

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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30th March 2025

LAETARE SUNDAY, START OF BRITISH SUMMER TIME

4TH SUNDAY OF THE LENT

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 29 Mar	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
Mon 31 Mar	9.30 am	SG	Mrs Dympna Cullen for good health
Tues 01 Apr	9.00 am	SG	Adoration & Prayer – NO MASS
		9.45 am	school children visit.
Wed 02 Apr	11.0 am	SG	Requiem Mass, June Elizabeth Allen
	9.30 am	SG	Remembrance Mass for
		Mr Thomas Augustine RIP	
Thu 03 Apr	9.30 am	SG	Private Intention
	7.00 pm	St Mary's	Deanery Jubilee Station Mass
Fri 04 Apr	9.30 am	SG	For those seriously ill and
			for Pope Francis
Sat 05 Apr	9.30 am	SG	For Josephine Jennings for good health
	5.30 pm	SG	People of the Parish
Sun 06 Apr	9.30 am	SG	For world peace, especially the Ukraine,
			Gaza, Sudan & Yemen
	11.15 am	HS	Winifred Shaw RIP
		SG St George's	HS Holy Spirit

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

The two sons in today's parable could be said to be very similar to the publican and the Pharisee. The younger son humbly acknowledges his faults and throws himself on his father's mercy. The elder son, by contrast, is oblivious of his own sin. Like the Pharisee, he focuses on what he regards as his own righteousness: "All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders" (v.29).

Yet there is a malice towards his father. His words betray a deep anger and reveal that he has failed to realise that everything has been given to him by his father. He regards his work as slavery, even though at the beginning of the parable we learn that the father had divided his property with his sons. He thinks that what he has is something he earned rather than the father's gift, and his way of thinking impairs his judgement. In a subtle way, Jesus reveals that the elder brother shares in the sin of Adam. Adam denied his responsibility for his wife, Eve, and blamed God for the problem – "It was the woman you gave me!" (cf. Gen. 3:12. In a similar way, in his anger, the elder son denies any relationship with his brother and blames the father.

When he describes his brother as 'this son of yours!' he is revealing the true state of his heart. Yesterday, we saw that the hidden meaning of the parable is that Jesus is the incarnation of God's judgement. He declared that the publican left the temple reconciled with God, while the Pharisee did not. In today's parable, a further dimension of Jesus is revealed. One thing is clear: the father loves both his sons.

The elder son excluded himself, but the father reaches out to him, pleading with him to let go of his self-righteous mind and hardened heart. Neither son is excluded from the father's mercy – in the same way that Jesus' mercy extends to everyone.

Lord, teach me to throw myself on your grace and mercy and recognise that but for your grace go I.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Classes will begin on Sunday, 4th May. Fr Mark Brentnall will address parents and children after the Sunday Masses during May. Forms for application will be available at church. Candidates are children of Year 3 school age or older children who have not yet made their First Holy Communion.

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 OF THE WEEK:

Fri 4th Apr: St Isidore, Bishop & Doctor

Sat 5th Apr: St Vincent Ferrer, Priest

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL: For the use of new technologies. Let us pray that the use of new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crisis of our times.

A Dignified Title and Mission

So we are ambassadors for Christ2 CORINTHIANS 5:20

I have often thought about how I can best live my faith in relation to Christ. I believe in the scriptural teachings of Jesus. I believe I should love others, do charitable deeds, be humble, offer mercy and forgive. I worship at Mass and pray often to be a Christian for Christ. However in today's reading, I note that Paul has given me another dignified title that I am called to fulfil: I am an ambassador for Christ.

I am being sent to represent Christ who has appointed me to go on my mission, whether nearby or far away. As an ambassador, my responsibilities are to maintain a kind attitude, to promote good will, to assist where I can and to try to keep peace among the people. My ambassador credentials are renewed and strengthened at every Mass - which from the Latin means "to be sent."

Dear Christian sisters and brothers, we are all ambassadors for Christ. On what mission is Christ sending you?

A RECENT DEATH: Please pray for June Elizabeth Allen of Middleton Ave, Littleover, who died a short time ago. Her funeral Requiem Mass will take place at St George's on Tuesday, 1st April at 11.30 am. We extend our sincere sympathies to the family. *Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.*

BISHOP PATRICK will celebrate the Jubilee of Derby Deanery on this coming Thursday, 3rd April 2025. It will take the form of a Deanery Station Mass at St Mary's Derby at 7 pm. There will be opportunity for Confessions from 6 pm together with a time of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It is an opportunity for parishioners of deanery parishes of Derby and district to come together in a Jubilee Mass of thanksgiving and praise.

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."

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.*