

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

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20th July 2025

16th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

St GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 19 July	5.30 pm	For the family of Emma Tun
Sun 20 July	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Mon 21 July	9.30 am	Mass in thanksgiving for 30 years since the beginning of Mother's Prayers
Tues 22 July	9.30 am	For Pope Leo XIV and for his intentions, especially for world peace
Wed 23 July	9.30 am	For Michael, Jimmy's son
Thu 24 July	No Mass at St George's. School Mass 9 am. Visitors welcome, St George's School	
Fri 25 July	9.30 am	Donor's intention, St Anthony of Padua
Sat 26 July	9.30 am	People of the Parish
	5.30 pm	Sarah Fortune RIP, 34 th anniversary
Sun 27 July	9.30 am	Tom O'Reilly RIP

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Jesus' encounter with Mary and Martha is a living parable. The theme of the parable: prayer and hearing the word of God. It can be helpful to imagine the scene before us today with its contrast between frantic domestic energy (Martha) and the calm meditative posture (Mary).

Our natural sympathies are with Martha – we prefer doers not sitters! We are more comfortable with action than prayer. We like to be busy and to be seen to be busy, and we like others to think we are industrious and (truth be told) find it hard to sit still for too long.

Martha was troubled that her sister wasn't helping her. Jesus challenged her. Mary had chosen what is best. In fact, only one thing was needed. The irony was that Martha sought to feed whilst Mary wanted to be fed. Martha was distracted. Mary was focussed. The challenge we face is to establish prayer as a priority – the call to carve out time, space and a moment to converse and be still before the Lord is crucial to spiritual health. Without this, like Martha, we become troubled and distracted.

St Pope John Paul II, a great man of prayer, urged: 'Nourish your day with as much prayer as you can and allowing for moments of particular intimacy with the Lord, whether individually or in a group. Only prolonged contact with him can transform each of us inwardly into a disciple of his. Only being nourished by long hours of prayer, meditation, concentration and silent listening to God, will a believer be able to speak to other people about the divine mystery, to hand it on and to hear witness in the presence of others.'

Pray as everything depended on God: work as if everything depended on you. Be expectant and hopeful. God hears our prayer: waste time in prayer, it will be richly blessed and rewarded.

Father, in heaven, I praise and glorify your name. Grant me the grace to sit at your feet, to be taught by your Son and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Mon 21st July: St Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest & Doctor
Tues 22nd July: St Mary Magdalene
Wed 23rd July: St Bridget of Sweden, Religious. Patron of Europe
Thurs 24th July: St Sharbel Makhluf, Priest
Fri 25th July: St James, Apostle
Sat 26th July: Sts Joachim and Anne, parents of Blessed Virgin Mary

The One Thing Necessary

....you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. LUKE 10:41-42

In this familiar scene of Martha welcoming and serving and Mary assuming a disciple's pose of sitting at Jesus' feet, can we temporarily set aside any judgement and focus instead on Jesus addressing these words to us?

Are we consumed by worry and frantic about the details of our day, or overwhelmed by the long-standing concerns we carry for ourselves and the people we love? Can we share all of that with the Holy One and give it over to the tender heart of God, trusting that the Divine will not abandon us but will instead walk beside us as we move into an unknown future?

And what is that one thing for us right now? More engaged prayer? Fence-mending with someone who has wounded us? Opening our heart to a neighbour in need?

Holy One, illumine my life so that I may truly see as you do.

CONFIRMATION, ENGLISH MARTYRS AND ST GEORGE'S

Please pray for the young people of English Martyrs and St George's who will be Confirmed during the 11 am Mass today, Sunday, 20th July, by Bishop Patrick, at English Martyrs
Also, pray for young people of the travelling community who have celebrated Confirmation at St George's recently. We thank Sr Bernadette, Chaplain to the travelling folk, who has facilitated Confirmation and 1st Holy Communion for the families.
We pray for all our young people that they may remain strong in their faith despite all the challenges they face.

SCHOOL END OF TERM: Our local Catholic schools will be ending the summer term and indeed the whole school year this coming week. We thank God for our most excellent St George's Voluntary Academy which is doing so well under the superb guidance of our Head teacher, Mrs Rachael Snowdon-Poole. The recent SATS results were excellent. May all the staff and pupils have a good summer break and may our young people be safe in their holidays.

Our 60th Anniversary Mass with Bishop Patrick went very well. It was good to see former head teachers and staff.

THOSE WHO ARE NOT WELL: Please keep in your prayers parishioners and other family members who are not well, especially those who need extra care in their homes or care homes.

WORK ON THE CHURCH AND PRESBYTERY: Extensive work of restoration and refurbishing is coming steadily to completion in the presbytery and church. Thanks to Fr Mark's initiative and to the skilled workmen that have been employed. We thank them for their skill and hard work.