

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

22nd December 2024

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 21 Dec	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
Mon 23 Dec	9.30 am	SG	Joseph Mazpan RIP (in Australia)
Tues 24 Dec	9.30 am	SG	Rita Taylor RIP
CHRISTMAS EVE	5.00 pm	SG	Mark and Hilary Crosbie RIP
Wed 25 Dec	9.30 am	SG	Deceased members of the
CHRISTMAS DAY			Fortune family
	11.00am	HS	
Thu 26 Dec	9.30 am	SG	Intention of the donor M & D
			for good health
Fri 27 Dec	9.30 am	SG	Tom Farrell RIP
Sat 28 Dec	9.30 am	SG	Sp, Intention, Mary Gladstone
	5.30 pm	SG	Deceased members of the Geelan family
Sun 29 Dec	9.30 am	SG	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	HS	Tom O'Reilly RIP and family

SG St George's HS Holy Spirit

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

The birth of a child is a universal and wonderfully human, exciting and joyful event, for parents (certainly) but also grandparents, aunts, uncles, nephews, family friends, the extended family and in one sense, everyone. For who does not rejoice and delight in the arrival of a new-born? The new birth brings an unspeakable sense of joy, exhilaration even, that a new life has entered the world. Parents speak of "walking on air" and mothers, despite being weary and often exhausted, enjoy an infectious delight (a combination of joy and relief). Words fail to express this natural and very human joy.

All pride, posturing, hubris and self-importance is silenced as we ponder the baby in the manger, poor, born in a stable, Jesus the Son of God, the creator, needy and helpless, a suckling new born, utterly dependent upon its mother. St John's Prologue is a masterpiece, giving us the most sublime insight into the mystery of God made man.

God took upon himself the burden of our nature – with all its limitations and weaknesses – born among us, but free from all sin. Jesus is the New Adam. Truly all births are special: this birth the most special. Jesus is, God from God, light from light, true God, true man, begotten not made. His humanity did not diminish his divinity nor his divinity overwhelm his humanity. He was like us in all things except sin. His mission was to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Today we celebrate our re-birth. For through baptism and by believing in him we are born again. We are a new creation, born not of human decision or human will but born of God. O truly marvellous exchange. Sin had broken the bond; you restored it and healed us.

Today I rejoice and praise the baby in the stable, the Saviour and Lord. May my heart give you glory and honour on this most holy of days.

CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS: Many thanks to all in St George's and Holy Spirit who have been so busy getting our churches ready for Christmas with much cleaning and decorating with Christmas trees and cribs and decorations on windows and round the altars. Our churches will be very bright and welcoming as we celebrate Our Lord's special day. As we know he was born in simplicity and a certain poverty, although Mary and Joseph would have been hard working providers, both at his birth and as he grew and developed. It is always hard to really grasp that the child born at Bethlehem is God becoming a human being. Jesus is always the Son of God as well as being the Son of Mary. His nature is always divine and human. He is truly the Saviour of the world.

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 23rd Dec: St John of Kanty, Priest
Thurs 26th Dec: St Stephen, Feast.
Fri 27th Dec: St John, Apostle and Evangelist.
Sat 28th Dec: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION: The offertory collection at Christmas is your Christmas offering towards the support of your priests.

Bring Jesus With You

Mary set out and travelled to the hill country in haste.....Luke 1:39

Christmas will be here in a few days. Some families and friends may have already celebrated Christmas early because it worked out to gather with lots of people then. Others are getting ready for the festivities to come. You might be like Mary, preparing to leave your home and to go somewhere else for a time. Mary was determined about where she was going, setting out in haste. As Mary goes to the hill country, she brings the presence of Jesus in her pregnant belly to that home of Zechariah and Elizabeth. For Elizabeth, the presence of Jesus brought her joy, and by her speech, she proclaimed Mary "blessed...among women" (v.42).

Wherever you are going for Christmas, how will you bring the presence of Jesus to those you spend time with?

May Christ fill you with his grace so that, by your words and actions, you will bring the joy, peace and love of God.

Lord, make me a vessel of your joy and peace.

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.

LIVING FAITH and DAY BY DAY

Copies are now available at Church with readings and reflections for this coming month. Please get your copy and place a donation to cover cost in the wall box at church.

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Fr Mark Brentnall and Fr Alan Burbidge take this opportunity to wish all parishioners of English Martyrs, Alvaston, with Chellaston, and St George's, Derby, with Holy Spirit, Sinfin, a most Happy and Holy Christmas full of God's blessings as we celebrate his son's birth in Bethlehem.