

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

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6th April 2025

5th SUNDAY OF THE LENT

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 05 Apr	5.30 pm	SG	People of the Parish
Sun 06 Apr	9.30 am	SG	For world peace, especially the Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan & Yemen
	11.15 am	HS	Winifred Shaw RIP
Mon 07 Apr	9.30 am	SG	For the repose of the souls of the deceased of our parish
Tues 08 Apr	9.30 am	SG	For the victims of the earthquake in Myanmar and Bangkok
Wed 09 Apr	9.30 am	SG	In thanksgiving to St Anthony of Padua
Thu 10 Apr	9.30 am	SG	For all in our parish community
Fri 11 Apr	9.30 am	SG	Cath Crosbie for good health
Sat 12 Apr	9.30 am	SG	For peace in the world
	5.30 pm	SG	People of the parish
Sun 13 Apr	9.30 am	SG	Oliver Dunn RIP, Anniv.
	11.15 am	HS	Patricia Brown RIP (Palm Sunday)
SG St George's		HS	Holy Spirit

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

The story of a woman caught in the act of adultery in John 7:53-3:11 often carries the following exclusion clause, 'The earliest and most reliable manuscripts do not have John 7:53-11.' Nevertheless it forms part of the Canon of Scripture and is therefore the authoritative and inspired word of God. (2 Timothy 3:16). Scholars grapple with why it was absent from early manuscripts but perhaps it was deemed too scandalous, too shocking a display of God's mercy, perhaps there was concern that it could be misconstrued and misinterpreted.

The woman the Pharisees drag before Jesus is a victim of entrapment and malice. We all know that, like the tango, adultery takes two – but the man is conspicuous by his absence. In the Torah those found guilty of adultery were punishable with the death penalty (although it was rarely carried out). The manner of execution was not prescribed except in the case of a betrothed virgin (Deut. 22:23-24) and required the death of both parties, not just the woman (Lev. 20:10).

The entrapment was designed to back Jesus into a corner. If he agreed to her being stoned, he would find himself in conflict with the Romans: if he did not, he would not be condemned by the religious leaders for his moral laxity. Jesus' answer disarms and challenges. 'Let him who is without sin throw the first stone.' For even the best of us, the noblest and holiest, knows that just a cursory glance into our own hearts reveals that we are sinners, beggars before God.

Jesus does not condemn, Jesus forgives, he does not judge. Next time you hear of a sexual scandal, either in the media or closer to home, don't condemn: offer up a prayer for everyone involved and ask for God's mercy and grace to be poured out. God's mercy is deeper than the ocean, wider than the sea, higher than the mountain and beyond comprehension.

'Mercy is a good thing for it makes us perfect, in that it imitates the perfect Father. Nothing graces the Christian soul so much as mercy.'
(St Ambrose)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Classes will begin on Sunday, 4th May. Fr Mark Brentnall will address parents and children after the Sunday Masses during May. Forms for application will be available at church. Candidates are children of Year 3 school age or older children who have not yet made their First Holy Communion.

CONFESIONS: 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 OF THE WEEK:

Mon 7th April: St John Baptiste de la Salle, Priest

Fri 11th April: St Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL: For the use of new technologies. Let us pray that the use of new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crisis of our times.

RECENT DEATHS: Please pray for Edward Dunne of Holly Tree Lodge, Thornhill Road, Derby and Tomasina Buonagero of Sinfín and Sean McCrystal of Allenton, who have died recently. We extend our sincere sympathies to their families.

Funeral details in preparation; to be announced next week.
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

For the Love of God: Repent!

Go, and from now on do not sin any more. JOHN 8:11

God loves us. This is a foundational truth of the Christian faith. God created us to be loved by him and to return that love back to him. Unfortunately, we regularly reject God's love and sin against him and our neighbours.

But God loves us too much to let us stay as we are. This is the message Jesus came to preach: Repent, turn back to the Father who loves you and follow him in holiness.

Too often we want to focus on God's love without also heeding his invitation to repentance. We think that because God loves us we don't need to change – "God loves me just the way I am!" We reject the need for a Saviour along with the love and mercy Jesus won for us on the Cross.

Take time today to examine the ways you have rejected God. Repent of your sins, make amends to those you have hurt and accept God's loving mercy.

POPE FRANCIS: Please keep Pope Francis in your daily prayers as he continues to battle with serious illness. May God bless him and be with him in his courageous battle to get back to good health. *Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for him.*