

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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11th May 2025

4th SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

St GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 10 May	5.30 pm	Mrs Maria McIntyre RIP, 10th Anniversary
Sun 11 May	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Mon 12 May	9.30 am	James F Burbidge RIP (65th anniversary)
Tues 13 May	9.30 am	For Evangelisation
Wed 14 May	9.30 am	In thanksgiving for all, especially parishioners and friends
Thu 15 May	NO MASS AT ST GEORGE'S 9.00 am	at ENGLISH MARTYRS Requiem for Cecilia Kirk RIP
Fri 16 May	9.30 am 11.30 am	Michael Kelly RIP in London at ENGLISH MARTYRS Funeral Service, Sean McCrystal RIP
Sat 17 May	9.30 am	For Holy Souls, especially recently deceased of the parish
	5.30 pm	Lourdes Watters RIP
Sun 18 May	9.30 am	People of the parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

How do you feel about being compared to a sheep. It's not that flattering, as sheep have a reputation of being not the smartest of animals. In *Animal Farm*, George Orwell depicted the pig as the most intelligent farm animal – for him sheep were easily manipulated and easily led. In his tale the sheep were good at chanting slogans but failed to think things through for themselves.

The French poet Jean de La Fontaine said: 'A certain fox, it is said, wanted to become a wolf. Who can say why no wolf has ever craved the life of a sheep? Sheep are vulnerable and needy: they need feeding, guiding and leading. They are prone to stray into danger. They are easy prey for animals such as foxes and wolves (both sly animals).

On the more positive note, they are good at recognising the voice of the shepherd. If we are honest, we have to admit the comparison of human beings to sheep is an apt one. The Anglican Book of Common Prayer includes the following confession in its liturgy: 'We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. 'We are like sheep in the ways we go astray, but the Lord is the Good Shepherd who leads us through the valley of the shadow of death to quiet and versant pastures.

How do we hear the voice of the Shepherd? In our prayer, through the Scriptures, through the teaching of the Church and through the light of our conscience. We all err and fall and walk in darkness, but the Lord's voice is constantly calling us to life eternal. Jesus wants not one of his sheep to be lost. Our lives are a pilgrimage to the safe pasture of heaven and the gift of eternal life.

'I believe that I shall never die; this awful prospect would crush me, were it not that I trusted and prayed that it would be an eternity in God's presence. How is eternity a boon unless he goes with it? And for others dear to me, my one prayer is that they may see God.' (Blessed John Henry Newman)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Fr Brentnall continues the preparation sessions. First Holy Communion Mass will be at St George's on Sunday 1st June at 12 noon.

READERS FOR SUNDAY AND SATURDAY MASSES: If you would be interested in reading at our weekend Masses, please leave your name with Fr Alan and he will pass it on to our organiser, Mrs P. Greaves.

A PRAYER REQUEST: Please pray for Jimmy Devlin who is battling with his chronic illness and is again in the Royal Derby Hospital.

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

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Mon 12th May: Saints Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs and Saint Pancras, Martyr
Tues 13th May: Our Lady of Fatima
Wed 14th May: Saint Matthias, Apostle

The Voice

Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me." JOHN 10:27

You don't need to be a sheep in a field to know the power of the human voice. If it's someone you love – a parent, spouse, friend – just hearing them can leave you feeling comforted or uplifted. A phone call, a whisper, a word of love or support can change everything.

It's the same way with the Good Shepherd. His is a voice like no other – promising eternal life, mercy, consolation, hope. Christ the Good Shepherd leads his flock, as Revelation puts it, to "springs of life-giving water" (v.17).

The question for us is very simple: Are we listening? Jesus calls out to us in our thirst, in our wandering and wondering. He knows us – not only what we need but also where we need to go.

In a noisy world where so many voices compete for our attention, there is only one voice that matters.

Stop, listen and hear. What is he saying?

THE CONCLAVE of 135 Cardinals gathered in the Sistine Chapel to elect a new Pope is well underway. We pray that with the guidance of God, the Holy Spirit, they will elect a truly worthy successor to St Peter and all the other martyrs and saintly popes who have followed him during nearly 2000 years of the life of the Church.

RECENT DEATHS AND FUNERALS: We pray for all who have died recently and for their families as they mourn their dead and prepare for their funerals.

Funerals this week at English Martyrs, Alvaston:

Thursday, 5th May, 9 am Requiem for Cecilia Kirk RIP who for many years came to St George's Church from her home in Peartree Crescent. Reception into English Martyrs at 4 pm on Wednesday, 14th May.

Friday, 16th March, 11.30 am. Funeral Service for Sean McCrystal of Glossop Street.

Death: Please pray for Esterina Ilaria who has passed away this week.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

WORK AT ST GEORGE'S CHURCH The work of installing a new boiler and central heating at St George's continues. Replacing lines of old pipework and fitting the new boiler and tank in the sacristy are a big job. The radiators, which are not so old, do not need replacing. The date of completion depends on how the work goes and we continue to celebrate daily Mass in the Social Centre and the weekend Masses too, if necessary.