

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

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14th September 2025

EDUCATION DAY. JUBILEE OF SCHOOLS & YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE DIOCESE

24th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

St GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 13 Sept	5.30 pm	James and Julie Geelan RIP
Sun 14 Sept	9.30 am	In thanksgiving for good health ,Barbara
Mon 15 Sept	9.30 am	For all in the parish who are not well
Tues 16 Sept	9.30 am	Special Intention, Doherty family
Wed 17 Sept	9.30 am	For an end to war and violence
Thu 18 Sept	9.30 am	Patrick, Sheila and Sr. Marian Finnegan RIP
Fri 19 Sept	9.30 am	Canon Bernard Scholes RIP
Sat 20 Sept	9.30 am	Private Intention
	5.30 pm	For Anne Holtom's niece in Ireland, for success in procedure
Sun 21 Sept	9.30 am	People of the Parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

The cross was the Roman Army's preferred method of execution – the equivalent of the gallows of old or guillotine or the electric chair or lethal injection. The cross was feared, hated, despised. Doesn't that make today's feast – the Exaltation of the Cross – sound like a contradiction?

Numbers 21:4-9 gives us the background to John 3:14-15. God had punished the Israelites with a plague of serpents; yet, heeding their pleas for mercy, he instructed Moses to make a bronze serpent and raise it up on a pole. By gazing upon this image, victims of snakebite were healed. God's provision in the desert of physical life for the Israelites foreshadowed God's provision at Calvary of eternal life for all peoples. As Jesus said, 'and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself' (John 12:32). Not only was Jesus 'lifted up' in pain and shame on the cross, but also 'lifted up' in a cloud when he ascended to glory (John 3:13; Acts 1:9).

In the creed we declare, 'For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate...' But we also affirm: 'he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.'

In ancient basilicas and Romanesque art the cross is represented in a festive manner – often spangled with gems – and Christ is enthroned upon it in royal robes, crowned with gems instead of thorns. The focus here is not the sin that necessitated the cross or the suffering produced by the cross, but the effects of the cross – salvation, reconciliation, peace, eternal life.

Yet, while salvation is freely available, it must be appropriated by faith (John 3:16). Just as the Israelites gazed upon the bronze serpent we too stand at the foot of the cross and gaze on the Crucified One now exalted as the Christ. As Paul declares, 'For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God' (1 Cor. 1:18).

'We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee, because by thy holy cross, thou hast redeemed the world.' (From: *The Stations of the Cross*)

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.**

SECOND COLLECTION: Next week is for Home Mission Sunday (Evangelii Gaudium Day)

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Mon 15th Sept: Our Lady of Sorrows
Tues 16th Sept: Sts Cornelius, Pope and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs
Wed 17th Sept: St Robert Bellarmine, Bishop & Doctor
Fri 19th Sept: St Theodore of Canterbury, Bishop
Sat 20th Sept: Sts Andrew Kim Tae-Gon, Priest and Paul Chong Ha-Sang and companions, Martyrs

The Triumph of the Cross

.....so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. JOHN 3:14-15

The funeral rites of the Church are some of the most beautiful liturgies I've experienced. As a young adult, when my father passed away, it was the prayers and symbols of the funeral Mass – the incense, the pall, the sprinkling with water, the sharing of Communion – that brought comfort and consolation amidst great grief.

Jesus never shies away from the reality of death. He doesn't ignore it or colour it over with platitudes. He who took on our humanity confronts death head-on, accompanying those who mourn and even accepting a humiliating death on a cross.

In a culture that tries to stave off and deny death, Christians are called to stand with those who are dying or mourning by acknowledging their pain and sorrow. We are also called to offer hope in the God who stands with us and died for us so that we all might live for eternity.

TWO NEW SAINTS

St. Carlo Acutis and St Pier Giorgio Frassiti

Last Sunday in St Peter's in Rome the two new saints were canonized. **Carlo Acutis** was born in London and baptised there before returning to Rome with his Italian parents. They then lived in Milan. Carlo as a youth was not over pious and liked to play computer games. Also, he became well known for his website which gave a lot of details of miracles. He also liked to teach about his Catholic faith. Sadly he caught leukaemia and died at the young age of 15, about 2005. His canonization has come very quickly, it is usually far longer before a person is declared a saint, it can be even hundreds of years. A picture of Carlo's incorrupt body, now preserved in wax may give a clue. He is seen lying as if asleep in the basilica in Assisi. At his funeral time a woman who prayed to him was cured of cancer. Also, two miracles have been authenticated following prayers to him. His life story, though short, is a great inspiration to many people, not only the young *St Carlo Acutis, pray for us.*

St Pier Giorgio Frassiti was born in Turin in 1901. He died of polio in 1925. He was well known as a great helper of the poor and destitute and a person of great prayer and devotion, and a promotor of the St Vincent de Paul Society for the needy. His body when exhumed, after a good number of years was as that of St Carlo found to be incorrupt. *St Pier Frassiti, pray for us.*

SINFIN CHURCH NEWS: From September the Syro Malabar Catholic Community will be leasing the church. If you wish to know more please speak to Fr Mark or Canon Alan.