

**ENGLISH MARTYRS, Alvaston. Tel: 01332 574474 and St GEORGE's Derby . Tel: 01332 767038*****Parish Priest:* Fr. Mark Brentnall*****Pastor Emeritus:* Canon Alan Burbidge**

Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Company Number 7151646 Charity Number 1134449

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**14<sup>th</sup> December 2025****3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT****St GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS**

Sat 13 Dec	5.30 pm	All the Donovan family
Sun 14 Dec	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Mon 15 Dec	9.30 am	Donor's Intention, St Anthony of Padua, Thanksgiving
Tues 16 Dec	9.30 am	Anna & Barney McCallion
Wed 17 Dec	9.30 am	Jeanette Barnett for good health
Thu 18 Dec	9.30 am	Michael Sullivan RIP, in Ireland
Fri 19 Dec	9.00 am	School Mass - for St George's School
	10.30 am	Josie Kavanagh for good health
Sat 20 Dec	9.30 am	May Gallagher RIP
	5.30 pm	John & Mary Riordan (for good health)
Sun 21 Dec	9.30 am	People of the Parish

**GOSPEL REFLECTION:**

Locked up in prison, probably shackled in irons, deprived of food, water and light. John the Baptist possibly waivered and wobbled. 'Are you the one who was to come or should we expect someone else?' (Matthew 11:2)

Ten thousand difficulties do not make one doubt, although it might seem that way when assailed by thoughts which undermine but at the same time test and refine our faith.

Jesus pointed to the fruit, the facts of faith: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, lepers are healed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the good news is preached to the poor (Matthew 11:5).

John was the greatest of all the prophets, and yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. As great as he was, John the Baptist thought the Messiah would usher in a wrecking ball of judgement; sorting the wheat from the chaff, the righteous, from the unrighteous. Jesus surprised him bringing healings, miracles, forgiveness and reconciliation. God is the God of surprises and the God of the impossible.

Stand firm in faith. We are forgiven through the saving death of Jesus. God is our Father, Jesus our Saviour and the Holy Spirit our Comforter. Good news indeed, and good reason to celebrate the coming of Christ at Christmas!

*'John is greater than the other prophets for this reason: the other prophets predicted to John that someone was to come, but John pointed out with his finger that he had indeed come, saying: Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. And he reached not only the rank of a prophet but even that of Baptist, by baptizing his Lord. This heightened his significance. He thereby fulfilled the prophecy of Malachi in which an angel-messenger is foretold. John belonged to the order of angels not by nature but by the importance of his task. It means he was the messenger who would announce the coming of the Lord.'* (St Jerome)

**The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December**

For Christians in areas of conflict, especially in the Middle East.

**CYCLE OF PRAYER:** During Advent and Christmastide we pray for these intentions: for migrants and refugees; for expectant mothers.

**THE SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE** will be held at St George's on 18th December at 6 pm. All are welcome to join the school children and staff of the St George's Academy at this lovely annual event.

***Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)*  
on Saturday 10.15-10.45 am.****SECOND COLLECTION this weekend for poor and needy parishes.****SAINTS THIS WEEK:** There are no saints to be celebrated this week; all the Masses are for the Advent season, called Feria Masses.**OUR DIOCESE:** Please pray for our Bishop Patrick McKinney and the priests who make up the Bishop's Council. They are meeting on Monday, 15th December, when they will discuss important matters relating to our Diocese of Nottingham which covers a very large area consisting of the counties of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and little Rutland.**On Patience**

*Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord.*  
JAMES 5:7

Remember, as a child, the long wait till Christmas morning? I would search the house for presents. I'd imagine what they could be and drive myself crazy in anticipation.

I'm not sure if I'm at all more patient in adulthood. I am impatient for my children to return to Mass. I am impatient with my own faults. I'm impatient when God does not answer my prayers to my satisfaction. "Listen, Lord, your servant is speaking" is too often my attitude.

St James tells it like it is in his epistle. You must be patient, he says, and you must be firm in the Lord. Don't complain about each other, don't judge lest you be judged. The Christian is like the farmer waiting for his crop. He doesn't control the rain or the sun. He trusts in the Lord and waits for the proper time. Oh, that I will become more like that farmer in the Lord's vineyard!

*Father in heaven, teach me to be patient as I wait for you.*

**READING THE BIBLE, ESPECIALLY THE NEW TESTAMENT.  
IT IS CALLED LECTIO DIVINA**

How do we do *Lectio Divina*? First of all, find somewhere you can be still, quiet and silent. Read a short passage of Scripture aloud several times, slowly. Allow the words to penetrate and marinate in your mind. Meditate and contemplate what you have read, which is a bit like chewing on food. Slowly and thoroughly savour and enjoy every taste and flavour. Don't be afraid to ask questions: remember Kipling's six honest serving men who taught him all he knew: their names are What?, Why?, and When? And How?, Where and Who? Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you into the deeper meaning of the Scripture. A simple prayer, 'Lord, teach me, show me, lead me' is all that is needed. In silence and stillness be expectant that God will speak and you will hear his voice.