

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

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7th September 2025

23rd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

St GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 06 Sept	5.30 pm	Mark and Hilary Crosbie
Sun 07 Sept	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Mon 08 Sept	9.30 am	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for all the new-born children of the world
Tues 09 Sept	9.30 am	Fr Sean Carroll RIP
Wed 10 Sept	9.30 am	Joy Nottingham RIP and family
Thu 11 Sept	9.30 am	In thanksgiving, St Anthony of Padua
Fri 12 Sept	9.30 am	For the dead of the Afghanistan earthquake and other natural disasters
Sat 13 Sept	9.30 am	People of the Parish
	5.30 pm	James and Julie Geelan RIP
Sun 14 Sept	9.30 am	In thanksgiving, Barbara

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Jesus' teaching on discipleship is radical and shocking. We need to take him seriously but not literally.

Of course, he does not want us to hate our parents or siblings, but we must not allow anyone, however close to us, to come in the way of serving him. If we are putting anyone else before Jesus, there is something wrong with that relationship

We would mock anyone who set out to build a tower without knowing the cost of materials or a general who set out to battle without considering the strength of his enemy. In our daily lives we realise that forethought and planning are needed, but we do not always apply this to our spiritual lives. There is a cost to discipleship; devotion to Jesus is not something to undertake lightly. If we are to persevere and grow as disciples, we need discipline and a firm foundation of regular prayer, Scripture reading, repentance, receiving the Eucharist and self-denial.

Deitrich Bonhoeffer, martyred by the Nazis in 1945, wrote movingly about the cost and the joy of discipleship: 'Suffering, then, is the badge of true discipleship. The disciple is not above his master. If we refuse to take up our Cross and submit to suffering and rejection at the hands of men, we forfeit our fellowship with Christ and have ceased to follow him. But if we lose our lives in his service and carry our cross, we shall find our lives again in fellowship of the Cross with Christ.'

Grace isn't cheap and builds on nature. Grace works by taking the clay of our nature and moulding it into the new creation. To be a disciple means to undergo discipline which is never pleasant but produces a harvest of righteousness.

'Lord Jesus Christ, take all my freedom, my memory, my understanding, and my will. All that I have and cherish you have given me. I surrender it all to be guided by your will. Your grace and your love and wealth are enough for me. Give me these, Lord Jesus, and I ask for nothing more.' (St Ignatius of Loyola)

BACK TO SCHOOL

We pray for our schools St George's and St Benedict's. We remember especially all who are starting in reception at St George's, a full number in the two reception classes, and also the new year seniors at St Benedict's. May all the new pupils begin their school well and building on a happy beginning, grow and flourish in their education in all aspects of learning and happy relationships. We thank all our great and hardworking staff in both schools and remember the good results of the last year with gratitude.

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

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Mon 8th Sept: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tues 9th Sept: St Peter Claver, Priest
Fri 12th Sept: The Most Holy Name of Mary
Sat 13th Sept: St John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor

Be Reconciled

*You once were alienated and hostile in mind because of evil deeds;
God has now reconciled you...* COLOSSIANS 1:21-22

"I believe God forgives me" is a belief that lies at the core of our Christian faith. We profess that Jesus died for the forgiveness of our sins. And yet, we so often forget that God's reconciling love calls us to be reconciled with those around us, especially those from whom we are alienated in one way or another.

St Teresa of Calcutta once said, "Today, if we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." Our forgiveness from God should embolden us to forgive others, to see more clearly that even our enemies and estranged family and friends are equally loved by God and made in God's image. We are loved, forgiven sinners. In the end, we all belong to one another.

Humble me, Lord. Show me how to forgive and be reconciled.

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 enkindled
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