

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

8th December 2024

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 07 Dec	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
Mon 09 Dec	9.30 am	SG	Sp. Int. for Maura and Trevor Litchfield
Tues 10 Dec	9.30 am	SG	Michael Sisorsky for good health and to continue to serve the Lord
Wed 11 Dec	9.30 am	SG	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thu 12 Dec	9.30 am	SG	Dave Perry RIP
Fri 13 Dec	9.30 am	SG	Deceased members of the O'Riordan family
Sat 14 Dec	9.30 am	SG	Sp. Int. for Jean and Malcolm Brocklehurst
	5.30 pm	SG	Vincenza Parasyh RIP
Sun 15 Dec	9.30 am	SG	Michael Flemming RIP, Anniversary
	11.15 am	HS	Jim Murphy RIP

SG St George's HS Holy Spirit

GOSPEL REFLECTION: St Augustine of Hippo said, 'Before God can deliver us we must undeceive ourselves.' Examination of conscience, repentance, conversion and contrition are the necessary ingredients for undeceiving ourselves.

Why is this the case? Because through it we come into contact with who we are (beggars before God) and who God is (all-holy) and are humbled yet free. St John the Baptist's primary message was one of repentance; a turning back to God – truly not the most popular message in this or indeed any age. We are encouraged to examine the ways we have lost a sense of sin and, consequently, the impetus to seek God's forgiveness and healing. Was the society, culture and time in which St John the Baptist ministered any different from ours?

In all of us there is a certain in-built self-righteousness which finds it hard if not impossible to say, 'I have sinned against heaven and against you: I am no longer worthy to be called your son/daughter.' This resistance and self-righteousness is why God prepared the way. He did so through the ministry of the Hebrew prophets and finally through the ministry of St John the Baptist and does so today through the liturgy. The message and call will always be the same: repentance for the forgiveness of sins (v.3). How do we examine our conscience? We don't want to get immersed in excessive introspection and a kind of pseudo *mea culpa*, as if repentance was simply about saying the word 'sorry'.

St John Chrysostom said: 'Repentance ranges from regretting obvious sins like murder, adultery, abuse, swearing and stealing to the realisation that not loving (your neighbour as yourself) is a kind of murder, "Whoever hates his brother is a murderer" (I John 3:15), and that an evil look is adultery and the love of praise is stealing God's glory.' Repentance is both a gift and grace of God leading to peace, a clear conscience and freedom from self-deception. Advent is the perfect season to rediscover the gift of repentance and renew our relationship with the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' (Luke 3:4)

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.

CATHOLIC POST AND CATHOLIC NEWS FOR DECEMBER are at the back of the Church. Please take your free copy. In Catholic Post and Catholic News we have some thoughts on assisted suicide from Bishop Marcus of Leeds and also a reflection from a physician. Other articles include: Sister Clare Crockett on the road to sainthood; Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat; Try keeping a slow Christmas; A Trip to St Mary's College Oscott; St Mary's school, Derby, join Aid to Church in Neal's Rosary Rally.

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:

Mon 9th Dec: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tues 10th Dec: St Augustine Webster & Eustace White & Companions, Martyrs of Lincolnshire

Wed 11th Dec: St Damasus I, Pope

Thurs 12th Dec: Our Lady of Guadalupe

Fri 13th Dec: St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

Sat 14th Dec: St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor

SECOND COLLECTION this weekend for the poor and needy parishes of our diocese.

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.

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*

It is with great sadness that we speak of the recent death of Dave Perry, husband of Anne, of Holy Spirit Church. Dave and Anne were founder members of Holy Spirit Church with Blessed Ralph Sherwin Church in Chellaston in the days of the first parish priest, Fr Bernard Brownbill.

Dave was very active in parish life and also in the Catenians. He bore serious illness with great faith and fortitude and was a man of deep faith and prayer. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends and parishioners. We have no news of the funeral as we go to press.

However, the funeral for Jim Murphy will be at St Mary's, Derby, at 1 pm on the 19th December.

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

FROM LIVING FAITH:

'This Is the Way'

While from behind, a voice shall sound in your ears: "This is the way; walk in it," when you would turn to the right or to the left. Isaiah 30:21

Despite the way it often feels, we're not alone in chaos and confusion, each fighting to create our own path to happiness and pleasure. There is a guide who knows and leads the way to real life. Taking this way brings harmony and beauty to our lives. The whole cosmos, from the ants to the stars, each created thing takes its place and shows its beauty simply by being what the Lord made it to be.

For us humans we are invited to make God's way our own, letting go of everything else. In this way, we are given all the graces we need to turn our will to his and to receive more than we can ask or imagine.

Lord, you are the way. Lead us along the true path of life that is you.

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.

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