

English Martyrs  
Hollis St, Alvaston  
DE24 8QU

## ENGLISH MARTYRS PARISH ALVASTON & CHELLASTON



### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Year A 21 December 2025

*Psalm Response: Let the Lord enter, he is the king of glory*

### The Holy Family Year A 28 December 2025

*Blessed are all who fear the Lord, and walk in his ways*



Sun: 9.00am Mass Harold Wainwright RIP  
11.00am Mass Kathleen Kinsey RIP

Mon: 11.00am Mass Elisha Hibbert Int.

Wed: 6.30pm Vigil Mass Phyl McGauran Int  
12.00 Midnight Mass Hilda & Joe Moore RIP

#### Christmas Day

Thurs: 9.00am Mass Fonce Ward RIP  
11.00am Mass Mary Storer Int.

#### St Stephen (Feast)

Fri: 11.00am Mass Fr John Mackie RIP

#### The Holy Family (A)

Sun: 9.00am Mass Marie, Henry & William Johnson RIP  
11.00am Mass Pauline & Eric Green RIP

Sun: 9.00am Mass Marie, Henry & William Johnson RIP  
11.00am Mass Pauline & Eric Green RIP

#### St Thomas Beckett (Feast)

Mon: 11.00am Mass Margaret Johnson Int.

NO MASSES

#### 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Sun: 9.00am Mass Kathleen O'Rourke RIP  
11.00am Mass Bernard Dazeley RIP

#### Money Matters:

Offertory: £512.54

For those who regularly contribute to the Church via the Envelope Scheme, another option would be to set up a Monthly or Weekly Direct Debit or Standing Order. If you contribute by any of these methods and you pay Income Tax, please consider Gift Aiding your contributions to the Parish, this is worth an extra 20% to the Parish without costing you any more than your Gift to the Parish.

Lloyds Bank: sort code 30-92-59;

Account number 01620555 – English Martyrs, Derby RCP.

(Gift Aid forms available at the back of Church)

Payments to the parish by cheque should be made payable to:  
English Martyrs Derby RCP

Sanctuary Lamp:

**A Very Happy Christmas to everyone. I hope you will enjoy the festive season with your families and that you will receive many blessings from the Lord. A big thankyou to all those parishioners who helped to get us over the line and reach our target for the Enabling Mission Fund for the Diocese. May the New Year bring you all great joy.**  
Fr Brentnall

#### Stats for the Year:

Baptisms	15
First Holy Communion	37
Confirmation	24
Reception into Church	5
Marriages	2
Deaths	11

**Churches Together in Chellaston:** The annual United Carol Services will be held next **Today, 21 December** at St Peter's Church. There will be a service at 5.00pm and again at 7.00pm. All welcome.

#### Second Collections:

25 December	-	Christmas Offering
11 January	-	Sick & Retired Priests Fund

**Prayers for the Sick:** Please always keep in your prayers the sick and housebound especially Simon Thompson, Christine Dreuit, Terry Bullock, Giovanni Busato, Ian Robinson, Bart Makowski, Joe Migallo, Liam Blaney, Christopher Turner, Tracey Reeve, Liz Simmons, Terry & Liz Spencer, Mick & Frances Connolly, Maria Latwiel, Anne Smith, Margaret Meagher, James Wilson, Libby Dodes, Gregory Makowski, Brian Campbell, Mary Storer and Peggy Whelan.

**Please pray for the repose of the souls** of those who have died. May they rest in peace.

Father M Brentnall VF [Parish Priest]

Email: [englishmartyrsderby@outlook.com](mailto:englishmartyrsderby@outlook.com)

Newsletter Admin: Anne Walsh – [annew505@gmail.com](mailto:annew505@gmail.com) 07980 568261

Contact: 01332 574474

[www.englishmartyrsparish.org.uk](http://www.englishmartyrsparish.org.uk)

Hall Enquiries: Rita Merrison

**Do you have a child ready to start School in September 2026:**

(Or move into Year 3) Do you have a friend or family member who does? St John Fisher will be giving tours of the School to prospective parents every **Monday at 10-11am and 1-2pm**. No need to book – just turn up!

