

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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24th May 2026

DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

PENTECOST SUNDAY

ST GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat	23 May	5.30 pm	Pentecost Vigil Mass, Lourdes Watters RIP
Sun	24 May	9.30 am	Pentecost Sunday: People of the parish and First Holy Communion families
Mon	25 May	9.30 am	Geoffrey Boulter RIP
Tues	26 May	9.30 am	For parishioners in hospital, especially Win Woodcock and Mary Murphy
Wed	27 May	9.30 am	Michael White for good health
Thu	28 May	9.30 am	McAleavey & Power family
Fri	29 May	9.30 am	For the Gain and Gillan family
Sat	30 May	9.30 am	People of the Parish
		5.30 pm	Holy Souls
Sun	31 May	9.30 am	Gerald Mooney, for a good recovery

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful with the fire of your love. (Gospel Acclamation)

By the grace and power of the liturgy the same Holy Spirit who was poured out upon the first believers on the Day of Pentecost is poured out upon us today. As we open our hearts we will be renewed and refreshed in faith. Be expectant, be filled with hope and be prepared to receive the Holy Spirit. We are called to live by the Spirit, and the more we die to self and live for Christ the more we will walk in the Spirit.

Living life in the power of the Holy Spirit is at the very heart of the Christian vocation. As we open up our lives to this power, we bear witness to the fruits and gifts of the Spirit. In Galatians 5:22-23 Paul lists the fruits of the Spirit as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and self-control (for a list of the gifts of the Spirit see, eg 1 Cor. 12:7-11)

In 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Paul points to love as being the greatest fruit of the Spirit. One thing we need to be very clear about is that the Spirit can give us the power, the grace and the strength to live and act in a way that we of ourselves could never do. The Spirit can give us the grace, for example, to forgive, when we know that of ourselves we could not. The Spirit can give us the power and courage to stand up and witness to our faith, when we know that ourselves we could not. This is exactly what it means to live a life in the power of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit, the blessing of Pentecost, is given so that we can live lives of love. St Augustine said that love alone distinguishes the children of God from the children of the devil. He even went so far as to say, 'Love and do what you will.' When we are born of the Spirit we are born to love and the power to love is the gift of the Spirit.

'We have seen the true Light, we have received the heavenly Spirit, we have found the true faith: we adore the indivisible Trinity, who has saved us.' (Byzantine Liturgy, Pentecost Vespers)

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION ON 12TH JULY AT 11 am

As announced in St George's, the Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated at English Martyrs Church on Sunday, 12th July, at 11 am. Please complete an application form and return it to church. Classes will begin on Saturday, 13th June, at 10.30 am in English Martyrs Church.

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

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Mon 25th May: Mary, mother of the church
Tues 26th May: St Philip Neri, priest
Wed 27th May: St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop
Thurs 28th May: Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest
Fri 29th May: St Paul VI Pope

RECENT DEATHS:

Please pray for Geoff Boulter of Padstow Close, who died recently. *Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him.*

Also, for Rose Gilligan of Sinfin who died recently. *May she rest in peace. Amen*

And we pray for the families in their sad loss.

Great Expectations

And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were.
ACTS 2:2

Two contrasting events are described in the First Reading and the Gospel today. Pentecost is a totally wild event with powerful winds, tongues of fire, miraculous speech and crowds of people gathered outside. But in the Gospel, we have a small group of disciples, huddled in a locked room, being visited by their friend Jesus, whose first word to them is "peace" and who breathes gently upon them.

The readings suggest that God can come to us in a variety of ways: boldly and dramatically, quietly and gently or any way in between. But sometimes we have narrow expectations that restrict God's coming to just one way. Such expectations can prevent us from recognising the many ways God is already present in our everyday life.

Come, Holy Spirit, broaden my expectations of your coming so that I may recognise you in the people, circumstances and events of my life.

PARISH PRAYER MEETINGS:

Mother's Prayers meets every Monday in church after Mass. All welcome.
On Thursdays from 2.45 pm a prayer group prays the Divine Mercy, the Rosary and prayers for peace. All are welcome.