

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

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18th May 2025

5th SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

St GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 17 May	5.30 pm	Lourdes Watters RIP
Sun 18 May	9.30 am	People of the parish
Mon 19 May	9.30 am	For all the people of God, the family of Jesus Christ
Tues 20 May	9.30 am	For peace in the world, especially, the Ukraine, Gaza, Burma and the Sudan
Wed 21 May	9.30 am	In thanksgiving, St Anthony
Thu 22 May	9.00 am	Funeral Mass for baby Michael
Fri 23 May	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Sat 24 May	9.30 am	The recently dead of the Parish
	5.30 pm	Michael Donovan RIP
Sun 25 May	9.30 am	People of the Parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

The song by Luther Vandross "What the world needs now, is love, sweet love" is right at so many levels. If you are familiar with it having had your attention drawn to it, you may be tempted to start to sing or hum it – it's a catchy tune, after all. The key lyric is: "What the world needs now, is love, sweet love. It's the only thing that there's too little of." God knows, what the world needs now is love, sweet love, but the question is: what kind of love?

Love means different things to different people. Yesterday we touched on Pope Paul VI's vision for evangelism – this prophet of evangelism speaks to us again today.

'Above all the gospel must be proclaimed by witness. Take a Christian or a handful of Christians who, in the midst of their own community, show their capacity for understanding and acceptance, their sharing of life and destiny with other people, their solidarity with the efforts of all for whatever is noble and good. Let us suppose that, in addition, they radiate in an altogether simple and unaffected way their faith in values that go beyond current values, and their hope is something that is not seen and that one would not dare to imagine. Through this wordless witness these Christians stir up irresistible questions in the hearts of those who see how they live. Why do they live in this way? What or who is it that inspires them? Why are they in our midst? Such a witness is already a silent proclamation of the Good News and a very powerful and effective one. Here we have an initial act of evangelisation.

'The above questions will ask, whether they are people to whom Christ has never been proclaimed, or baptised people who do not practise, or people who live as nominal Christians but according to principles that are in no way Christian, or people who are seeking and not without suffering, something or someone whom they sense but cannot name. Other questions will arise, deeper and more demanding ones, questions evoked by this witness which involves presence, sharing solidarity and which is an essential element, and generally the first one, in evangelisation'. (*Evangelii nuntiandi* 21)

OUR NEW POPE LEO XIV: We pray in thanksgiving to God for our new Pope Leo XIV. May he have a long and fruitful ministry as he gives leadership in proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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.

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

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Mon 19th May: St Dunstan, Bishop
Tues 20th May: St Bernadine of Siena, Priest
Wed 21st May: St Christopher of Magallanes, Priest & Companions, Martyrs
Thurs 22nd May: St Rita of Cascia, Religious

YOUR PRAYERS please for the family of a 6-weeks old child who has died recently. It is a great sadness to lose a little one and to prepare for a funeral. We pray for God's comforting for the family at this sad time. The funeral Mass will take place at St George's on Thursday, 22nd May at 9 am.

REFLECTION FROM ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Celebrity is a modern obsession. We even have designated A, B, C and D listers (the list so far has not extended to E or F!). Without a doubt, the celebrities at the top of the list are treated like gods and are feted, indulged and revered. Of course, we all know that they are only human (and most of the time only too human), and the other side of the coin is that the same media which put them up on pedestals soon turn on them and bring them back down to earth again. That said, the obsession continues and gets worse from year to year.

In Lystra, after performing a wonderful healing miracle, St Paul and St Barnabas are deemed by the crowd to be the first-century equivalent of celebrities as the crowd mistakes them for the Greek gods Hermes and Zeus in human form. The apostles are horrified at the suggestion tearing their garments in dismay and protesting. 'Men, why are you doing this? We also are men, of like nature with you, and bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God. (v.15). Despite their protests they have great difficulty in keeping the crowd from making sacrifices to them. (v.18).

What lesson or insight can we draw from this incident? The Gospel message is a great leveller of pretension and aspiration to be more than we really are – before God we are all created equal: before God each of us possesses a unique and inalienable dignity. Upon what is this dignity based? It is based upon what God has done for us in Jesus. The Holy Spirit keeps our feet very much on the ground but our head, heart and mind focused on Christ.

Lord Jesus, I turn from the worthless pursuit of all that does not lead to you. You are true treasure and real riches.

THE NEW HEATING SYSTEM at St George's is nearly completed. There is a little more to do in the sacristy area where the new boiler and tanks are. The pipework in the church is completed. We thank the workmen for their skill and good work.

1ST HOLY COMMUNION preparations continue at St George's. 1st Holy Communion will be celebrated for our candidates on Sunday, 1st June, at 12 noon.