

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

22nd June 2025

CORPUS CHRISTI

12th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

St GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 21 June	5.30 pm	Gretta Ford RIP
Sun 22 June	9.30 am	Ada and James Delaney RIP (Win's parents)
Mon 23 June	9.30 am	1 st anniversary of death of Mary Devassey RIP. Also, prayers for Michael, Jimmy's son, anniversary.
Tues 24 June	9.30 am	Anniversary Mass for Michael, Jimmy's son
Wed 25 June	9.30 am	Philomena Temple RIP
Thu 26 June	9.30 am	The O'Neill & Hamlet families.
Fri 27 June	9.30 am	Eileen Burton, birthday thanksgiving and her intention and for the family
SACRED HEART FEAST		
Sat 28 June	9.30 am	For the victims of knife crime, especially in the Derby area
STs PETER & PAUL APOSTLES	5.30 pm	Mr Trevor McCandless RIP, Anniv.
Sun 29 June	9.30 am	People of the Parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Today we celebrate the feast day of the Body and Blood of Christ. The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. This phrase 'source and summit' is a rather awesome one, isn't it? It is as if in the blessed Eucharist is contained the entire spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Passover Lamb. St Irenaeus put it so beautifully when he said many centuries ago. 'Our way of thinking is attuned to the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in turn confirms our way of thinking.' What does it mean to have our way of thinking attuned to the Eucharist?

One way is to read the Feeding of the Five Thousand as pointing to the Eucharist – the Bread of Heaven. The word 'Eucharist' has its roots in the Greek word *eucharistein* which recalls the Jewish blessing prayer – especially during a meal – giving thanks for God's work of creation, redemption and sanctification. At the very heart, then of the Eucharist is giving thanks to God. The Eucharist is a celebration of praise and thanksgiving at which Christ is made real and present. This is why, on entering a church where the Eucharist is in the tabernacle, we recognise the presence of Christ by genuflecting.

We must cultivate a genuine sense of Eucharistic wonder and awe. This will happen as we allow the Holy Spirit to help us grow in awareness of the fact that it is truly Christ himself whom we are receiving.

This understanding that Christ is real and present in the Eucharist cannot be grasped by the senses but only by faith, and our faith relies on God's authority, for it was Jesus himself who said: 'This is my body which is given to you.' St Cyril of Jerusalem said, 'Do not doubt whether this is true but rather receive the words of the Saviour in faith, for since he is the truth, he cannot lie.' The Eucharist is our greatest gift; it is our richest blessing and most cherished treasure. Nothing in the Christian life compares to it, for in the Eucharist is Christ himself, the 'Godhead here in hiding'.

'Godhead here in hiding, whom I do adore, masked by these bare shadows, shape and nothing more. See, Lord, at thy service low lies here a heart lost, all in wonder at the God thou art.'

(St Thomas Aquinas)

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS' DAY OF RENEWAL on Saturday 28th June 2025 at Holy Family Church, Blenheim Drive, Allestree. Time is 9.30 am registration, 10 am start, should finish about 3 pm. Please contact Fran Hazel on fran.hazel@dioceseofnottingham.uk or tel: 07951 143648 to confirm attendance. Thank you. Please bring packed lunch.

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

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Tues 24th June: The Nativity of St John the Baptist
Fri 27th June: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
Sat 23rd June: The Immaculate Heart of Mary

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK FOR PETER'S PENCE.

A RECENT DEATH: Please pray for Mr Troy Martin RIP who has died recently. His Funeral Mass will be at St George's at 11.30 am on 4th July. We extend our sincere sympathies and prayers to his family. *Eternal rest grant unto him O lord and let perpetual light shine upon him, may he rest in peace. Amen.*

REFLECTION FOR THE SACRED HEART FEAST

The heart has been understood by many cultures to be the very centre and essence of a person. We speak of people having a 'big heart' or having a 'heart' for a project or event; those humbled through grief or a fractured relationship are described as having their 'hearts broken'.

Today we celebrate the feast of Jesus' Sacred Heart, the focus of which is always God's burning love for humankind. This feast day has its roots in the visions of St Margaret Mary Alcoque (1647-90), which shed new light on Christ's divine love for every person.

To know God's love is vital if we are to grow and mature as Christians. A sure and firm grasp of God's love enables us to live out the Christian life with joy and confidence. The best and most effective way to enter into the mystery of God's love is in and through the cross.

It is in reflecting and pondering on the cross, the Paschal Mystery that the Holy Spirit can show us how great is God's love. Paul was compelled by love because he knew it was love which compelled Jesus to die on the cross for us.

We need to move beyond sentiment and come to a true understanding of the reality of God's love because we often misunderstand it. We too easily succumb to the kind of thinking which believes that we must earn God's love but, of course, we cannot. The Father loves us because we are created by him and redeemed by Jesus, his beloved Son. The amazing, wonderful and totally magnificent aspect of God's love is that he loves everyone, no matter who they are. The essence of God's love is that God first loved us. He is the Good Shepherd, who leaves the ninety-nine to seek and save the lost sheep. The sacred heart of Jesus is a heart burning with divine love for every lost soul.

'You will find all that is lacking in your heart in the heart of Jesus, dying on the cross. Then you will be enabled to love those whom you would naturally, in your pride, hate and crush.' (Bishop Francis Fenelon)

THE JUBILEE OF CIVIC LIFE, in the Diocese of Nottingham is on Monday 23rd June. We will pray at Mass for all our civic leaders in Derby and Derbyshire. May they give good and loyal service to their local and county communities. Especially, may they be at the forefront in working to cut down violent crime, robberies and abuse of women and girls and children.

CONFIRMATION on

Sunday, 20th July 2025 a 11 am
ENGLISH MARTYRS' CHURCH

Please take an application form for the Sacrament of Confirmation for the parishes of St George and English Martyrs. Candidates should be in Y6 or above.