

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

Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Brentnall

Assistant: Canon Alan Burbidge Emeritus

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29th June 2025

DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR POPE LEO XIV  
SAINTS PETER AND PAUL APOSTLES

13th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

**St GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS**

Sat 28 June	5.30 pm	Mr Trevor McCandless RIP, Anniv.
Sun 29 June	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Mon 30 June	9.30 am	For parish benefactors
Tues 01 July	9.30 am	For Stephen RIP (Kath's friend)
Wed 02 July	9.30 am	Kathleen and Tom Connally RIP
Thu 03 July	9.30 am	Gabriel Leyden for good health
		Jubilee of educators in the diocese of Nottm
Fri 04 July	<b>No 9.30 am Mass</b>	
	11.30 am	Requiem Mass, Mr Troy Martin RIP
Sat 05 July	9.30 am	Deceased clergy
	5.30 pm	Stanley Brown RIP
Sun 06 July	9.30 am	People of the Parish
		Padley Pilgrimage with 3 pm Mass

**GOSPEL REFLECTION:**

The most important question in the Bible is: 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' (Matthew 16:14). A grace of revelation is needed if we are to confess that Jesus is God. Flesh and blood cannot reveal this. The human mind in and of itself is not equipped to proclaim that Jesus of Nazareth is God incarnate – true God, true man, God made man. Of course, many have recognised that Jesus is a great moral teacher and one of the most impressive and significant people of human history.

Atheists, men and women of good will and believers of other faiths recognise Jesus' greatness. But that is not the same as worshipping him as God from God, Light from Light, of one being with the Father. This grace, which even we may take for granted, is a special gift from the father.

There is a way in which we need to ask ourselves this question every day. Who do you say Jesus of Nazareth is? Our prayer and reading of Scripture is rooted in the quest to answer this question, asking the Holy Spirit to grant us the secrets of revelation, 'the secret things [belonging] unto the Lord' (Deut. 29:29), which we will spend the rest of our lives plumbing and quarrying. As we bow before this mystery, we will hear God say to us: 'I am God, and there is no other. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come' (Isa. 46:9-10).

Despite Peter's confession it is sobering that the rock upon which the Church was built was the same man whom Jesus identified as being, unwittingly for sure, a vehicle for Satan: 'Get behind me, Satan!' (Matthew 16:25).

We all stumble, fall, get confused and are led astray. This is why this grace of revelation needs to be cultivated and protected. The devil is like a roaring lion looking to devour our faith: erode it, diminish it and undermine it. Stand firm, resist the evil one and he will flee. Jesus is God made man: he became man that we might become divine and share in the life of the Blessed Trinity.

*'No one has ever seen God but God, the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.'* (John 1:18 NIV).

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.

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

**SAINTS THIS WEEK:**

Mon 30<sup>th</sup> June: First martyrs of the Holy Roman Church  
Tues 1<sup>st</sup> July: St Oliver Plunket, Bishop & Martyr  
Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> July: St Thomas, Apostle  
Fri 4<sup>th</sup> July: St Elizabeth of Portugal  
Sat 5<sup>th</sup> July: St Anthony Mary Zaccaria, Priest

**SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEK FOR PETER'S PENCE.**

It goes to the Holy Father's various charitable works and towards the support of the Office of Pope.

**BISHOP PATRICK McKINNEY**, our Bishop, celebrates the anniversary of his episcopal ordination on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July. We pray for him as he reaches the 10<sup>th</sup> year of his being ordained Bishop of Nottingham.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.*

**3<sup>rd</sup> JULY, ST THOMAS, APOSTLE (FEAST)**

**GOSPEL REFLECTION:**

We tend to associate Thomas with doubt. The accent is very much on his unbelief, not on his faith. In fact, he has become a kind of patron saint of our modern world by virtue of the fact that he was an empiricist who, in a pre-scientific period of history, wanted hard facts and evidence. He point blank refused to believe until he had seen the risen Lord himself and put his hands into his wounds. To be fair to him, once the Lord appeared to him he was repentant and embraced the risen Lord.

Difficulties are often a part of faith. The deep ocean of faith is often arrived at through a sea of doubt. We must not be afraid of doubt but wrestle with it and work through it, both in ourselves and in others. Faith is the currency, if you like, of the kingdom of heaven. At least, it is during our life on earth. But what is faith?

Faith is being sure of what we hope for, certain of what we cannot see (Heb. 11:1). The comedian Woody Allen once quipped: 'If only God would give me some clear sign! Like making a large deposit in my name in a Swiss bank. That's the problem, isn't it – we want proof, hard evidence, but in a demanding and arrogant way, rather like Thomas.'

Faith is humble and simple and yet some of the world's greatest minds – St Paul, St Augustine of Hippo, St Thomas Aquinas, Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, to mention a few, had a simple faith in Jesus.

These great thinkers are well aware of the intellectual arguments for and against the existence of God or Jesus' resurrection from the dead, but they all have one thing in common: They have sought first to believe, knowing that from this faith understanding will flow. They have not striven to understand first. We are blessed if we believe even though we do not see.

*'For what is faith unless it is to believe what you do not see?'*  
(St Augustine)