

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

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Pastor Emeritus: Canon Alan Burbidge

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11th January 2026

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

1st SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 10 Jan	5.30 pm	Nuala O'Riordan RIP (anniversary)
Sun 11 Jan	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Mon 12 Jan	9.00 am	Mass at St George's School ONLY for the beginning of the school year. All welcome. NO MASS AT THE CHURCH
Tues 13 Jan	9.30 am	Mary Daly RIP, 18 th anniversary
Wed 14 Jan	11.30 am	Requiem Mass, Kathleen Monaghan RIP NO 9.30 am MASS
Thu 15 Jan	9.30 am	Margaret Simpson RIP
Fri 16 Jan	9.30 am	The living and dead of the Doherty family (Hilton)
Sat 17 Jan	9.30 am	Donor's intention, Holy Souls
	5.30 pm	Hilary and Mark Crosbie RIP
Sun 18 Jan	9.30 am	People of the Parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Jesus' baptism was a defining moment. Immersed in the waters of the Jordan, he embraced his vocation. In Jesus' baptism we touch two profound mysteries of our faith: firstly, the depth of Jesus' identification with us and, secondly, a revelation of the triune God.

The baptism Jesus received was one of repentance (Mark 1:4), but he had no need of this which is why John tried to deter him (Matt. 3:14). We cannot really understand what it would be like to be sinless. To be free of pride, jealousy, self-seeking and all the other pervasive drives at work within the heart is something we cannot know. In fact, there is a human tendency that, once conscious of any moral or spiritual strength, we seek to elevate ourselves above our fellow human beings, thus leading us again to sin (cf. Luke 18:11 – 12). God's love for us, however, is revealed by his desire to identify with us in our sinfulness.

Imagine someone languishing on death row, guilty of a heinous crime. The wheels are in motion to carry out the death penalty, but an innocent man steps forward and offers to take their place. Such an idea is truly shocking. It offends our sense of natural justice.

This isn't about natural justice, but God's justice, in which love and mercy triumph over judgement. Jesus became like us in every way except sin. He lived in obedience to his Father and through the power of the Holy Spirit he was able to resist temptation and overcome the evil one. We too have received the Holy Spirit. We too can live life in obedience to our heavenly Father and resist and overcome sin. The God we believe in is not a remote deity but the living God who is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Lord Jesus our Brother, Saviour and Redeemer, the Holy Spirit our Counsellor and Comforter.

'The Spirit of God descended on Jesus and anointed him, as he has promised in the prophets, so that we might draw on the fullness of his anointing and so be saved.' (St Irenaeus).

CYCLE OF PRAYER DURING ORDINARY TIME – WINTER

Peace on earth, especially on Sunday 18th January.
Openness to the Word of God, especially on Sunday, 25th January
Christian Unity, especially on days Sunday 18th – Sunday 25th January.
Victims of trafficking and those who work to combat it, especially on Sunday, 8th February.
The sick and those who care for them, especially on Wednesday, 11th February
The unemployed, especially on Sunday, 15th February.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)
on Saturday 10.15-10.45 am.**

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Mon 12th Jan: St Aelred of Rievaulx, religious.
Tues 13th Jan: St Hilary, Bishop and Doctor
Sat 17th Jan: St Anthony, Abbot

SECOND COLLECTION this weekend is for the Sick & Retired Priests Fund.

Jesus' Baptism and Ours

**.....God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power.
ACTS 10:38**

In the mystery of the Incarnation, we discover the path of living faith.

Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan by John the Baptist brings us full circle on the spiritual journey from Advent through the Christmas season. We might wonder why Jesus sought out Baptism, coming from Galilee to find John. If he was the Son of God, did Jesus really need Baptism? In Peter's bold homilies, we are offered an answer.

Jesus is no ordinary teacher, miracle worker or celebrity preacher. The Father anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power to heal humanity from the debilitating effects of sin so each of us could live in true freedom as a child of God. Jesus' mission was confirmed for all to see and hear as he descended into the sanctifying waters of the Jordan. Our Baptism is a real participation in Jesus' mission to restore all to friendship with God.

THE JUBILEE YEAR

2025 the Jubilee Year has now come to an end and we pray that all the sentiments of the Jubilee Year Prayer can come about. Here it is again for the final time and it is well worth keeping a copy in our prayer book to say from time to time.

Jubilee Prayer

God our Father in Heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son Jesus Christ, our Saviour,
and the flame of charity unkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit
awaken in us this Jubilee Year a missionary heart
for the coming of your Kingdom

May the gift of your grace
transform us, Pilgrims of Hope,
into your missionary disciples,
blessed with the gifts and talents you give us.

Strengthen us to share our Saviour's message
of love, joy, and peace
with all the people we meet this year,
so that we may help build up your Kingdom on earth.

To you our God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be glory and praise for ever and ever
Amen.