

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

Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Brentnall

Pastor Emeritus: Canon Alan Burbidge

Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Company Number 7151646 Charity Number 1134449

Registered Office: Willson House, 25 Derby Road, Nottingham. NG1 5AW

26th October 2025

30th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

St GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 25 Oct	5.30 pm	People of the Parish
Sun 26 Oct	9.30 am	Christine Meehan RIP, 7th anniversary and deceased of the family
Mon 27 Oct	9.30 am	Sp. Intention for Helen and David Wright and their family
Tues 28 Oct	9.30 am	Pauline Lunn RIP
Wed 29 Oct	9.30 am	Kathleen & Gregory Thornton RIP
Thu 30 Oct	9.30 am	Hughie Whittamore RIP
Fri 31 Oct	9.30 am	Margaret Whittamore RIP
Sat 01 Nov	9.30 am	People of the Parish
	5.30 pm	P J Crosbie RIP and mother RIP birthday memories
Sun 02 Nov	9.30 am	Jack Murphy RIP 11 th Anniversary

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector is unique to Luke. The parable pokes fun at the self-righteousness of the Pharisee and affirms the humble of heart.

The Pharisee is sincere: less a hypocrite, more out of touch. He fasted twice a week (on Mondays and Thursdays) and he was committed to tithing. He isn't trying to deceive anybody (other than himself): he is simply (as he sees it) drawing God's attention to his virtue. He is rather proud of himself, the tone of self-regard drips from his self-referential prayer.

The Father sees what is done in secret and doesn't need reminding of our good deeds (cf. Matt. 6:6). Furthermore, the Pharisee can't help but compare himself to others (the tax collector).

The tax collector on the other hand is under no illusion – he doesn't even dare look up to heaven. He knows he has nothing to offer God and can only throw himself on God's mercy. The parable reveals the heart of salvation: we can't save ourselves nor can we justify ourselves.

The scandalous, nay shocking truth is we are justified, sanctified and redeemed not throughout own righteousness but through Christ's.

This doesn't mean that we shouldn't strive to embrace the spiritual disciplines which help us to grow in holiness – these are to be encouraged. What it does mean is that, through an examination of conscience we become aware of our state before God.

St John Vianney asked God to reveal his fallen state – bear in mind that this humble priest spent long hours in prayer and hearing confessions, and was committed to a life of abstinence and self-denial. He had every reason to be rather proud of himself. God granted his prayer but he had to beg God to remove the vision because he realised that his good deeds were mere filthy rags before the holiness of Christ.

Lord, have mercy, poor beggar that I am, heal me and I shall be healed, save me and I shall be saved.

PARISH RENOVATION WORK: The old wall at the front of the carport and church is being replaced by a new brick wall which will extend to the front of the church. Also, following all the work on the church and the house, which nears completion, there will be work on the social centre. The old boilers upstairs and downstairs will be replaced, being probably over 40 years old, and new pipework and radiators where necessary. Other work will follow as necessary.

We thank all the skilled tradesmen and craftsmen who have done the work. Also we give thanks for all parishioners, living and dead, for their generosity to St George's and Holy Spirit over many years. God knows the legacy you have helped to preserve.

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

SAINTS THIS WEEK: Tues 28th Oct: Sts Simon & Jude, Apostles
Sat 1st Nov: Saturday Mass of Our Lady

A RECENT DEATH: Please pray for Mr Mumbray of Haddon Street, who died recently. We pray for him and his family at this time of sad loss of a father and grandfather. *Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.* (No funeral details to date).

Keeping on Solid Ground

....whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted. LUKE 18:14

Jesus told a story of a man who liked to boast about himself. In prayer time, he rambled on about all his excellent qualities. He thought God would hear and richly reward him. However, God was not impressed and gave him no approval. His thoughts were not addressed to God but only to himself. He was not praying but boasting.

We must have humility to be pleasing to God, and well-mannered with others. Humility is a superior virtue, but often misunderstood or rejected. Exaggerated pride causes a person to become arrogant, haughty and pompous. A humble way elevates a person to a higher knowledge of truth and well-being. Humility is never a weakness. Rather it makes a person strong and durable. The Latin word, *humus*, means ground. Humility keeps our feet on solid ground. The humble person will be respectful courteous, gentle, kind and Christlike.

Lord, teach us to be humble!

FOR PEACE IN GAZA: After the visit of President Trump to Israel and Egypt we continue to hope and pray for the end of the Gaza horror and for peace in the Middle East. We must continue our fervent prayer because there is so much hatred on both sides and so much terrible historical memory going back a long time. We thank God for the progress that has been made and pray for all the dead including 20,000 or more children and the many children who have lost their parents. As Pope St John Paul II said over 40 years ago in Coventry "War should be consigned to history. It should not be in mankind's agenda for the future". (Coventry 1982). We continue to pray also for an end of the war in the Ukraine and for the vast numbers of dead and seriously injured on both sides.

Our Lady Queen of Peace, Our Lady of Medjugorje, pray for us and our troubled world.

POPE FRANCIS is gone but not forgotten. He was a nightmare for the Roman curia. His relaxed, easy-going, Latino approach ruffled feathers and raised eyebrows.

He eschewed pomp, circumstance and the trappings of his centuries-old office. He was conscious that he stood in the poor sandals of the fisherman not the boots of the Emperor. He refused the traditional red leather shoes, preferring instead an old cobbled pair (which he was buried in). He declined to travel in the papal limo referring an old clapped-out Ford. He declined to have security befitting a leader of state and said no to bulletproof glass. He refused to be a prisoner of the Vatican. May God rest his soul.