

English Martyrs
Hollis St, Alvaston
DE24 8QU

ENGLISH MARTYRS PARISH
ALVASTON & CHELLASTON



2nd Sunday of Advent Year A

7 December 2025

*Psalm Response: In his days shall justice flourish,
and great peace for ever*

Sun:	9.00am Mass 11.00am Mass	John Gannon RIP Dennis Sherwin & Fam RIP
Mon:	<u>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</u> (Solemnity) 12 noon Mass	Barry Parker RIP
Wed:	NO MASS	
Fri:	12 Noon Mass	Harold & Eunice Roe RIP
Sat:	10am Mass Followed by Exposition and Benediction until 12pm	Patrick Tully RIP
<u>3rd Sunday of Advent (A)</u>		
Sun:	9.00am Mass 11.00am Mass	Olivia Salvana RIP Tom McHugh RIP

Money Matters:

Offertory: £681.48

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:

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.

Second Collection today Sunday, 7 December for New and Poor Parishes.

Advent Walk With Me: These little booklets are **FREE** and are available at the back of Church. Please take a copy for yourselves, friends or neighbours, and join in the daily reflection and decade of the Rosary during Advent.

SVP News: Xmas Food Parcels: Many thanks to those who have already contributed - your donations will make a huge difference to those we support. There is still time if you haven't already given. There will be a box for donations at the back of church in the Lady Chapel until **next Sunday, 14 December**. Thank you in anticipation.

Second Collections:

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

MISSIO NEWS: The Mission Today Calendar is a thank you to all Red Box holders and supporters for their prayers and donations throughout the year. Please pick up your **FREE** copy at the back of Church.

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!

CHRISTMAS MASSES

English Martyrs:

6.30pm	Christmas Eve
12.00am	Midnight
9.00am	Christmas Day
11.00am	Christmas Day

St Georges:

5.30pm	Christmas Eve
9.30am	Christmas Day

Father M Brentnall VF [Parish Priest]

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Pope's Prayer Intention for December:
'For Christians in areas of conflict'

'St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.'

'Look at the bridge which is my son. It stretches from heaven to earth, joining the earth of your humanity with the grandeur of the Godhead'

St Catherine of Siena

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity) – 8 December:

Today we celebrate the Blessed Virgin's unique privilege of being preserved from the stain of sin at the very moment of her conception. This was fitting for she would one day carry the second person of the Trinity in her womb. St John Henry Newman wrote that 'there is no difference in kind between her and us, though an inconceivable difference of degree. She and we are both simply saved by the grace of Christ.' But with Mary, the manner in which she was saved was exceptional: from the first moment of her existence, she was freed from the stain of Original Sin. This dogma was solemnly defined by Blessed Pius IX on 8 December 1854 but had long been believed by Christians.

St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin (Opt. Mem) – 9 December:

St Juan Diego (1474-1548) was born near what is now Mexico City and converted to Christianity in middle age. He showed a great piety and walked many miles to attend Mass. While doing so on 9 December 1531, the Blessed Virgin appeared to him on Mount Tepeyac, asking that a shrine be built on the spot. The local bishop asked for a sign and Our Lady left a miraculous portrait of herself on St Juan Diego's tilma or mantle.

Our Lady of Loreto (Opt. Mem) – 10 December:

The shrine of Loreto, near Ancona (Italy), contains the 'Holy House', believed to have been the home of the Blessed Virgin Mary, where she gave her consent to the Angel Gabriel to become the Mother of God. The remains of the house arrived in Loreto on 10 December 1294, traditionally thought to have been transported by angels. The 'Holy House' contains the inscription 'Hic Verbum Caro Factum Est' (*Here the Word was made flesh*) and calls to mind the reality of the Incarnation in this Advent Season.

St Damasus I, Pope (Opt. Mem) – 11 December:

St Damasus (c.304-384) was probably born in Rome, although his father, a priest, may have been originally from Spain, leading to stories that Damasus too was born there. He was ordained a deacon and eventually became Pope in 366. He proved to be a strong leader, promoting devotion to the martyrs and their relics, strengthening the administration of the Church and summoning synods and councils to counter heresy.

Our Lady of Guadalupe (Opt. Mem) – 12 December:

On 9 December 1531 the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St Juan Diego and left an image of herself imprinted upon his cloak. The image was placed in a magnificent shrine at Guadalupe where it became an object of great devotion and encouraged the devotion of the Mexican nation towards the Mother of God. Many miracles were attributed to her intercession and Our Lady of Guadalupe was named as 'Queen of Mexico and Empress of the Americas'.

St Lucy, Virgin and Martyr (Memorial) – 13 December:

St Lucy (+c.304) was probably born in Syracuse (Sicily) and martyred during the persecution of Diocletian. Legend makes her the daughter of a wealthy family who was brought up as a Christian, and, having resisted the advances of a pagan suitor, was arrested, tortured and killed. Her name is mentioned in the Roman Canon and her feast, situated near the shortest day of the year, is celebrated in Sweden and elsewhere as a festival of light.

St John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church (Memorial) – 14 December:

St John of the Cross (1542-91) was born in Fontiveros (Spain) and entered the Carmelites. He befriended St Teresa of Avila and was persuaded to lead the reform of the Order, though he subsequently suffered many tribulations, including imprisonment at the hands of his brethren. A renowned poet and mystic, he wrote much on the mystery of the Cross and the 'dar night of the soul'.