

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

23rd March 2025

3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF THE LENT

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS**

Sat 22 Mar	5.30 pm	SG	Deceased members of the Geelan Fam.
Sun 23 Mar	9.30 am	SG	Geraldine Maughan RIP, 8 <sup>th</sup> anniversary
	11.15 am	HS	For the work of CAFOD for the poor of the world.
Mon 24 Mar	9.30 am	SG	Sp. Intention for Rev Mgr Gabriel Leyden for good health
Tues 25 Mar	9.30 am	SG	In thanksgiving to St Anthony, donor's intention.
Wed 26 Mar	9.30 am	SG	Josie Clifford RIP
Thu 27 Mar	9.30 am	SG	Sp. Intention for Michael Downes for good health
Fri 28 Mar	9.30 am	SG	Harold & Kathleen Dunkerley RIP
Sat 29 Mar	9.30 am	SG	For an end to warfare and violence
	5.30 pm	SG	Deceased members of the Fortune Fam.
Sun 30 Mar	9.30 am	SG	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	HS	Paul Teesalu RIP, anniversary

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

**GOSPEL REFLECTION:**

Disasters and tragedies have a way of focusing our minds and grabbing our attention. Think of how the collapse of the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York on 11 September 2001 focused the attention of the entire world. There is, for sure, a morbid streak in human nature, a voyeuristic tendency to dwell on the misfortune of others in a way which is neither healthy nor helpful. Seasoned traffic officers, for example, complain bitterly of the phenomenon of 'rubber necking', when motorway traffic slows down to peruse the aftermath of a crash scene, despite knowing full well that tailbacks and congestion will follow.

In the ancient world tragedies and disasters were construed as a sign of God's anger because of sin. The book of Job captures this well when Eliphaz, one of Job's advisors, chimes in with great earnestness: 'Consider now: Who being innocent has ever perished?' As I have observed, those who plough evil and those who sow trouble reap it' (4:7-8 NIV). This view, is, however, not restricted to the ancient world. It emerged in the aftermath of 9/11 and expresses a way of thinking about God and the world which is misinformed. Jesus strongly refuted the idea that those who fall victim to tragic events have incurred God's wrath but taught that we all need a humble repentant and contrite heart.

The truth is that evil and terrible things happen to good people, and evil and terrible things happen to bad people. God's sun shines on the righteous and unrighteous. Furthermore, those who choose to live a righteous life often had to endure all kinds of contempt and suffering, whereas the unrighteous are embraced by the world and enjoy its rewards. This is, without a doubt, one of the mysteries of life: why do good people suffer? Why do bad people thrive? What matters is our attitude of heart. We could do no better than to bring to mind the wise words of Thomas a Kempis:

*'I would rather feel penitence than know how to define it.'*

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**1ST HOLY COMMUNION:** Classes will begin on Sunday after Easter. Fr Mark Brentnall, parish priest, will address parents and children after the Sunday Masses. Children of Year 3 school age or older who have not yet made their 1st Holy Communion are candidates.

**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.

**Fruitless?**

*It may bear fruit in the future.* LUKE13:9

This Gospel couldn't come at a better time.

Right now, squarely in the middle of Lent, when we're weary of going meatless, skipping desserts, scraping our fingers on empty holy water fonts and remembering sins we'd rather forget, maybe we're starting to think, "I'm never going to get this right." But then this passage from Luke comes along to say: "Keep at it. God isn't giving up on you."

One beautiful gift of this season is time. When we backslide, slip up, forget or just fall back into sins we've tried to overcome, we're reminded that we can begin again. Ours is a faith of second (and third and fourth) chances. Every one of us is a work in progress. Lent reminds us of that. Often.

Take a moment this day to ask: How can I better tend my garden?

The God who created us and loves us is giving us the blessed gift of time. How can we make it more fruitful?

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**HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH:** Fr Mark Brentnall, parish priest of Alvaston & Chellaston and St George's & Holy Spirit, will visit Holy Spirit Church on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025 for 11.15 am Mass and to share with the people what the Bishop and his advisors have decided. In his letter at the time of Fr Alan's retirement last year, the Bishop said that the last Sunday Mass at Holy Spirit will be at Easter 2025. It seemed a good way off at the time but is fastly approaching. Fr Mark will share on the future of the church building.

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**POPE ST JOHN PAUL II** reflecting on mission and Our Lord's words, 'Put out into the deep' said "These words invite us to remember the past with gratitude to live the present with enthusiasm and to look forward to the future with confidence."

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**POPE FRANCIS:** Please keep Pope Francis in your daily prayers as he continues to battle with serious illness. May God bless him and be with him in his courageous battle to get back to good health. *Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for him.*