

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 April 2025

EASTER DAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

1st SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 19 Apr	7.00 pm	SG	Easter Vigil. Mass for world peace
Sun 20 Apr	9.30 am	SG	Nellie and John Lenihan RIP
EASTER DAY	11.15 am	HS	For all the people of Holy Spirit
Mon 21 Apr	9.30 am	SG	David Davis RIP
Tues 22 Apr	9.30 am	SG	For Jimmy's son, Michael
Wed 23 Apr	11.00 am	SG	For the living and dead of St George's parish
Thu 24 Apr	9.30 am	SG	Donor's intention in honour of St Anthony of Padua
Fri 25 Apr	9.30 am	SG	For all the parishioners who are not well, may they find comfort and healing
Sat 26 Apr	9.30 am	SG	For deceased clergy
	5.30 pm	SG	People of the Parish
Sun 27 Apr	9.30 am	SG	For Michael White, for good health
SG St George's		HS Holy Spirit	

HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH: The final Sunday Mass will be celebrated today, Easter Sunday, as decreed by Bishop Patrick a year ago when he asked Fr Alan to continue Mass for one more year following his retirement. Sadly, that day has arrived.

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

The central truth of Christian faith, the resurrection of Jesus, is embedded in the soil of human history. Testified to as a real event, historically verified in the New Testament, Jesus' resurrection is the crowning truth of faith. It is the central plank, the cornerstone, the very foundation of the living tradition of faith handed down to us from the apostles, as these words from Paul make clear: 'I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures and that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas then in the Twelve' (1 Cor. 15:3-4).

John holds out to us the empty tomb as the sign of the resurrection. However, and for sure, an empty tomb in and of itself is not direct proof that Jesus rose from the dead – the absence of the body could be otherwise explained. The empty tomb is a sign inviting us to enter into the mystery of the risen Lord. John leads us into this mystery of faith by recording his own reaction on entering the tomb; when he discovered the linen cloths lying there, he saw and believed. (v.9)

What are we to conclude from this eyewitness account? On entering the tomb John realised immediately that Jesus had risen, and we too are invited to believe, based on the witness of the apostles. He doesn't say what made him know instinctively that the absence of Jesus' body could not have been by human doing or even that Jesus had not simply returned to earthly life (resuscitated and not resurrected, so to speak).

Jesus' resurrection testifies to the promise of a new humanity, a new creation, radiating and resplendent with the glory, power and beauty of God. The basis of Easter rejoicing and happiness is that through the grace of our baptism we are immersed into Jesus' death and resurrection and become partakers in his divine life, the life of the resurrection.

Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia! Alleluia! He has turned all our sunsets into dawns. He has conquered death: death has been vanquished, its sting removed. He is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. He is the Lord of Life and he will live forever.

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: It was good to see Pope Francis in his wheelchair among people on Palm Sunday. We thank God for his recovery from serious illness and pray that he will be well enough to continue his work as leader of the Church. May God bless him with good health for the future.

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

SAINTS THIS WEEK: There are no Saints' days this week because the days from Easter Day until the 2nd Sunday of Easter are kept as special days within the octave of Easter. Masses will be at the usual daily time of 9.30 am, except for Wednesday, 23rd April when Mass will be at 11 am. There will be Mass in school on Wednesday, 23rd, at 9 am.

Believe in the Resurrection

You know what has happened....ACTS 10:36-37

We have just observed Lent and Holy Week. We have walked with Jesus during his Passion, stood with him as he was crucified and died, and now we stand as witnesses of his resurrection on this Easter Sunday. The apostles truly were witnesses. They saw the empty tomb. They saw Jesus in the upper room. They walked, talked and ate with him. Jesus prepared them for this moment, yet it was difficult to understand and still was even after it happened.

As Christian believers, we know what has happened. We have read it for years. We have heard it proclaimed. We learned about it at Sunday School. We know that Jesus rose from the dead and recite it in the Creed. But there is knowing something happened, and then there is professing and believing it. Knowing is not good enough. We must believe, and the resurrection must change our lives.

Do you just know about the resurrection, or do you truly believe? *Lord, help me to believe that you died and rose for me.*

FORTHCOMING FUNERALS AT ST. GEORGE'S:

For Edward Dunne, Tuesday 29th April at 11.45 pm

For Stephen McCrystall, Friday, 16th May at 12 noon

And at English Martyrs, Alvaston

For Thomasina Buonaguro, Wednesday, 7th May at 9 am. Reception into church on Tuesday, 6th 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 CHURCH AT HOLY SPIRIT: As Fr Brentnall announced when he spoke to the people at Holy Spirit, the church will remain available for prayer and prayer meetings and activities. It will also be available for funerals if families wish to have a Requiem Mass or service at Holy Spirit before burial or cremation of a love one.

A NEW ARCHBISHOP FOR LIVERPOOL: Please pray for Bishop, now Archbishop John Sherrington who has been appointed by the Pope as the new Archbishop of Liverpool. He has for about 14 years been an auxiliary Bishop in Westminster Diocese. He replaces Archbishop McMahon, our former Bishop, who has been in Liverpool since leaving Nottingham. Archbishop Sherrington is a native of Knighton parish in Leicestershire where he was ordained priest, and was for a time parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes here in Derby. We wish him every blessing as he takes up the heavy responsibility of Liverpool.

MYANMAR SUPPORT: On behalf of CAFOD and the suffering people of Myanmar, following the catastrophic earthquake and the immense destruction and loss of life, sincere thanks for your generous donations. At Holy Spirit with coffee mornings and the Sunday second collection just over £500 was raised. Also at St George's the two weekend collections together came to £501.00. CAFOD, as a member of the Disasters Emergency Committee, will therefore have just over £1000.00 to add to the relief effort. We should keep CAFOD's great efforts for the poor and suffering of the world in our prayers day by day.

EASTER GREETINGS: Fr Mark Brentnall and Fr Alan Burbidge take this opportunity to wish all of you a Very Happy and Holy Easter full of the blessings of the risen Lord Jesus.