

April 23rd St George, Patron of England and Martyr

Every nation has its own 'Patron Saint' who in times of great peril is called upon to help save the country from its enemies St George being the patron saint of England. But 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, Lady of Lourdes

St. Mary's Brierley Hill,
Our Lady of Lourdes, Kingswinford and
Our Lady of Lourdes, Cradley Heath.
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Part of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham: Reg. Charity No. 234216



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

18TH APRIL 2021

PSALM RESPONSE

Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus explain the scriptures to us.
Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us.

Alleluia, alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus
In the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;

O sing to the glory of his name.

O render him glorious praise, alleluia. (Roman Missal)



Easter (B1)	Psalter week 3	Intention/Info
Sunday 17th /18th 3rd Sunday of Easter	Sat 5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH 11.30am Mass OH	People of the Parish Pat Horner Dorothy Winwood
Monday 19th	10am Funeral KF	Bernadette Beardsmore
Tuesday 20th	10am Mass OH 10.30am-11am OH	Tom Murphy Adoration
Wednesday 21st	10am Mass BH 10.30am-11am BH	Gary Flatman Adoration
Thursday 22nd		
Friday 23rd St George	10.30am-11am KF 11am Mass KF	Adoration Geoff Smart
Saturday 24th		
Sunday 24th /25th 4th Sunday of Easter	Sat 5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH 11.30am Mass OH	People of the Parish Sr Roberta FSM Tom Murphy

Please pray for all those whose have died, especially Tom Murphy, Bernadette Beardsmore, those on our April deceased list and for all those whose anniversaries occur this month. May they all rest in peace.

Collections: BH GA £, Loose £, Hall hire £, KF GA £, Loose £,

Please pray for all those who are sick including Jess Shaw, Eva McCall, Harold Shackley, Michael Rose, Jill Rowe, James Kearney, Barbara Masterman, Margaret Shipley, Tess Barnsley, Steve Dunn, Lynsey Cooper, Alec Huffer, Kath Emery, Patricia Smith, Roy Davies, Chris Rylands, Tony Rylands, Margaret List, Ken Lowe, Peggy Tromans, Rob Bryan, Ilona Bryan, Betty Storey, Lily Petford, Connie Birch, Stella Jones, Margaret Marlowe, Don Neale, Anne Peters, Jackie Spittle, Barry Simner, David Barnsley and Dawn Russon. May the Lord grant them hope and healing.

FOODBANKS - both our foodbanks have now reopened to help those in need. If you are able to donate to them they will be happy to accept your donations - the need is growing and donations are much needed at this difficult time for so many people

Thank you from CAFOD

Thank you for your generous donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day during Lent. We featured Marian and her son Svondo in Zimbabwe in Lent 2018. The community vegetable garden that your donations helped provide is growing well and during the pandemic the family has survived on the vegetables. Your support has also helped to provide soap and handwashing stations in the garden and in family homes. This is just one of many long-term development projects that CAFOD has funded with the money from that Fast Day. Thank you for your steadfast support.

Git Aid Envelopes - Envelopes for Kingswinford and Brierley Hill are now available at the back of Church. If you have any questions or want to Gift Aid at Brierley Hill please contact Sheila Jelf on 07753 106343. Thank you.

APF boxes -OH - These need emptying again. Please return your box to Fr Shanju at Church as soon as possible for counting. Any problems please contact Tabitha on 0345 0700 707. Thank you.

Talk on Church Finances in a time of Pandemic. Rev. David Palmer former Treasurer of the Archdiocese of Birmingham. 18th April 1.45pm for a 2pm start.

Every organisation needs money including the Church. However, in recent years income to parishes has been steadily reducing and costs continue to increase. The pandemic has and will have a significant impact on that situation. So, what better time for us to understand our financial situation and the issues we face. To register for the Zoom Meeting, Email: actabham@gmail.com

Mass requests Fr Shanju is very happy to offer Mass as requested and we are now booked for all of April and half way into May. If you request a Mass to be offered please be patient it will be said as soon as possible. Thank you

Sacraments Children will be receiving the Sacrament of reconciliation on June 10th, making their First Holy Communion on May 22nd and June 12th in St Mary's and a further group will be Confirmed on June 17th. Please keep them, their parents and all those preparing them for these special days in your prayers.