

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

13th September 2026

24th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

ST GEORGE'S MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 12 Sept	5.30 pm	People of the parish
Sun 13 Sept	9.30 am	For victims of wild fires at home and abroad
Mon 14 Sept	9.30 am	Jasper Whitmarsh RIP
Tues 15 Sept	9.30 am	For victims of famine, civil war and persecution
Wed 16 Sept	9.30 am	Bridie Linnane RIP (in London)
	4.30 pm	Reception into church of John Whittamore
Thu 17 Sept	10.00 am	Funeral service for John Whittamore, with Holy Communion
Fri 18 Sept	9.30 am	In thanksgiving, Sean Kennedy
Sat 19 Sept	9.30 am	Bridget Maughan RIP
	5.30 pm	Shirley Powell RIP
Sun 20 Sept	9.30 am	People of the Parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

C S Lewis said: 'Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive.' We pray at every Mass: 'Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.' Yet, when sinned against, how ready are we to forgive? And how do we actually forgive? Reluctantly and resentfully, or readily, from the heart? When Peter asked Jesus how often he should forgive, he proposed the generous figure of seven. He was hedging his bets, trying to fudge it by setting a limit. Jesus responded with a number which wasn't really a number! Seventy-seven times signified a countless number. Again we turn to C S Lewis, who explained: 'We forgive, we mortify our resentment: a week later some chain of thought carries us back to the original offence and we discover the old resentment blazing away as if nothing had been done about it at all. We need to forgive our brother seventy times seven not only for 490 offences but for one offence.'

As often as the sense of grievance rises strongly within us, Jesus challenges us to forgive. And this forgiving is not so much about forgetting as about remembering without bitterness or acrimony in our hearts.

Our deepest hurts are often inflicted by our nearest and dearest, those close to us – our friends/relatives/work colleagues. The servant in Jesus' parable owed ten thousand talents – this figure combines the largest Greek numeral with the largest unit of currency. This was a daunting debt that could never be repaid.

God's mercy and forgiveness are unlimited: deeper than the ocean. Higher than the mountains. In other words, it is limitless, and because we have received this kind of mercy we are called upon to show it. It's simple: really. God has forgiven us: we need to forgive others. God has shown us mercy: we need to show mercy to others.

Heavenly Father, teach me that to err is only too human, but to forgive is truly to imitate the divine.

FREE PAPERS: Catholic Post and Catholic News. Please take a copy. Lots of local diocesan news and some catholic news from England and Wales, plus spiritual writing.

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

SECOND COLLECTION for Home Mission, next weekend

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Mon 14th Sept: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Tues 15th Sept: Our Lady of Sorrows
Wed 16th Sept: Ss Cornelius, Pope and Cyprian, Bishop, martyrs
Thurs 17th Sept: St Robert Bellarmine, Bishop & Doctor
Sat 19th Sept: St Theodore of Canterbury, Bishop

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

For students and teachers; especially on Sunday, 13th Sept.
For the spread of the Gospel; especially on Sunday 20th Sept.
For the harvest, especially on Sunday, 27th Sept.
For the fruits of human work and the reverent use of creation; especially on Tuesday 1st September
For justice and peace in the world and Holy Father's prayer intentions for September
For the care of water and for equal access to it.

A COMING FUNERAL:

The funeral service for John Whittamore of Village Street will take place at St George's on Thursday, 17th September at 10 am.
Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him, may he rest in peace. Amen.
We pray for his family in their sad loss.

Choose to Forgive

[Peter asked,] "...how often must I forgive?"...Jesus answered, "seventy-seven times." MATTHEW 18:21,22

In today's Gospel, Jesus said we must forgive others from our hearts. The Lord's Prayer tells us that we will not be forgiven unless we forgive. Jesus even said we must love our enemies. It is human nature to be angry at those who have harmed us. But I have noticed that those who hang onto hatred become stuck in the healing process. It becomes like a destructive poison inside them.

Forgiveness is not primarily an emotion. We can be angry at those we love. Forgiveness is found in the will, and so I encourage people to say: "I choose to forgive." Just as our heavenly Father offers forgiveness to all, the Father also supplies the graces to us to extend forgiveness, even when we may not feel like doing so.

Begin this day by recalling anyone for whom you harbour ill will and make an act of forgiveness: "I choose to forgive," It will bring a profound internal peace.

OUR SCHOOLS: We thank God for our Catholic schools, established with great effort and sacrifice by priests and people. We thank god for those of our diocese, and especially for our local Academy Trust for Derbyshire and our Derby academies. We hope all our great staff have been well refreshed by their summer holidays and we pray for the year ahead for great achievements by staff and pupils.