

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

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12th January 2025

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

3rd SUNDAY OF CHRISTMASTIDE

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 11 Jan	5.30 pm	SG	Mark Crosbie RIP, birthday memoriam
Sun 12 Jan	9.30 am	SG	Jim Murphy RIP
	11.15 am	HS	Rose Gilligan, Birthday
Mon 13 Jan	10.30 am	SG	Hilary Crosbie RIP, birthday memoriam
Tues 14 Jan	9.30 am	SG	The Brogan family
Wed 15 Jan	9.30 am	SG	A thanksgiving Mass for the family of the donor
Thu 16 Jan	9.30 am	SG	Priest's own intention
Fri 17 Jan	9.30 am	SG	Maureen O'Sullivan RIP
Sat 18 Jan	9.30 am	SG	Deceased clergy
	5.30 pm	SG	Jimmy Murphy RIP
Sun 19 Jan	9.30 am	SG	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	HS	Helen Ullich and family

SG St George's HS Holy Spirit

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Jesus' baptism in the Jordan presents an opportunity for us to reflect on the gift of our own baptism. Most of us receive this sacrament as infants and can remember nothing of the day itself. Those blessed to be received into the Church as adults have the memory of this amazing sacramental grace and gift, the gateway into the Christian life.

Paul, who unpacks the mystery of baptism more than any other, writes beautifully of this sublime blessing in Romans 6:1-14. He explains that baptism is first and foremost a baptism into Jesus' death: 'Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death?' (6:3). What does this mean? The following verse explains: 'We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead..., we too may live a new life' (6:4). In and through our baptism a death occurs: our death, our burial. In and through baptism our old, sinful nature dies: this is what is buried, this is what dies. What is raised up to new life is a new humanity, a new creation, a new human being.

Baptism changes us from one kind of human being into another. In and through baptism death and sin no longer are our masters (see v.9). Yet, deep down, we know that at times sin and death still seem to have free reign in our hearts. The Scriptures may tell us we are dead to sin and alive to God but we may well feel this is far from the case! This is, however, where we are called to live by faith and not by feelings. Paul shows us what we are to do: 'count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus' (6:11). This involves effort on our part, first in refusing to allow sin to reign in our lives (v.12) and second in offering our whole selves to God (v.13), conscious that God's grace is at work in us.

'If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!' (2 Cor. 5:17)

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.

SECOND COLLECTION this weekend is for the Sick & Retired Priest's Fund.

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Mon 13th Jan: St Hilary, Bishop & Doctor

Fri 17th Jan: St Anthony, Abbot

Sat 18th Jan: Saturday Mass of Our Lady

FUNERAL DATES:

The funeral for Dave Perry is at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Mickleover on Tuesday, 14th January at 11 am.

The funeral for Bridie Donegan is at St Mary's Church, Derby, on Monday, 13th January at 1 pm.

A RECENT DEATH: Please pray for Thomas McGinty of Thackery St, Sinfín, who died recently. The funeral will be at St George's on January 30th at 11.30 am.

We extend our sincere sympathies to the family and remembrance in prayers.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Temples of the Holy Spirit

He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit ...LUKE 3:16

I think we often vastly underestimate who we are called to be. In Jesus' Baptism, the Holy Spirit descends upon him. Similarly, by the grace of our own Baptisms, the Spirit descends upon us, thus we become temples of the Holy Spirit. Do we actually treat ourselves, and others as such?

I do not think it would be an exaggeration to bow before another person, acknowledging the Holy Spirit dwelling therein. And there ought to be no place in us for self-hatred or self-destructive behaviour. We ought to honour the Spirit within and its temple.

This divine calling is Jesus' gift to us. Treasure this gift. Honour the indwelling Spirit. Let us never stain so great a Presence.

THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025 officially opened in the Dioceses of Nottingham on Sunday, 29th December, the Feast of the Holy Family.

Bishop Patrick celebrated Mass at 10 am in our Cathedral in Nottingham and open the Jubilee in the Diocese of Nottingham. A special prayer will be prayed in each of the other Jubilee churches in the Diocese and the Jubilee Prayer should be prayed at each Mass in the Diocese from 29th December onwards. Cards are available at Church.