

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

Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Brentnall

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29TH December 2024

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

1ST YEAR OF CHRISTMASTIDE

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 28 Dec	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
Mon 30 Dec	9.30 am	SG	Mary Conlon RIP
Tues 31 Dec	9.30 am	SG	Sp. Intention, Jeanette Barnett
Wed 01 Jan	9.30 am	SG	Dave Perry RIP
2025			
Thu 02 Jan	9.30 am	SG	Intention of the donor EG, for good health
Fri 03 Jan	9.30 am	SG	Mass Bouquet for Dawn Hadinoglls and family
Sat 04 Jan	9.30 am	SG	People of the Parish
	5.30 pm	SG	Nuala O'Riordan RIP
Sun 05 Jan	9.30 am	SG	Joe McCabe RIP
	11.15 am	HS	Eugene Doolan and family

SG St George's HS Holy Spirit

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

The Chinese philosopher Confucious, echoing the wisdom of the ages, said this of the family: 'The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home' George Bernard Shaw, himself an atheist, nevertheless applauded the family unit: 'Perhaps the greatest social service that can be rendered by anybody to the country and to humankind is to bring up a family' the great prophet of the family St Pope John Paul II said, 'Every effort to make society sensitive to the importance of the family is a great service to humanity. As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live.'

Jesus was born and raised in a family where for thirty years he lived a private and obscure life. St Luke's Gospel contains the only incident from Jesus' early childhood, focusing on a reality familiar to most parents - a lost child. Indeed, by today's standards a twelve year old missing for three days would be likely to create a major search-and-find mission involving all manner of rescue services. Mary and Joseph like any parents, were distraught.

Most children who put their parents through this kind of ordeal would have been justifiably scolded or disciplined, but Jesus was no ordinary child, and his response to his exasperated parents was far from ordinary. 'How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' (v.49).

St Luke records that Mary and Joseph did not understand what he was saying but that Mary treasured such incidents in her heart. What we do know is that at the very heart of God's plan of salvation was the family unit. For it is within the home that we learn about the cut and thrust, the nitty, gritty, the give and take, of daily living, and it is in daily living that we learn to grow in holiness. By being born into a family Jesus has sanctified and made holy forever the fundamental building block of every healthy society. And it is within the family that parents, the first and primary educators of our children, learn to proclaim the gospel and lead their children to Christ.

Lord, bless our families and keep us safe.

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 31st Dec: St Sylvester, 1st Pope

Wed 1st Jan: Mary the Mother of God

Thurs 2nd Jan: Sts Basil the great and Gregory Nazianzen,
Bishops and Doctors

Fri 3rd Jan: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Our Father's House

Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house? Luke 2:49

When my third son was four years old, he ran off while we were staying in a hotel. It took us thirty minutes to track him down, during which he roamed the floors chatting with the cleaning staff and guests. It's probably the closest we've come to experiencing the anxiety and apprehension of Mary and Joseph when Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem.

And yet, on reflection, our son was simply being who he is: outgoing, gregarious and eager to chat with any friendly face. Similarly, Jesus was being who he is: the only begotten Son, always eager to do his Father's will.

If we are to imitate Jesus – to follow his example as his disciples – we must also be eager to spend time in our Father's house. When we celebrate the liturgy, read the Scriptures and serve the poor and outcast, we are doing our Father's will and drawing closer to the holiness we are meant to live.

THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025 is officially opened in the Dioceses of Nottingham on Sunday, 29th December, the Feast of the Holy Family.

Bishop Patrick will celebrate Mass at 10 am in our Cathedral in Nottingham and open the Jubilee in the Diocese of Nottingham. A special prayer will be prayed in each of the other Jubilee churches in the Diocese and the Jubilee Prayer should be prayed at each Mass in the Diocese from 29th December onwards. Cards are available at Church.

Copies of LIVING FAITH and DAY BY DAY available for January.

Please get your copy and place a donation to cover cost in the wall box.

CHRISTMAS THANKS

from Frs. Mark Brentnall and Alan Burbidge

Sincere thanks to all who helped to make our Christmas Masses go so well and so joyfully. May all of us be well blessed through these celebrations and be renewed in spirit as we journey into the New Year. Thanks for your ongoing support for your parishes and thank you for your generous Christmas offerings and gifts and cards.

A happy and prosperous New Year to you all as we move into 2025, the Jubilee Year.