

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

**Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Brentnall**

**Assistant: Canon Alan Burbidge Emeritus**

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

**Registered Office: Willson House, 25 Derby Road, Nottingham. NG1 5AW**

**26th January 2025**

**3rd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS**

Sat 25 Jan	5.30 pm	SG	Phil McCarthy RIP
Sun 26 Jan	9.30 am	SG	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	HS	Margaret Bennitt RIP (nee O'Reilly)
Mon 27 Jan	9.30 am	SG	Dave Perry RIP
Tues 28 Jan	9.30 am	SG	For Michael RIP (Jimmy's son)
Wed 29 Jan	9.30 am	SG	For all in the parish who are not well
Thu 30 Jan	9.30 am	SG	Diane Nee Tominac RIP, Anniv.
Fri 31 Jan	9.30 am	SG	Donor's intention, St Anthony
Sat 01 Feb	9.30 am	SG	People of the Parish
	5.30 pm	SG	Jimmy Murphy RIP
Sun 02 Feb	9.30 am	SG	Marie Fleming for good health
THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD. CANDLEMAS	11.15 am	HS	Marian Worthington RIP

**SG St George's HS Holy Spirit**

**GOSPEL REFLECTION:**

Today's Gospel has two parts. The first (1:1-4) is Luke's preface to the beautiful masterpiece which carries his name. The second (4:14-21) records Jesus' reading from the prophet Isaiah (Isa 61:1-2) at the synagogue in Nazareth and his amazing pronouncement that in their hearing this very Scripture was fulfilled (4:21).

Part one we could call 'witness' and part two 'fulfilment'. Luke composed his Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles as a single work with two volumes. Both prefaces are addressed to Theophilus – scholars are unsure who he was, a wealthy benefactor possibly a Sadducee, certainly a believer. The first four verses could be understood as a kind of a memo clipped to the manuscript, describing the book's contents and explaining why it had been written.

Luke was not an original eyewitness of the words and deeds of Jesus – he is second generation, so to speak. His classical Greek style reveals a highly educated man and he writes for like-minded Gentiles scattered throughout the Roman Empire. Luke's overarching concern is to persuade his readers of the historical reliability and accuracy of his narrative. He wanted his readers to put their complete trust in his careful investigation and research.

When we read the New Testament, especially the Gospels, we are on sacred ground. Jesus' reading from Isaiah reveals that he is the fulfilment of the Law and the Prophets. As St Augustine would note centuries later, 'In the Old Testament the New is concealed: in the New Testament the Old is revealed.' The reading from Isaiah is almost three thousand years old but nevertheless speaks to us with a vivid freshness of God's plan of salvation. The Scriptures reveal God's plan which has always been focused on his Son whom he sent to redeem us. A motif of Luke's Gospel is divine mercy, and it is a rich blessing to those who read, pray and study it.

All scripture is inspired by the Holy Spirit and, although the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life, we feed too from the sacred text of the Word of God.

*'The depth of the Christian Scriptures is boundless.'* (St Augustine of Hippo)

**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.

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

**ADORATION** before the Blessed Sacrament daily before the 9.30 am Mass and then other times as announced.

**SAINTS THIS WEEK:**

Mon 27<sup>th</sup> Jan: St Angela Merici, Virgin  
Tues 28<sup>th</sup> Jan: St Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor  
Fri 31<sup>st</sup> Jan: St John Bosco, Priest  
Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Feb: Saturday Mass of Our Lady

**A FUNERAL:**

The funeral for Thomas McGinty of Sinfen, will take place at St George's on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> January at 11.30 am.

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

**Do You Hear What I Hear?**

*....this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing. LUKE 4:21*

After reading that passage from Isaiah, Jesus announced something startling. He is the fulfilment of a prophecy. But he didn't say, "I'm that guy in the reading". Instead he made a statement about his audience – his listeners, which includes every one of us. "This passage," he said, "is fulfilled in your hearing."

His point: It wasn't fulfilled just because he read it: it happened, too, because people were there to hear it. With that, Jesus declared that those who hear his words help make the message matter.

A lot of people in the synagogue that day probably thought, "Okay. What happens now?" Maybe we need to ask ourselves the same question.

Having heard the Good News of a prophecy fulfilled – of liberty granted, of sight restored, of hope renewed – what will we do?

We can't keep it to ourselves. How can we continue this day to carry forth Christ's message and make it heard?

**MY DAY BY DAY**

The little booklet of bible reading for the days of the month of February is now available. Please get your copy at church and place a donation in the collection to help cover the cost of provision

The daily Gospel readings through February are taken from the Gospel of St Mark. The shortest Gospel that it is believed was written in Rome for the encouragement of Christians, many of whom suffered and lost family members in the savage persecutions of the monstrous Emperor Nero around 65AD. This shortest of the four gospels was a great source of inspiration and hope to early Christians and to Christians down the ages even to the present day. Also, in Day by Day are lots of lovely short quotations from various saints. eg:

*'God's love for us is not greater in heaven than it is now' ... St Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)*

*'Whoever finds God finds everything, whoever loses God loses everything.' ... St Robert Bellarmine (1542-1621)*

*'I will spend my heaven doing good on earth' ... St Terese of Lisieux 1873-1897.*

**THE JUBILEE OF READERS** is celebrated today. We thank God for all our Readers and for the ministry of reading which they fulfil at our celebrations of the Eucharist, both at weekends and during the days of the week.

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