

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

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24th August 2025

21st SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

St GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 23 Aug	5.30 pm	Lourdes Watters RIP, 2nd anniversary
Sun 24 Aug	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Mon 25 Aug	9.30 am	Special Intention, RN
Tues 26 Aug	9.30 am	Benefactors of the Johnson fund for needs of diocesan priests
Wed 27 Aug	9.30 am	May Keathen RIP
Thu 28 Aug	9.30 am	Michael Gallagher RIP
Fri 29 Aug	9.30 am	Deceased clergy
Sat 30 Aug	9.30 am	For peace in the world
	5.30 pm	Larry and May Morgan RIP
Sun 31 Aug	9.30 am	People of the Parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

'Are you saved?' It is a little intrusive isn't it, if not slightly offensive? Does the question even deserve a response? Our hackles get raised, due more to embarrassment and a sense of invasion of our privacy. Yet Jesus was interrogate in a similar way, his interlocutor keen to know not whether he will be save but how? (v.23).

Jesus doesn't dismiss the question but rather comes at it from a different angle. Refusing to get bogged down in statistics, he counsels that the gateway to everlasting life is a narrow one and then tells a parable about a householder who doesn't know those who pound on his door.

This salutary teaching is driven home by the Lord with the stark image that those who remain outside the kingdom are embittered and filled with rage (v.28). It's an amazing truth that those inside are surprised to be there, just as those outside are surprised to find themselves there.

Jesus didn't cajole or force his teaching, rather he warned, urged and pleaded. Jesus taught clearly and unequivocally that our eternal destiny is profoundly linked to him. To accept him as Lord and worship him as God is the key to the door; to walk humbly before him is the way through the narrow gate. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, opens the gate leading to eternal life for everyone who believes in him.

St Ambrose observed, 'He would never come and knock at the door unless he wanted to enter; it is our fault that he does not always enter.'

I confess with my tongue and proclaim with my mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father!

ROAD SAFETY:

The statistics given recently for the victims of road accidents, those killed and those seriously injured are unbelievably high. There is also great concern that many older people with very poor eyesight are involved in road/traffic accidents.

Let us all resolve to drive with great care and let us pray for all individuals and their families who have gone through great loss and suffering.

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Mon 25 Aug: St Louis
Tues 26 Aug: Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God
Wed 27 Aug: St Monica
Thurs 28 Aug: St Augustine, Bishop & Doctor
Fri 29 Aug: The Passion of St John the Baptism
Sat 30 Aug: Dedication of our cathedral of St Barnabas

A FUNERAL:

As announced, the funeral of John Redfearn of Penryhn Avenue will take place on Wednesday, 3rd September at St George's. All parishioners are very welcome to come along for the Requiem Mass and all who wish will be very welcome at the gathering afterwards at The Grange in Littleover where a buffet will be served.

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

We extend our sincere sympathy and prayers to all the family.

The Surprising Kingdom of God

....some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last. LUKE 13:30

God's love transcends human measures of fairness and justice. With human scales, we judge, calculate and measure out love, compassion and justice. But God is love.

Jesus challenges human standards of fairness and righteousness. When the crowds think they have figured out the ways of God, Jesus challenges them to look deeper from God's perspective.

Taking on God's viewpoint marks the transformative journey of living faith. The question posed to Jesus in the Gospel expresses the human desire to know with certainty who will be saved. But salvation cannot be fully known or understood precisely because it comes from God, not from us. And God's desire to save all in the mystery of divine measures of mercy and justice transcends our limited vision and narrow calculations.

So, some who are last will be first, and some who are first will be last. Only complete and trusting faith in God matters.

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever.
Amen.