

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 September 2024

23rd WEEK OF CHURCH YEAR

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 07 Sept	5.30 pm	SG	For the victims of violence and war
Sun 08 Sept	9.30 am	SG	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	HS	Fr Peter Peterken
Mon 09 Sept	9.30 am	SG	Eileen & Eddie O'Rourke RIP
Tues 10 Sept	9.30 am	SG	Private Intention
Wed 11 Sept	9.30 am	SG	In thanksgiving, St Anthony of Padua
Thu 12 Sept	9.30 am	SG	The recently deceased priests of the Nottingham diocese
Fri 13 Sept	9.30 am	SG	In thanksgiving, Fr Alan
	11.00 am	SG	Funeral service, Dave Allen RIP
Sat 14 Sept	9.30 am	SG	For our St George's School (Voluntary Academy) in the new School year
	5.30 pm	SG	For the victims of war and violence
Sun 15 Sept	9.30 am	SG	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	HS	Priest's intention

SG St George's HS Holy Spirit

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

The religious authorities of Jesus' day – an elite group of men who had given their lives to serving God – resisted and despised him so much, hounding him from the very beginning of his ministry.

Luke records for us a classic example. He notes: 'the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against him' (v.6). Jesus did indeed heal on the Sabbath and the religious authorities were furious (v.11). Why were they like this? Why did such rage and resentment fester in their hearts, eventually fermenting to such a degree that they plotted to murder him (John 5:18)? Why did their religious faith not enable them to overcome the darkness in their hearts?

The Holy Spirit invites us to reflect on these difficult questions. Speaking at a Eucharistic Congress in Dublin, Pope Benedict said: 'It remains a mystery that people who regularly received the Lord's body and confessed their sins had committed the offence of child abuse.' He went on to say he had been 'shaken in an appalling way by the revelation of sins committed by priests and consecrated persons against people entrusted to their care. Instead of showing them the path towards Christ, towards God, instead of bearing witness to his goodness, they abused people and undermined the credibility of the Church's message.'

The Church is always in need of reform and renewal, and this means that we, its members, are always in need of forgiveness and healing. Jesus healed the man with the shrivelled hand but also revealed how he came to change hearts and minds. With his penetrating question, 'is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or destroy it?' (v.9), he exposed the darkness of their thinking. The Spirit reveals the dark, contrary and obtuse thinking of our own hearts and invites us to repent and turn away from thoughts and actions which resist and oppose the building of God's kingdom.

Lord, the mystery of evil is great, as is the mystery of the human heart. Teach me not to resist your work. Lead me into your light and teach me to walk in your way, the way of the Spirit, which brings healing, joy and forgiveness.

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 9 Sept: St Peter Claver
Thurs 12 Sept: Most Holy Name of Mary
Fri 13 Sept: St John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor
Sat 14 Sept: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

SECOND COLLECTION for the Catholic Education Service,

Shattering Deafness

He put his finger into the man's ears and spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him. "Ephphatha!" – that is, "Be opened!" Mark 7:33-35

Technology has so marked our consciousness that it is not easy to place ourselves outside of it. I am presently awaiting an appointment to be fitted for my first hearing aids, which I have every reason to believe will make it easier to hear my soft-spoken boss. That's a far cry from the profound deafness of the man in today's Gospel living at a time when even incremental improvements were unavailable. No wonder the people were "exceedingly astonished" at his coming to hear and speak plainly.

The healing itself may seem primitive but better to call it – in the absence of technology – a deeply personal encounter. Jesus takes the man apart from the crowd and, with the gift of touch, removes the impediments to hearing and speaking. Most wonderfully the man's ears are open to hear God's Word, and his tongue is set free to proclaim it to others. We do well to pray for the shattering of our own deafness and release from whatever closes us off from the experience of God's mercy.

Fully God and Fully Human

Everyone in the crowd sought to touch him because power came forth from him and healed them all. Luke 6:19

It is no small matter to realise – let alone admit – that Jesus is both fully God and fully human. Jesus is not some sort of demigod or spiritual sage limited to merely human metrics of power, rather, he is completely divine and completely human yet unblemished by sin. No wonder why the crowd that had convened in today's Gospel "sought to touch him:" they realised that Christ alone is the dispenser of their salvation!

We may be tempted throughout our lives to seek alternatives to Jesus' love. We are constantly bombarded by messages that seek to lead us to abandon his Good News. But we must keep our eyes fixed on the Cross, taking seriously the sacramental and moral life that will keep us in a state of grace.

Lord Jesus Christ, we need your healing presence in our lives. Amidst all we face, pour yourself into our minds and hearts to guide us heavenward. We pray this in your holy name.