

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

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13th April 2025

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE LENT

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS**

Sat 12 Apr	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
Mon 14 Apr	9.30 am	SG	In thanksgiving for good health results and for all your prayers, Ray & Denise.
Tues 15 Apr	9.30 am	SG	For all the McAleavy family
Wed 16 Apr	9.00 am	SG	Phylis O'Brien RIP
Thu 17 Apr	No morning Mass		Thursday of Holy Week, Mass of the Lord's Supper. People of the parish.
Fri 18 Apr	7.00 pm	SG	Good Friday, Friday of the Passion of The Lord.
	3 pm service only		Good Friday service
Sat 19 Apr	No morning Mass		Holy Saturday
	7.00 pm	SG	Easter Vigil. Mass for world peace.
Sun 20 Apr	9.30 am	SG	Easter Day, Nellie and John Lenihan RIP
	11.15 am	HS	For all the people of Holy Spirit

SG St George's      HS Holy Spirit

**GOSPEL REFLECTION:**

When we read or listen to today's account of Jesus' Passion we can think that he was somehow the victim of his circumstances, powerless and vulnerable to caprice and whim of violent men. This is a wrong way to read or hear today's account of the Passion. Jesus' Passion was not the result of chance, nor was he subject to a set of circumstances which overwhelmed him.

Luke's account is part of the mystery of God's plan. The best way to understand Jesus' Passion is by considering the words of Peter on the Feast of Pentecost: 'this Jesus (was) delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God' (Acts 2:23). Of course, this does not mean that Jesus was handed over by passive players, automatons, in a drama written by God. To God, all moments of time are present but, in the mystery of his plan, everybody has free will to make a free response to his grace. Pontius Pilate, Herod, the Gentiles, the Jewish people and the Pharisees were blinded by unbelief and ignorance, and God permitted the acts that flowed from their blindness.

In reading or listening to the Passion narrative today, we witness how the Scriptures foretold this divine plan of salvation through the putting to death of the Righteous One – Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures. Jesus' passion and cross are the fulfilment of Isaiah's Suffering Servant prophecies. He is the Lamb who was silent before his shearers, he did not resist but was crushed for our iniquities, pierced for our transgressions and the punishment that brought us peace was on him.

He who had no sin became sin. The cross is love to the very end. Jesus knew and loved us all when he offered his life. No human being, not Mary our Mother, not St Peter or St Francis of Assisi or St Ignatius of Loyola, could take on themselves the sin of every human being who has ever lived or who will ever live. Only Jesus of Nazareth could become for the source of eternal salvation, and his most holy passion on the wood of the cross merited justification for us.

*'Apart from the cross there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven'*  
(St Rose of Lima.)

**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.

**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.

**CONFESIONS:** **SATURDAY ONLY: 10:15 – 10:45**

**SECOND COLLECTION** today for the suffering people of Myanmar, to be sent to CAFOD as a member of the Disaster Emergency Committee.

Today is Palm Sunday when we remember the Lord's joyful entry into Jerusalem, the Holy City, with crowds rejoicing and singing Jesus' praises. Today we bless and distribute palm branches which come from the Holy Land and have been made into crosses. Even in today's Masses we have the reading of the Lord's passion being quickly reminded of his terrible suffering and death. The great mystery of our redemption, for through his cross and resurrection he has sent us free. He is the saviour of the world.

**FORTHCOMING FUNERALS AT ST. GEORGE'S:**

For Edward Dunne, Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 11.45 pm

For Stephen McCrystall, Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> May at 12 noon

And at English Martyrs, Alvaston

For Thomasina Buonaguro, Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May at 9 am. Reception into church on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May at 6 pm.

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

**The Lord's Passion**

*Rather, he emptied himself ....PHILIPPIANS 2:7*

We sometimes throw around the word "passion" when referring to our work, our coffee or our favourite team. But true passion refers to something that is closest to the heart.

As Jesus ate for the last time with his disciples, as he agonized in Gethsemane, as he suffered the mockery and blows of the soldiers, with each painful step on the way to Calvary ... what was his passion? What – or who – was closest to his heart?

The answer is you. You are his passion. It was your face held close to his heart in these moments that would redeem you. Jesus is, even now, inviting you to participate in that walk, to bring your own heart close to his. He emptied himself to break the chains of sin and heal your hurts. He is assuring you that the way will not be too difficult as you journey by his side. And the Lord is asking you to share his passion – for those others who have yet to hear or believe the hope and joy that come with Easter.

**The Throne of Grace**

*So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help. HEBREWS 4:16*

On Good Friday, Catholics around the world gather for the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion. At the center of this liturgy is a moment in which we see the passage above acted out in real time: the Veneration of the Cross. Scores, even hundreds, of men, women and children from every walk of life approaching the cross and bowing, kissing it, embracing it. What burdens are they carrying? What peace do they seek? What wounds are they bringing to that Cross?

I approach the throne myself, and then I prayerfully and gratefully observe the moving procession of my brothers and sisters. And I can't help but pray for all those on that journey here and around the world. May we all, at this throne of grace, receive mercy and grace for timely help.

Jesus, in your Cross, may we find mercy and grace.