

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

1st December 2024

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 30 Nov	5.30 pm	SG	Chris Lynch, Anniversary
Sun 01 Dec	9.30 am	SG	People of the Parish.
	11.15 am	HS	Holy Souls in Purgatory.
Mon 02 Dec	9.30 am	SG	For life, thanksgiving (B)
Tues 03 Dec	9.30 am	SG	For the deceased souls (MW)
Wed 04 Dec	9.30 am	SG	Michael Swingler RIP
Thu 05 Dec	9.30 am	SG	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Fri 06 Dec	9.30 am	SG	For family deceased of Aleavey, Gillen, Power, Bacon, Bain, O'Neil. May they rest in peace.
Sat 07 Dec	9.30 am	SG	For all who are not well, especially of the parish.
	5.30 pm	SG	Jimmy Quinn RIP, in Ireland
Sun 08 Dec	9.30 am	SG	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	HS	Frank Treanor RIP

SG St George's HS Holy Spirit

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today the holy season of Advent begins, and our hearts are filled with joy and expectation as we prepare to contemplate the three comings of Christ: his coming among us in the Incarnation, his coming into our lives through Baptism and ongoing Conversion, and his coming again, the Second Coming, the return of the King, at the end of time.

Our word Advent comes from the Latin *Adventus* meaning 'coming', and interestingly the Greek word *parousia* also means 'coming' but expressly Jesus' coming. Traditionally we associate the season of Christmas with his first coming but, in fact, the Advent liturgy points towards Jesus' second return. What do you think of Jesus' return? The truth is, we don't tend to think or pray very much about it at all. To be fair, eschatology (the study of the last things) isn't given a lot of attention these days. When did you last hear a sermon or homily on the second coming, death, heaven or hell? Neither the Evangelists or the Catechism of the Catholic Church show any reticence about proclaiming this fundamental and essential truth of faith. What do we know, then, about Jesus' return. The first thing the Scriptures say is that it will be glorious and the heavens will shake (Luke 21:26) and in this coming evil and death will be vanquished.

Jesus' return will bring about the fullness of salvation, and glimpsing this revelation instils a sense of expectancy, urgency and desire to be ready, to be prepared. As St Paul says, 'For God has not destined us for wrath but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ' (1 Thessalonians 5-9).

Yet we can be so engrossed in the 'here and now', the 'day to day' and the 'tyranny of the urgent' that we neither prepare nor long for Jesus' return. How are we to make ourselves ready? Pray continuously and earnestly: rejoice in the first coming, groan for the second.

Examine your conscience. Repent, make amends, convert, seek out the Sacrament of Confession.

Lord, during this season of Advent we eagerly await your coming with joy, hope and expectancy. 'Come, Lord Jesus!' (Revelation 22:20).

ADVENT: During this season we prepare ourselves in mind and heart for the lovely celebration of the birth of Jesus, Our Lord and Saviour.

This Advent we begin to use a different translation of the Bible from the Jerusalem Bible that we have used for a number of years. The new Revised Standard Version of the scriptures is said to be a more faithful and accurate rendering of the original texts into English. I wonder if many of us will easily spot any difference of emphasis. We thank God for the many scholars who have translated from Hebrew and Greek into English both ancient and modern.

HOLY SPIRIT: Every Thursday 2.45pm at Holy Spirit, Sinfín, please join the Prayer Group to pray for Divine Mercy, The Rosary and Prayers for peace.

If you have any possessions presently stored in the church kitchen next to the sacristy, would you please remove them so redevelopment work can take place. Many thanks, Fr Brentnall.

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

ADORATION before the Blessed Sacrament daily before the 9.30 am Mass and then other times as announced.

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Tues 3rd Dec: St Francis Xavier, Priest
Wed 4th Dec: St John Damascene, Priest & Doctor
Fri 6th Dec: St Nicholas, Bishop
Sat 7th Dec: St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor

SECOND COLLECTION next Sunday for poor and needy parishes.

RECENT DEATHS:

Please pray for Michael Swingler, Jimmy's son, who has died recently after many days in Intensive Care in the Royal Derby Hospital. It is a great sadness for Jimmy and the family to lose a son, so young.

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

Also, please pray for Jim Murphy, Mary Murphy's husband, who has died during the week, suddenly and unexpectedly. We extend our sincere sympathies to Mary and all the family at this sad time.

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

No funeral details at the time of writing the newsletter for the above deceased.

Also please pray for Teresa Colledge who has died recently. The funeral will be at Trent Valley at 1.30 am on Tuesday, 10th December.

We extend our sincere sympathies to the family. *Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen*

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

FROM LIVING FAITH:

God Beckons

Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life....LUKE 21:34

Those times when the ground feels less certain under our feet are spiritually interesting. Not taking things for granted seems to be a condition for a genuine spiritual life. On the large scale, one thinks of 9/11 or the COVID-19 pandemic; on a more personal scale, an experience of this kind affects most of us at one time or another in our lives.

But it tells us something about ourselves that there is a strong tendency to return to business as usual. The lessons learned during unsettling times appear not to have a great deal of staying power.

The Church's call to vigilance on this First Sunday of Advent is aimed not only at beginning the preparation for Christmas. It is intended to stir up our souls with the recognition that God is always breaking into the taken-for-grantedness of our lives, beckoning us to open wide our hearts to receive him in every sign of his love.

HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH
Christmas Fete

7th December – 12:30 onwards

Opening by:
Bishop Patrick McKinney

All Welcome