**COME, LORD, COME!**

**Come, Lord, into our world;  
come, share your self with us.**

**Come to our terrorized nations;  
come, share your peace.**

**Come to our poor and abandoned;  
come, share your justice.**

**Come to our suffering and distressed;  
come, share your comfort.**

**Come to our lonely and unloved;  
come, share your presence.**

**Come to our selfish and greedy hearted;  
come, share your bounteous mercy.**

**Come, Lord Jesus, come,  
to our world that cries out for you,  
that needs your healing love!  
Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen**

***'In the Blessed Virgin, we see that hope is not naive optimism but a gift of grace amid the realities of life'***

Spec non confundit 24, Pope Francis on the Holy Year 2025

**St Stephen, the First Martyr (Feast) – 26 December:**

St Stephen (+c.35) the Proto-martyr was one of the seven deacons who assisted the Twelve, 'filled with faith and with the Holy Spirit' and 'full of fortitude'. Denounced to the Jewish authorities as a blasphemer, he was stoned to death outside Jerusalem. He died praying for those who killed him; present at his martyrdom was Saul of Tarsus, soon to become the Apostle of the Gentiles.

**St John, Apostle and Evangelist (Feast) – 27 December:**

St John (+c.100) was the son of Zebedee and worked as a Galilean fisherman with his brother St James. He was called while mending his nets to follow Jesus and become 'the disciple whom Jesus loved'. Alone among the Twelve, he stood at the foot of the cross and was entrusted to the Blessed Virgin. He wrote the fourth Gospel, three Epistles and the Apocalypse, producing profound passages on such themes as the divinity of Christ and the centrality of love. Though tradition records his attempted martyrdom 'at the Latin Gate' in Rome, St John lived to a great age, spent many years in exile on Patmos and finally died in Ephesus.

**The Holy Innocents, Martyrs (Feast) – 28 December:**

The Holy Innocents were the young children of the neighbourhood of Bethlehem, all under the age of two, put to death by Herod in an attempt to kill the Infant Jesus. Some ancient texts number the victims in the thousands but in all probability there were no more than two dozen. On this Feast of 'Childermas', while still in the Christmas Octave, these innocent, nameless victims are honoured as the first to shed their blood for Christ.

**St Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr, Patron of Pastoral Clergy in England and Wales (Feast) – 29 December:**

St Thomas (1118-1170) was born in Cheapside, London and rose to become Henry II's chancellor and (from 1162) Archbishop of Canterbury. His episcopal consecration sparked off a religious conversion; he changed from being 'a patron of play-actors and a follower of hounds to being a shepherd of souls'. His final years were dedicated to defending the rights of the Church, which led to disagreements with the King and resulted in six years of exile. Shortly after returning to Canterbury, he was murdered by agents of the king in his own cathedral on 29 December 1170. St Thomas was canonised three years later and is honoured as patron of the pastoral clergy in England.

**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God – 1 January:**

The Octave of Christmas ends on the first day of the new year, which is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, venerated as the Mother of God. The Gospel reminds us that she 'kept all these things, pondering them in her heart' (Lk 2:19). So she did in Bethlehem, on Golgotha at the foot of the cross, and on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended in the Upper room. And so she does today too. The Mother of God and of human beings keeps in her heart all of humanity's problems, great and difficult, and meditates upon them. The Alma Redemptorist Mater walks with us and guides us with motherly tenderness towards the future. Thus she helps humanity cross all the 'thresholds' of the years, the centuries, the millenniums, by sustaining their hope in the One who is the Lord of history.

Pope St John Paul II

**Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church (Memorial) – 2 January:**

St Basil (c.330-379) was born into a saintly family in Caesarea, Cappadocia (Turkey); his brother was St Gregory of Nyssa, also a notable theologian. For some years St Basil lived in a monastic community before becoming Bishop of Caesarea in 370. He was a keen defender of the reality of the Incarnation against attacks from Arian heretics. St Basil also gave his name to a Liturgy and a set of monastic rules which are still used in the East.

St Gregory Nazianzen (330-390), a friend of St Basil, was also from Cappadocia and involved in countering the Arian heresy. In 381 he became Bishop of Constantinople, although he had to retire to his native Nazianzus due to opposition. He was called 'The Theologian' because of his great learning and talent for oratory.

**The Most Holy Name of Jesus (Opt Mem) – 3 January:**

On the day of his Circumcision the Lord received the name Jesus, meaning 'God saves.' Devotion to the Holy Name was popularised in the fifteenth century by St Bernadine of Siena and St John Capistrano, who both carried the monogram of Jesus (IHS) with them on their preaching tours. We honour the Holy Name not only because it is the name of our Saviour but because it is, in itself, a powerful prayer.