meaning of life is that we depend upon God for everything: God is the source of all good, and we are created for relationship with him. Our security is to be found in God alone: we can live with confidence in the knowledge that he is directing our lives, that he cares for us and will provide for all our needs.

Since God gives us everything we need, we can be generous towards those in need and share our goods with them. Unlike those who pursue the self-absorbed path of avarice and envy, we can, to God's glory and praise, live our lives rich towards God. This will enable us to place greater trust and dependency on our Father in heaven and in openness to our neighbours' needs.

Lord, you are the source of all I am and all I possess. Cleanse my heart of greed and envy. Teach me to depend on you for my every need. Make me rich in your sight.

HOLIDAYS: If you are going away on holidays we pray that you will travel safely and return refreshed but not too sunburnt.
Have a lovely break.

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Mon 4th Aug: St John Mary Vianney, Priest, the Cure of Ars
Tues 5th Aug: Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major
Wed 6th Aug: The Transfiguration of the Lord (Feast)
Thurs 7th Aug: St Sixtus II, Pope and Companions, Martyrs
Fri 8th Aug: St Dominic, Priest
Sat 9th Aug: St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin & Martyr, Patron of Europe.

"ONE SOLITARY LIFE"

Dr James Allen Francis, in his poem 'One Solitary Life', tells the story of Jesus. He was born of peasant stock into poverty in an obscure Palestinian hamlet. He worked as a carpenter until he was thirty. He lived the life of an itinerant preacher for three years. He owned no home and never married. He had no credentials, no university education. He never travelled more than 200 miles from his home. When he was a young man the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends deserted him and one denied ever knowing him. He was turned over to his enemies, forced to endure the mockery of a trial, and eventually crucified between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property he owned on earth – his coat. When he was dead, he was taken down from the cross and laid in a borrowed grave. Yet this hidden and apparently inconsequential life has become the very centrepiece of human history. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever mobilised, all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the history of the world as much as this one solitary life.

OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Please keep in mind all our children and young people of St George's and English Martyrs Parish now, as you know, being served by your priests as one parish family.

Our primary schools, St John Fisher and St George's have now broken up for the summer holidays after a good term and a good year. Also, St Benedict school too.

We pray that all the pupils will be safe in the long holiday from school and that the staff will be refreshed and renewed.

We give thanks also for little ones and their families who have celebrated Baptism in recent weeks and for travelling families who have had their young people Confirmed and made 1st Holy Communion. We thank Sr Bernadette again for her chaplaincy to them and the preparation work.

The FREE PAPERS, CATHOLIC POST and CATHOLIC NEWS for the month of August are now available. Lots of nice articles on events and people.

In **Catholic Post:** To be a pilgrim, Archbishop receives Pallium from Pope Leo XIV; Dalai Lama's 90th birthday; Catholic school organisers meet Pope Leo IV; Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati to be canonised together and others for canonisation; Bishop Patrick on welcome for Noisy Families.

In **Catholic News:** 50th anniversary of St Joseph's, Rutland; A Day of Eucharistic reflection; Fr Jim O'Hanlon, 60th Anniversary of Ordination; St Mary's CV Academy, Derby, pupils at Walsingham.

Please take your free copy.