

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

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2nd March 2025

8th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 01 Mar	5.30 pm	SG	Mark Crosbie RIP & Hilary Crosbie RIP
Sun 02 Mar	9.30 am	SG	Marian Powers, Intention
	11.15 am	HS	People of the Parish
Mon 03 Mar	9.30 am	SG	Esther Donaghy RIP (Co. Tyrone)
Tues 04 Mar	9.30 am	SG	In thanksgiving to St Anthony
Wed 05 Mar	9.30 am	SG	Elizabeth O'Toole RIP, 5 th Anniv
ASH WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm	HS	Priest's intention
Thu 06 Mar	9.30 am	SG	For Pope Francis for good health
Fri 07 Mar	9.30 am	SG	Harold & Kathleen Dunkerley RIP
Sat 08 Mar	9.30 am	SG	
	5.30 pm	SG	Annie McCandless RIP
Sun 09 Mar	9.30 am	SG	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	HS	Jim Murphy RIP
		SG St George's	HS Holy Spirit

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Jesus worked with wood and was (no doubt) familiar with the occupational hazard of wood chippings inadvertently landing in the eye. He draws on this to teach about the all too human tendency to judge others before we put the spotlight on ourselves. We tend to see what is wrong with our neighbour (the splinter) before addressing issues in our lives (the plank). Here's an example: someone might irritate and annoy or for some reason get under our skin and we take it upon ourselves to say, 'You should think about how you are coming across' whilst not giving the slightest attention to their own reactions.

Why is this? What's going on when we think and operate like this? It's hard to know; sometimes it's insecurity or low self-esteem or boredom or even just plain old envy, jealousy and malice. God knows we all do it all the time – no one is immune, St Teresa of Calcutta said: 'If you judge people, you have no time to love. Thomas a Kempis said: 'Do not be angry that you cannot make others as you would wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself as you wish to be.'

Jesus encouraged us to first examine our own lives before we judge anyone else. The Christian way (although you could be forgiving for thinking otherwise) is to put God's spotlight on ourselves before we get overly excited about judging anyone else. If we began to live like this, we would usher in a spiritual revolution both in our own lives and in our parishes and wider society. Some will protest that we need to judge and discern people and situations – how else can we help? Apart from the self-righteousness of this, it is wrong because it presumes to know how and what God thinks. God's thinking is as far away from our thinking as the east is from the west. We should practise not judging. The next time you come across a story about someone's fall (through any human weakness), instead of judging them, pray for them, offer them up to God's mercy and love. When we think and act like this, we think and act like the Father.

Lord, teach me to flee from sitting in judgement and condemning others – help me to focus less on how they are coming across and more about how I am coming across.

A RECENT DEATH: Please pray for Phyllis O'Brien RIP of Swarkestone Drive. Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

AT HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH, MARCH 2ND: Sunday, today after Mass, Coffee Morning and meeting about the future of Holy Spirit. All welcome.

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.

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Tues 4th March: St Casimir
Fri 7th March: SS Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs
Sun 8th March: St John of God, Religious

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH – FOR FAMILIES IN CRISIS:

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness and rediscovering each other's gifts even in their differences.

No Labour Is in Vain

.....be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58

The life of any disciple is one of fits and starts, of sin, of mercy and reconciliation. The saints walked that same path, no matter how finished they might appear to us now. It is tempting to get frustrated as we compare ourselves to that (incorrect) vision of holiness, but as St Paul himself writes here, when we sincerely put God first, none of our labour for the kingdom is in vain.

Lent, that most welcomed season of honest self-examination, begins in a few days. As one of those companions on the journey – Dorothy Day – a woman acutely aware of her own failings, yet also confident that the Lord's work through her weakness was not in vain, encourages: *This is Lent and Lent is a wonderful time to begin again.*

Jesus, let your love work through me even in my weakness and doubt;

ASH WEDNESDAY

We enter our Lenten pilgrimage in this Jubilee Year as Pilgrims of hope. Our hope is, that through the grace of conversion, the blessing of repentance and the anointing of joy we shall return to the Father's house.

For at the heart of every Lenten pilgrimage is the invitation to render not our garments but our hearts. Through baptism we received the grace of first conversion, an ongoing and perennial quest to repent and believe the Gospel.

What God Wants This Lent

And your father who sees in secret will repay you. Matthew 6:4

Lent begins today. It is a great season of grace. We typically begin with many resolutions and plans for this holy season. And when it is all over, we may be disappointed with our efforts. Did we fail yet again? While increased fasting prayer and almsgiving are very important, there is something more important. Most of all, God wants my love and my self gift.

It is likely I will not live up to my ascetical plans for this Lent. But I begin this holy season by surrendering myself to God and God's will. That will be enough.

Heavenly father, this Lenten season I offer to you all that I am and do. Please accept this gift, and make it holy. May it be pleasing to you this season and always.