

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

Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Brentnall

Assistant: Canon Alan Burbidge Emeritus

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20th October 2024

WORLD MISSION DAY

28th WEEK OF CHURCH YEAR

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 19 Oct	5.30 pm	SG	People of the Parish
Sun 20 Oct	9.30 am	SG	For all parishioners who are not well, especially those in hospital.
	11.15 am	HS	Private Intention
Mon 21 Oct	9.30 am	SG	Anne Kelly for good health
Tues 22 Oct	9.30 am	SG	Sp. Intention, Denise O'Neill, Birthday thanksgiving.
Wed 23 Oct	9.30 am	SG	.In thanksgiving, St Anthony
Thu 24 Oct	9.30 am	SG	Jimmy Devlin, for good health
Fri 25 Oct	9.30 am	SG	Sp. Intention, Hilary Crosbie
Sat 26 Oct	9.30 am	SG	For Pope Francis' intentions
	5.30 pm	SG	Maureen & Elizabeth Kelly for good health
Sun 27 Oct	9.30 am	SG	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	HS	For all parishioners who are not well

SG St George's HS Holy Spirit

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

T S Elliott said, 'Most of the trouble in the world is caused by people wanting to be important.' James and John's ambition stirred up resentment and indignation among the disciples. We do not know quite what was going on in their hearts, but we can be fairly certain it was not particularly edifying and involved naked ambition.

True, not all ambition is wrong. Parents are proud of their children; we can be proud of a job well done; we are often proud to be associated with teams, or events, or organisations which have done well. Such pride is human, understandable and good. It's the same with ambition, is it not?

The Scriptures are, however, quick to point out that selfish ambition is sinful. Indeed, through the process of maturity and grace St James himself would write many years later: 'But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This wisdom is not such as comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice' (Jas. 3:15-16). St Bernard of Clairvaux also condemned the vice in no uncertain terms. 'Ambition is the mother of hypocrisy and prefers to sulk in corners and dark places. It cannot endure the light of day. It is an unclean vice wallowing in the depths, always hidden, but ever with an eye to advancement.'

What, then is a right kind of ambition? To be ambitious to grow in holiness. To be ambitious for the kingdom. To be ambitious to spread the Gospel.

'The only true riches are those that make us rich in virtue. Therefore, if you want to be rich, beloved, love true riches. If you aspire to the heights of real honour, strive to reach the kingdom of heaven. If you value rank and renown, hasten to be enrolled in the heavenly court of the angels.' (St Gregory the Great).

24th October 2024 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham there is an Ordinariate Pilgrimage taking place. Those interested, please let us have your names and when we have numbers we will be able to calculate cost of transport etc.

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

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:

Wed 23 Oct: St John Paul II
Thurs 24 Oct: St Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop
Sat 26 Oct: Saints Chad & Cedd, Bishops

SECOND COLLECTION at this weekend Masses is for World Mission Sunday.

FROM LIVING FAITH:

Discipleship = Long Service

Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left. Mark 10:37

In Matthew's account of this same story, it is the mother of James and John who makes this request of Jesus. That version makes James and John look less guilty. "We didn't ask Jesus for this, Mom did!" But Mark's Gospel says it was the two disciples themselves who ask Jesus for the "highest seats" in his new organisation. How frustrated Jesus must have been. His closest followers, those who walked beside him and listened to him every day, had failed to grasp his essential message: Discipleship with Jesus is expressed not by your rank on a seating chart but by your humble service of others.

This story can console us. Even great saints got it embarrassingly wrong at times. This story can also challenge us. It asks: In what forms of service do you express your discipleship with Jesus?

MARY'S MEALS UPDATE: Mary's Meals grew out of the Christian faith of our founder, and the values and ethos we hold reflect this. One way you can support our work is by praying for our programmes, our staff and volunteers and the 2.4 million children who eat Mary's Meals each day. The Mary's Meals prayer can help lead your reflections and can be downloaded as a prayer card from our website:

marysmeals.org.uk/prayer

World Porridge Day: In Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, Mary's Meals serves children steaming mugs of vitamin-enriched porridge, helping them to learn and grow. That's why we celebrate World Porridge Day on 10 October every year – we know that porridge has the power to change lives. Celebrate with us and find out how you can host a life-changing Porridge Party. worldporridgeaday.com

Fr ALAN THANKS: I wish to express my sincere thanks to all who helped in any way to make a lovely celebration of my retirement, although aware that I continue to serve St George's and Holy Spirit Churches as much as required.

It was good that Fr Mark Brentnall, now with the responsibility for St George's as well as continuing as Parish Priest of English Martyrs, Alvaston with Chellaston, was able to be with us to lead our lovely Mass and meet lots of people to share the thoughts of my priestly journey. Thank you everybody for coming along and to all for your kind cards and good wishes and your generous donations. Many thanks to all who kindly provided the lovely cake and splendid refreshments. A special thanks to Barbara for preparing the social centre so nicely, not only for this occasion but for all her hard work in maintaining it through the year. God bless you all and your families.