

April 23rd St George, Patron of England and Martyr

Who was St. George, and what did he do to become England's Patron Saint?

Very little is known about St. George's life, but it is thought he was a high ranking officer in the Roman army who was killed in around AD 303. The Emperor Diocletian had St. George tortured to make him deny his faith in Christ. However despite some of the most terrible torture even for that time, St George showed incredible courage and faith and was finally beheaded near Lydda in Palestine. His head was later taken to Rome where it was interred in the church dedicated to him. Stories of his strength and courage soon spread throughout Europe. The best-known story about St. George is his fight with a dragon. In the Middle Ages the dragon was commonly used to represent the Devil. The slaying of the 'Dragon' was first credited to him in the 12th century.

It was probably the 12th century Crusaders however who first invoked his name as an aid in battle. King Edward III made him the Patron Saint of England when he formed the Order of the Garter in St. George's name in 1350, and the cult of the Saint was further advanced by King Henry V, at the battle of Agincourt in northern France. Shakespeare made sure that nobody would forget St. George, and has King Henry V finishing his pre-battle speech with the famous phrase, 'Cry God for Harry, England and St. George!' For over 300 years the Patron Saint of England was actually an Englishman, St. Edmund, or Edmund the Martyr, the Anglo-Saxon King of East Anglia. Edmund fought against the pagan Viking and Norse invaders until 869/70 when his forces were defeated. He was captured and ordered to renounce his faith but he refused. Edmund was bound to a tree and used as target practice by the Viking bowmen before being beheaded.
(Historic UK)



Catholic Parishes of St Mary's and Our Lady of Lourdes



St. Mary's Brierley Hill and
Our Lady of Lourdes, Kingswinford
Parish Priest: Fr Shanju John
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Deacon John Brindley (*Retired*)

Convent - Daughters of Divine Love 01384 380155

St Mary's Primary School 01384 985005

Part of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham: Reg. Charity No. 234216

SAFEGUARDING - The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Mrs Epi Pfunde and Miss Lilli Pace. They can be contacted at sg.olol.kingswinford@racob.org.uk or sg.stmary.brierleyhill@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 / safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B

21ST APRIL 2024

PSALM RESPONSE

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own sheep and my own know me.

Alleluia, alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The good shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his sheep, alleluia.

Easter B1	Easter	Intention/Info
Sunday 20th/21st 4th Sunday of Easter	5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH	People of the Parish Gareth Floyd
Monday 22nd	10am Mass KF	Pamela Winton
Tuesday 23rd St George	10am Mass BH 10.30am-11am BH	Pam Downs Adoration and Confessions
Wednesday 24th	NO MASS	—————
Thursday 25th	9am Mass School	School Intention
Friday 26th	10am Mass KF 10.30am-11am KF	Private Intention (CS) Adoration and Confessions
Saturday 27th	10am Mass BH 5pm Mass KF	FHC Candidates People of the Parish
Sunday 27th/28th 5th Sunday of Easter	5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH	People of the Parish In thanksgiving

Please pray for all those whose have died recently especially those on our April deceased lists and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they all rest in peace.

Please pray for all those who are sick including Chris Payne, Fr Cecil, Irene Brown, Christine Holding, Brian Saunders, Christine, Marlene and Tony Lyons, Ian Manley, Noel O'Reilly, Georgina Czuk, Martha Jones, Mavis Geach, Sheila Rowley, Roger Ward, Pauline Bant, Dorothy West, Kath Emery, Patricia Smith, Chris and Tony Rylands, Margaret List, Ken Lowe, Rob Bryan, Betty Storey and Connie Birch. May the Lord grant them hope and healing.

Collections BH GA £113.00 Loose £213.52 Maintenance £87.80 Teas £75.11 CTF £20.00
KF GA £180.00 Loose £211.71 Maintenance £77.51 Teas £146.00

SECOND COLLECTIONS - This week for Clergy Training Fund, next week for our Sisters.

BRIERLEY HILL: Craft Group Mon 15th Apr 2pm to 4pm in Parish Centre
KINGSWINFORD: Friday 9.30 - 11.30am Foodbank .

FOODBANKS - If you are able to donate to them they will be happy to accept your donations as the need is growing.

DO YOU LIVE ALONE?

If so, please complete the form in the Sacristy, or speak to Fr Shanju, with your contact number and if possible, the contact name and number of a relative. These will be kept securely in the safe. We can then ensure that you are ok if you are missing unexpectedly from Mass. Thank you.

Fr Stefan will be saying Mass at KF today. Please make him welcome.

NB Mass on Tuesday not Wednesday this week for St George, our Patron Saint.

Tea/coffee after Mass - Please join Fr Shanju and stay for tea and coffee after Mass on Sunday morning at BH for a chat and a catch up. No teas at KF until further notice.

Walsingham Pilgrimage - Saturday 11th May organised by Fr Philip Griffin. Please see poster at the back of Church and the website www.walsingham.org.uk for more information. Fr Philip needs to know by the end of April if you will be attending .

Job vacancy for Deputy Diocesan Solicitor Please see poster at the back of Church for more information.

Saturday 27th April the children from St Mary's School will be making their First Holy Communion at BH at 10am. Please pray for them, their families and the teachers who are preparing them to receive the Blessed Sacrament for the first time.

Church cleaning KF Tuesday 30th April 9.30am. All helpers very welcome.

Mass for Marriage Saturday 4th May at 12 noon at St Chad's Cathedral. For couples celebrating a milestone anniversary and those preparing to marry this year. Please see poster for more details at the back of Church.

St Mary's SVP Here is a summary of the actions taken by member of the Parish SVP Conference in the year ending 31/03/2024.

Total number of interactions with people in their own home	269
Total number of Interactions with people either in Residential care or hospital	9
Total number of people given help in the form of: - Cash, Electrical Appliances, Food Vouchers or Transport	84

For more information, or if you would like to join the SVP please speak to Peter Tompkins. Thank you.

Pope's prayer intention for April For the role of women . We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world. Amen.