

ENGLISH MARTYRS' NEWSLETTER
Solemnity of Christ the Universal King

21st-22nd Nov 2020



**Our Vision of the parish
we would like to become ..**

... a welcoming community,
inviting, encouraging and supporting all to have
an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus.
We are inspired to show God's love to the world
with joy and hope.

The Feast of Christ the King falls on the final Sunday of the Church's liturgical year. Advent begins next Sunday along with a new Church year. In the Gospel this Sunday Matthew gives us an apocalyptic vision of the last judgement, when all the nations are assembled before the king. It would be a pity to limit the value of the passage to a last judgement scene, because what it offers is a picture of the kind of community where Jesus sees himself to be recognised, the kind of community where Jesus sees himself to be at home.

The presence of Jesus is hidden among the poor and the vulnerable: where their needs are recognised, Jesus is acknowledged. When the hungry are fed, when those who are thirsty for drink, when strangers are offered hospitality, when the naked are covered in dignity, when the sick are seen to, when prisoners are visited, Jesus himself is touched by mercy. Their vulnerability is his vulnerability; he is present where human need is greatest

According to this vision, if an alien came from outer space and asked us where our Jesus lived, we might have to take him to strange sanctuaries-refugee camps, back alleys, hospitals, prisons-and tell him that Jesus is to be found somewhere in these places. And tell him, too, that the blessed of God are to be found there, feeding, welcoming, clothing, visiting, paying attention.

The shared problem of the blessed and the cursed is: "When did we see you?" That may be our question too, for all we see is the many who are in need. But the Gospel asks us to interpret what we see. The Gospel challenges us to see the broken body of Christ in the brokenness and the woundedness of those we see around us. Christ still suffers and the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, the imprisoned. To pay attention to them is to pay attention to the broken body of Christ. And to do that is to be welcomed as blessed of God, because it is to live as a community of mercy.

Our journey of renewal as a parish community involves becoming more and more a community of mercy.

Fr Michael



All the latest information about the Parish is updated regularly on the website so do
check in regularly if you can: www.englishmartyrsrdg.org.uk

We also have a livestream on You Tube.: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVh4RKNcsEo>

The Posada (travelling crib) 2020

This year you can welcome a virtual Sheep, Shepherd or King into your Advent journey. Think about the journey of the first shepherd, or the Kings etc towards the Birth of Jesus and beyond and share your Advent experience through social media – #emposada2020.

The virtual crib can travel far and wide so encourage your friends and family who may not live locally to take part. Lets see how far the figures can travel this year.

For details contact
cath_harrington@compuserve.com

Zoom gathering each Sunday in Advent

Sunday 3pm English Martyrs Advent Liturgy 2020 - All welcome (with or without Teddy bear)

[https://zoom.us/j/93667454011?](https://zoom.us/j/93667454011?pwd=SmFSc1pWRXNkaUZMMUFIVnBUdDB)

[pwd=SmFSc1pWRXNkaUZMMUFIVnBUdDB](https://zoom.us/j/93667454011?pwd=SmFSc1pWRXNkaUZMMUFIVnBUdDB)
[yQT09](https://zoom.us/j/93667454011?pwd=SmFSc1pWRXNkaUZMMUFIVnBUdDB)

Meeting ID: 936 6745 4011

Passcode: 955545



Spiritual Preparation groups

Advent is a great time to get ready spiritually for Christmas, to prepare our hearts for the arrival of Jesus. **Spiritual Christmas Preparation Groups** start on Zoom this Advent. They provide an opportunity to come together to discuss the Sunday Mass readings and their impact on our lives today. Invite your friends, reach out to family. No specialist knowledge required, just an open heart. The groups will run at various times of the week. If you would like to get involved, contact Richard [rk1500@hotmail.co.uk] for information.

Loving your neighbour

This year the parish is partnering with EM school to provide 50 Christmas hampers filled with love and seasonal treats.

You can help by giving new items to put in the hampers:

luxury soaps, chocolates, mince pies etc.

Leave your items in the designated box inside the door when church is open for private prayer or for public Mass.

Hampers will need to be packed before the end of term (18th December).

Hope into Action - *parishioners from St James, St William of York and English Martyrs have agreed to support a homeless project in Reading. Hope into Action is a national charity that provides supported housing to the homeless by partnering with local churches. The group of parishioners will provide friendship and support to residents alongside the professional support provided by Hope into Action. The project will get underway next year once a property has been purchased. Hope into Action already have 2 houses in Reading and this will be the third. In early December there will be an information session on Zoom for potential investors. If you are interested in investing in such a property or getting involved in the project, please contact Mary Lewis on [07967 681020](tel:07967681020) or mary.lewis@hopeintoaction.org.uk.*

CAFOD World Gifts for Christmas

Please consider buying Christmas gifts that will change lives. CAFOD's World Gifts are a range of virtual gifts that transform the lives of those living in poverty overseas.

Have a look online at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

Thank you.

New Parish Website

The parish website will be moving to a new address in the near future so watch this space.

Mass Intentions: Thirty-fourth week in Ordinary Time		
<i>Solemnity of Christ the Universal King</i> <i>(both Masses livestreamed)</i>		
Saturday 21st November (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6pm	Rosie & Joao De Araujo-Ricardo Thanksgiving
Sunday 22nd November	10.00am	Micheál Connelly RIP
Tuesday 24th November	7pm	Mary O'Donohue RIP
Wednesday 25th November	7pm	Mick Burke RIP
Thursday 26th November	7pm	Agnes & Mick Kelly RIP
Friday 27th November	7pm	Patrick McGullion RIP
<i>First Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Year B</i>		
Saturday 27th November (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6pm	Irma Zawadski RIP
Sunday 28th November	10.00am	Mrs Tessa Peat RIP



ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH, READING

64 Liebenrood Road, Reading RG30 2EB
Registered Charity No. 246871



Parish Priest: Canon Michael Dennehy
mdennehy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Assisting Priest: Fr Richard Maniak

Parish Office: phone and e-mail monitored.
0118 957 2149
englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer:
Charlie McArthur
Contact through parish office number.

Schools: **English Martyrs Catholic Primary School,**
Dee Road, Reading RG30 4BE
Head: Mrs Doberska 0118 937 5466

Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School,
Fawley Road, Reading RG30 3EP
Head: Dr Simon Uttley 0118 957 4730