

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

Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Brentnall

Assistant: Canon Alan Burbidge Emeritus

Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Company Number 7151646 Charity Number 1134449 Registered Office: Willson House, 25 Derby Road, Nottingham. NG1 5AW

27th July 2025

17th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

St GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 26 July	5.30 pm	Sarah Fortune RIP, 34th anniversary
Sun 27 July	9.30 am	Tom O'Reilly RIP
Mon 28 July	9.30 am	Mass for Edward Bell who is 8 years old and has been diagnosed with jaw cancer, and for his family
Tues 29 July	9.30 am	For the victims of warfare and violence
Wed 30 July	9.30 am	Khristopher Fields for good health
Thu 31 July	9.30 am	In thanksgiving to St Anthony of Padua
Fri 01 Aug	9.30 am	Kathleen & Tom Connolly RIP
Sat 02 Aug	9.30 am	People of the Parish
	5.30 pm	Leonard Raymond Heath, RIP, benefactor
Sun 03 Aug	9.30 am	Albert Woodcock RIP, 2 nd Anniversary

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

The Parable of the Weeds is unique to Matthew's Gospel. Its theme addresses the thorny issue of God's judgement and our propensity to play judge. God knows the Church is made up of saints and sinners, the good and the bad, those who live exemplary lives and those who do not. The Church is a motley crew, that is for sure. However, that is its beauty, its wonder and its glory. Jesus died for us all and God the Father loves all his children – obedient and disobedient, those on the road to sanctity and those far from it.

We, however, are less forgiving and less compassionate, and so the parable is addressed to us and our tendency to become self-righteous and judgemental. One of the perversities of British culture is the tabloid press. Of course, most western countries have a tabloid press, but the one in Britain is especially virulent and vicious. Quite why this is the case, given the British reputation for fair play and decency, is hard to understand. Interestingly, and not a little confusingly, the head of the tabloid industry is Rupert Murdoch. He is not a Catholic but was a Knight of St Gregory. The tabloid strategy is to titillate and tease, on the one hand, and then judge and condemn, on the other. Rarely do we feel sorry for the public figure exposed as a hypocrite for a sexual misadventure or scandal – be it a politician, celebrity or indeed leading prelate, priest or churchman. However, have you ever thought about how God thinks about such things?

The Parable of the Weeds sheds light on this, because at the heart of the parable's message is: leave all judgement to God and refrain from judging others harshly, because you can never know what is in their hearts and what they are going through. God is merciful and kind to everyone, and we 'put on Christ' when we understand that there but for God's grace go we and judgement remains with God alone.

Heavenly Father, create in me a new heart which is less prone to judge others and more ready to hold out the hand of mercy, kindness and forgiveness to all those who have fallen or are in trouble.

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Tues 29th July: Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus
Wed 30th July: St Peter Chrysologus, Bishop & Doctor
Thurs 31st July: St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest
Fri 1st Aug: St Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, Bishop & Doctor
Sat 2nd Aug: Saints Eusebius of Vercelli, and Peter Julian Eymard, Priests.

THIS WEEKEND: The Jubilee of grandparents and the elderly in the Diocese of Nottingham. May God bless all our grandparents, living and dead.

When Prayers Are Not Answered

And I tell you, ask and you will receive. LUKE 11:9

Today's Gospel tells us that if we ask, we will receive. But this is not the experience of many. People come to me frustrated that they have prayed many times, perhaps for years and without success, for the conversion of a child, to find a good spouse, for the healing of an illness, and nothing changes. How is a priest to respond? First, I empathise with them. They are suffering, perhaps losing hope. They feel that God doesn't care. It is understandable.

But eventually I add that God is a loving Father who knows what is best for us and always provides this and more. After pouring out our hearts to God in humble prayer, we must trust. We trust that God hears us and has us in the palm of his hand.

Father, I know you love me and hear my cries. Give me the grace of placing all my trust in you.

OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Please keep in mind all our children and young people of St George's and English Martyrs Parish now, as you know, being served by your priests as one parish family.

Our Confirmation candidates celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation with our Bishop Patrick at English Martyrs Church last Sunday and all went well.

Our primary schools, St John Fisher and St George's have now broken up for the summer holidays after a good term and a good year. Also, St Benedict school too.

We pray that all the pupils will be safe in the long holiday from school and that the staff will be refreshed and renewed.

We give thanks also for little ones and their families who have celebrated Baptism in recent weeks and for travelling families who have had their young people Confirmed and made 1st Holy Communion. We thank Sr Bernadette again for her chaplaincy to them and the preparation work.

HOLIDAYS: If you are going away on holidays we pray that you will travel safely and return refreshed but not too sunburnt. Have a lovely break.