

St George - Our Patron Saint

(As today is a Sunday the Solemnity of St George will be celebrated tomorrow, Monday 24th April.)

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. In the Middle Ages the dragon was commonly used to represent the Devil and he slaying of the 'Dragon' was credited to him in the 12th century.

Edward III made him the Patron Saint of England when he formed the Order of the Garter in St. George's name in 1350. 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. *(Historic UK)*

Pope's prayer intention for April For a culture of peace and non-violence We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

Bulletin sponsored by Stourbridge Catenians - www.stourbridgencatenians.co.uk

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



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3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A

23RD APRIL 2023

PSALM RESPONSE

Show us, Lord, the path of life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us.

Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us.

Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus

In the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

Dear brothers and sisters: let us put the Living One at the centre of our lives. Let us ask for the grace not to be carried by the current, the sea of our problems; the grace not to run aground on the shoals of sin or crash on the reefs of discouragement and fear. Let us seek him in all things and above all things. With him, we will rise again." **Pope Francis**

Easter A2	Psalter week 3	Intention/Info
Sunday 22nd/23rd 3rd Sunday of Easter	5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH	People of the Parish Patricia Horner
Monday 24th St George	10am Mass KF	Anne Rafferty
Tuesday 25th	10am Mass BH 10.30am-11am BH	Thanksgiving (Sr Edith) Adoration and Confessions
Wednesday 26th	NO	SERVICE
Thursday 27th	9am Mass School 11am Mass KF	Memorial for Trevor Horner
Friday 28th	10am Mass KF 10.30 KF	Michael Skelding Adoration and Confessions
Saturday 29th	5pm Mass KF	People of the Parish
Sunday 29th/30th 4th Sunday of Easter	5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH	People of the Parish Gareth Floyd

Please pray for all those whose have died recently especially Brian Sable, Michael Skelding, those on our April deceased lists and for all those whose anniversaries occur this month. May they all rest in peace.

Please pray for all those who are sick including Ian Manley, Noel O'Reilly, Georgina Kutz, Mike Skelding, Martha Jones, Mavis Geach, Sheila Rowley, Audrey Berry, Roger Ward, Pauline Bant, Jeanette Amphlett, Dorothy West, Kath Emery, Patricia Smith, Roy Davies, Chris and Tony Rylands, Margaret List, Ken Lowe, Rob and Ilona Bryan, Betty Storey, Connie Birch and Stella Jones. May the Lord grant them hope and healing.

Collections BH GA £148.00 Loose £162.69 Church Maintenance £118.18 Raffle £163.80, 150 donations £30.00 Funeral £60.00 Candles £72.85
KF GA £70.00 Loose £135.26 Church Maintenance £78.40 Holy Places £5.00

SECOND COLLECTIONS - This week for Sisters next week for Clergy training fund.

BRIERLEY HILL: Craft Group tbc Mon 2pm to 4pm in Parish Centre
KINGSWINFORD choir practice Wednesday 7pm
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.

Rejoice, you saints, in the presence of the Lamb; a kingdom has been prepared for you from the foundation of the world, alleluia.

Roman Missal - Antiphon for the Feat of St George

NB Mass will be on Tuesday this week at BH and there will be no Mass on Wednesday, next week no Mass on Monday 1st May.

Tea/coffee after Mass - Please join Fr Shanju and stay for tea and coffee after Mass on Saturday evening at KF or Sunday morning at BH for a chat and a catch up.

Holywell trip 17th June - there are still some places available. If anyone is interested please see Fr Shanju.

Gift Aid - do you pay tax? Do you know we can claim the tax you have already paid back from the tax office at no cost to you at all? The Parish receives 25p back for every £1 you put it the collection. You do not need to commit to a certain amount every week we just claim from what you have paid in the year whether it's £1, £100 or £1000. Please do think about it as it is a big help to both Parishes. For more information please see **Sheila Jelf at BH or Elaine Gill at KF**. Thank you..

Easter egg raffle at BH Raised £163.80 for our 150th celebrations. Huge thanks to you all.

Walsingham Pilgrimage 13th May organised by Fr Philip Griffin. Please see poster at the back of Church for more details.

SVP has new Cost Of Living Fund for those who are experiencing difficulty . Applications of up to £500 can be made. Please see Aidan Tompkins for more details.

150 years of St Mary's donations to the fund to pay for our celebrations, especially our Celebration Mass and free buffet reception, are now being greatly accepted. Please place your donation in an envelope clearly marked. Thank you.to all those who have donated already.

Annual Mass for marriage 29th April at St Chad's, please see poster for details.

Job vacancy The Archdiocese is seeking enthusiastic Choral Directors to work with the Programme Director to implement, deliver and develop the National Schools Singing Programme. The positions are a permanent contract, based in Coventry/Warwickshire and in Staffordshire. To start this September. Please see : www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Category/jobs