

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

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15th December 2024

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 14 Dec	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
Mon 16 Dec	9.30 am	SG	Dave Perry RIP
Tues 17 Dec	9.30 am	SG	Josie Kavanagh, special intention
Wed 18 Dec	9.30 am	SG	Holy Souls in Purgatory and deceased members of suffering souls
Thu 19 Dec	9.30 am	SG	John & Mary Riordan for good health
Fri 20 Dec	10.30 am	SG	May Gallagher RIP, 1 st anniversary
	NB TIME !!		
Sat 21 Dec	9.30 am	SG	Sp. Intention, Mai Heffernan
	5.30 pm	SG	Lourdes Waters RIP
Sun 22 Dec	9.30 am	SG	May & Michael Gallagher RIP
	11.15 am	HS	Thomas Callaghan RIP

SG St George's HS Holy Spirit

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Attempt and expect great things from God. Many centuries before Jesus came, the prophet Zephaniah said: "The Lord God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing" (Zeph. 3:17 NIV). This Advent God wants to renew you in his love. We can expect, anticipate and rely on the truth that this is what God wants for our lives.

How then does renewal occur? St John the Baptist shows us the way: through repentance and turning away from sin. Of course, we can confess our sins to God on our own, but the best way for us to do this is to avail ourselves of the grace so readily available to us in the Sacrament of reconciliation – truly the sacrament of mercy and forgiveness.

It can be hard to acknowledge our sinfulness and weakness. It takes courage and a willingness to let God's light shine into the deepest and darkest parts of our lives.

This can be a lonely and daunting journey but one on which we can know God is with us. There is no sin that God cannot forgive. There is no sinner beyond God's mercy and forgiveness. There is only grace, mercy and forgiveness as we are renewed in God's love. Don't be afraid; take courage; be assured of God's love and mercy. Our brokenness is the wound through which the power of God can penetrate our being and transfigure us in God. Loneliness is not something from which we must flee but the place from where we can cry out to God, where God will find us and we can find God. Yes, through our wounds the power of God can penetrate us and like a river of living water irrigate the arid earth within us. Thus we may irrigate the arid earth of others so that hope and love are reborn.

Have mercy on me, O Lord, and though unworthy, pour out upon me every grace and spiritual blessing.

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:

Sat 21st Dec: St Peter Canisius, priest and doctor.

God Sings Over You

..... he will sing joyfully because of you...Zephaniah 3:17

I was at a concert recently, and a little girl of about seven was invited up on stage. You could tell that she was nervous, unsure of herself. The singer bent down and sang right to her, then joyfully pointed the mic in her direction. She was shy at first, but then began to sing along, realising that the singer was rooting for her. Soon a smile was beaming from both child and performer. It was a moment of pure joy. Can you imagine yourself as the child in that scenario? Can you imagine God rooting for you, singing over you, inviting you to be part of the song? We are reminded in Zephaniah today that God does exactly this – rejoices in our being, draws us near, cheers us on, sings into our lives. We have all been fashioned with purpose by the hand of love, and God is full of joy that we simply are.
God, may I hear the song you sing over me.

A COMING FUNERAL: Requiem Mass for Jim Murphy will take place at St Mary's, Derby, on 19th December at 1 pm.

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

SCHOOL EVENTS

The school carol service will be at St George's on Wednesday, 18th December at 6 pm. All welcome.

The end of term school Mass will be on Friday, 20th December, at 9 am. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve: Family Mass at St George's 5 pm, Tues 24th December

Christmas Day: Mass at St George's at 9.30 am, Wed 25th December
Mass at Holy Spirit 11 am, Wed 25th December

THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Please take a prayer card from church, "Pilgrims of Hope" and see the Jubilee prayer. Take one or two for family and friends.

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

HOLY SPIRIT CHRISTMAS FAIR

Sincere and grateful thanks on behalf of CAFOD to all who worked so hard to make a success of this event. Bishop Patrick enjoyed his visit and was very good in going around and chatting to people and won a prize in the raffle. The weather was wet and windy but a good number of people came along to support this event for CAFOD. Again, many thanks to all especially the organisers and stall holders.