

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

Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Brentnall

Pastor Emeritus: Canon Alan Burbidge

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28th December 2025

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY. CLOSE OF THE JUBILEE

1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMASTIDE

GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 27 Dec	5.30 pm	People of the Parish
Sun 28 Dec	9.30 am	Maureen Rafferty RIP
Mon 29 Dec	9.30 am	Sp. Intention for Jean & Malcolm Brocklehurst
Tues 30 Dec	9.30 am	Donor's intention, St Anthony
Wed 31 Dec	9.30 am	For Fr Gabriel Leyden for good health
Thu 01 Jan 2026	9.30 am	George & Margaret Bancroft RIP and for John & Michael Bancroft RIP
Fri 02 Jan	9.30 am	For peace in the world
Sat 03 Jan	9.30 am	For all in the parish who are not well
	5.30 pm	Intention of the donor, M & D for good health
Sun 04 Jan	9.30 am	People of the Parish

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)
on Saturday 10.15-10.45 am.

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Mon 29th Dec: St Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr
Wed 31st Dec: St Sylvester, 1st Pope
Thurs 1st Jan: Mary the Holy Mother of God
Fri 2nd Jan: Ss Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzen,
Bishops and Doctors of the Church
Sat 3rd Jan: Most Holy Name of Jesus

Our Family in God

Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience...COLOSSIANS 3:12

Among all the genres of viral videos out there, one that I find most affecting is one I'd call "Children meeting their newborn siblings for the first time."

From teens to toddlers, those moments are nothing but joy. Even small children break into happy tears when their tiny swaddled-up brother or sister is gently placed in their arms. What a mysterious, profound bond is family love!

In Jesus, those natural bonds of "mutual affection," as Paul calls them elsewhere (Romans 12:10), are expanded. Baptised into him, we're all brothers and sisters now, called to treat each other with that profound, deeply rooted love and to welcome one another into our lives with open arms and gratitude for the unique gift each one brings into this family – this family of God.

Father, help me grow in love for the brothers and sisters I have in you.

RECENT DEATHS:

Please pray for Josephine Jennings a long-time parishioner of Holy Spirit Church who died recently. We pray for her family at this sad time.

Requiem Mass for Josephine will be at St George's Church on Friday, 9th January at 11 am.

Also please pray for Peter Nolan of Moorside Crescent who died recently and for his family at this time of sadness. Peter was a long-time member of St George's parish and some years ago suffered a serious accident. He was cared for at home by his wife and family.

Requiem Mass for Peter will be on Monday, 5th January at 12.30 pm.

Also, please pray for Kathleen Monaghan of Rowsley Avenue, who died recently. It is a sadness for the family following so soon after the funeral of her husband Joseph Monaghan in August. Funeral details being arranged.

For all the recently dead we pray, *Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.*

CHRISTMAS THANKS

Fr Mark Brentnall and Fr Alan Burbidge would like to thank you for your Christmas wishes, cards and gifts and for your generous Christmas Offerings.

May God bless you all in the coming year. May it be happy and prosperous in spite of many challenges.

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

A synagogue is a sacred place but Jesus wasn't raised in a synagogue. A church is a sacred place but Jesus wasn't raised in a church. A seminary is a sacred place but Jesus wasn't raised in a seminary. Jesus was raised in the most sacred place of all places – the family. Every family is truly a sacred and holy place.

Jesus lived his hidden years in the bosom of his family. Here we find the first domestic Church, a loving family devoted to God and to each other. The Scriptures only speak of the birth of Jesus, the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt and the discovery of Jesus in the temple when he was twelve.

During these hidden years, under the parental guidance of Joseph and Mary, he would have learnt to pray, read the Hebrew Scriptures and attend synagogue.

To learn more we seek the wisdom and guidance of the Spirit. The Spirit leads us to understand that because the triune God is a communion of love the family is its living reflection. St Pope John Paul II said: 'Our God in his deepest mystery is not solitude, but a family, for he has within himself fatherhood, sonship and the essence of the family, which is love. That love, in the divine family, is the Holy Spirit. 'The family is, then, a school: a school of prayer, a school of service; a school of discipline, a school of formation but most of all a school of love. We thank God the Father for the Holy Family's witness of love, we rejoice in the Son for the healing grace of salvation, and we give praise to the Holy Spirit whose love is poured out upon us so we can love and serve God in our families.

'Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.'