

First Sunday of Advent

28th—29th 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.

Another Advent begins. Advent is the time when we are reminded that we have to wait for God. We cannot grasp of God, we cannot possess God, we cannot see God; we can only wait for God to let Himself be known. Waiting is part of life, and the ongoing pandemic has reinforced the need to wait, as well as the need to hope.

In the reading from the great Old Testament prophet, Isaiah, we get a glimpse of the difficulty people face when their waiting for God seems to be in vain. The exiles have returned from their captivity in Babylon, spurred on by fresh hope that God will adopt them again as his people. But Jerusalem is a heap of ruins, and the people can see no signs to confirm their hope. They become exhausted with waiting; they grow tired of hearing nothing from God.

What about this as a prayerful plea from the heart from Isaiah: "Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down—at your Presence the mountains would melt." It is the prayer of a people seeking to renew their hope by remembering what God did for them in the past. What they remember keeps them awake to what is still to come. God will live up to his ancient name and be the Redeemer of his people.

As Christians we celebrate the name of the Redeemer, Jesus, as the only name by which we are saved. He is the chosen one, the beloved Son, God's answer to the cries of a waiting, struggling people. He is the ancient name of God become flesh in our midst.

Advent provides a wonderful spiritual framework for our preparation for the celebration of Christmas. We prepare in Advent to celebrate the First Coming of Christ and we anticipate in Advent the Second Coming of Christ. But Advent also provides a wonderful spiritual opportunity for the present time in which we live. Once again, we seek the intervention of God and we pray for an end to the pandemic. Advent reminds us to hope and it reminds us that our hope will not be in vain.

Meantime, we wait. We pray that the Lord will grant us peace "as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ".

Fr Michael

All the latest information about the Parish is updated regularly on the website so do check in regularly if you can.

New address www.englishmartyrsrdg.com

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





The Posada (travelling crib) 2020

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=SmFSc1pWRXNkaUZMMUFIVnBUdDByQT09)

[pwd=SmFSc1pWRXNkaUZMMUFIVnBUdDByQT09](https://zoom.us/j/93667454011?pwd=SmFSc1pWRXNkaUZMMUFIVnBUdDByQT09)

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.



Love your neighbour this Christmas

This year the parish is partnering with EM school to provide 50 Christmas hampers for local families filled with all sorts of seasonal treats.



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

luxury soaps, chocolates, mince pies, gloves etc

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

Tel. 0118 9572149 or email englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk to offer your time to help with this.

*****New Parish Website*****

The parish website has had a make-over and is going live this Advent. The new address will be www.englishmartyrsrdg.com. You will be redirected to this address if you go onto the old site so don't worry. It looks great on a mobile phone.

Give it a go when you book next week's Mass.



We'd like to send our thanks to @TNLCommunityFund and @dcmsgovuk for supporting us with funding of £10,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund. This vital funding will

allow us to start work on repairing the hall roof, getting us ready to reopen our doors to the community post-lockdown. Now, more than ever, our community needs to come together to support each other through this difficult time.

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. 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.

Christmas Mass Times

Thursday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

5pm Nativity service for children—not including Mass, but including the youth choir and hopefully the assistance of a real live donkey!

7pm Christmas Mass.

9pm Christmas Mass.

Midnight Christmas Mass.



Christmas Day

7.30am Christmas Mass

9.30am Christmas Mass.

11.30am Christmas Mass.

Bookings for these Masses are not yet available. More information next week.

Saturday 26th December:

6pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 27th December: 7.30am, 9.30am and 11.30am



Stewarding and welcoming at EM Christmas 2020

You will have heard Fr Michael asking for stewards and welcomers at Mass. We are really excited at the chance to reach out beyond the parish to our neighbours this festive season. Some events will hopefully happen outside in the carpark. Special guests in addition to Jesus are hoped for at the nativity.

To make all this happen we need lots of people available to steward and welcome everybody safely. Your help will be very gratefully received.

If you are under 70 years old and in good health, you can offer your time and find out more at

emartyrsreading@gmail.com

Please do this as soon as possible so that events can be planned.

Mass Intentions: First Week of Advent		
<i>First Sunday of Advent Year B</i>		
Saturday 28th November (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6pm	Irma Zawadski RIP
Sunday 29th November	10.00am	Mrs Tessa Peat RIP
Tuesday 1st December	7pm	Lourdinho Soares RIP
Wednesday 2nd December	7pm	Paul Walsh RIP
Thursday 3rd December St Francis Xavier	7pm	Angelo Ernesto de Araujo Thanksgiving
Friday 4th December	7pm	Claudina Rodrigues RIP
<i>Second Sunday of Advent Year B</i>		
Saturday 5th December (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6pm streamed	Jim Knox RIP
Sunday 6th December	7.30am	People of the Parish
	9.30am	Jim Knox RIP
	11.30am streamed	Patrick O' Donoghue
	5.00pm	Fr. Timothy Garrett RIP
	7.00pm	Pope Francis



ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH, READING

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



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

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

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.

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