

**Third Sunday of Advent**

12-13 December 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.

This third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete or Rejoice Sunday. We are not just invited to rejoice this Sunday, rather we are commanded to do so. The Lord's coming is near!

This Christmas is going to be different. There may be feelings of worry and anxiety around what it is going to be like and how we are going to celebrate it. And as we contemplate the Second Coming of Christ in Advent there may also be fear and trepidation. However, perfect love casts out all fear. There is no need for us to be afraid. An encounter with God is ultimately an encounter with love.

This Sunday's Gospel begins with the absence of light: John the Baptist is a witness to speak for the light, but he is not the light in person. John is the rugged figure whose task is described by the evangelists as laying low mountains and hills, shaping a path through the wasteland. When he faces critical opposition, he points away from himself to his work in preparing for the one to come.

John the Baptist's role can be appreciated fully only when the light does come in the person of Jesus. Only then can people realise the true measure of John's worth and the unique place this man has in the Christian tradition. John's stature among his own people was so great that many of them came to believe that he was the Messiah.

Like John, we are asked to make way for the light. None of us is the light but our role is to let the light through the darkness that litters our human landscape. That appears to be an impossible task when compared with our own abilities and commitment. Who are we to compete against the darkness?

Advent calls on us to make what contribution we can. To look first at ourselves and work quietly in the darkness that hides within us-the selfishness, the lack of forgiveness and the lack of love that keeps the light of good news from so many people. Holiness is the constant struggle of letting Christ be the light that shines through everything we do. So, let us rejoice on this Gaudete Sunday. The Lord is near!

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](http://www.englishmartyrsrdg.com)

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





## Christmas face masks

Members of the parish have been busy preparing Christmas face masks to sell in aid of charity. Available for sale at Masses next weekend. £5 donation to go in the box, no change will be given to avoid handling of money.

## Advent Novena

December 16th - December 24th, at 8pm each evening. This will be on Zoom, like our Pentecost Novena but not at such an early time in the morning!

To log into the Novena simply click on the link from about 7.50pm, each evening of December 16th - 24th.

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/94614409302?pwd=bGlybkx6YWRjS3JETHVxR0xKVHBndz09>

## Confessions

will be heard from 6pm Tuesday to Friday in Advent, 5pm Saturday and 4pm Sunday.

Fr. Pat from Christ the King Parish will also be hearing confessions here at English Martyrs at 11am on Saturday 12th and 19th December.



## Love your neighbour this Christmas

Thank you for the abundant generosity of gifts that have flooded through the doors for this initiative. 50 boxes and more have been delivered to the school ready for distribution.

## 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.

## RIP

Please pray for the repose of the souls of John Whitehead, Lya Turner and James Pickering all of whom died recently. May they all rest in peace and those who mourn them find solace.

## THINKING OF A PLACE AT SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2021?

Applications for Early Years places for September 2021 **must** be submitted to **Reading Borough Council** by **15th January**.

The Supplementary Information Form for Catholic schools must be returned directly to the relevant **School Office** by **15th January 2021**.

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# 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! **Car park closed to all except those with limited mobility. Please ring the parish office to book a parking bay at the back of the church.**

7pm Christmas Mass—**only Tilehurst Road gate open to cars**

9pm Christmas Mass—**only Tilehurst Road gate open to cars**

Midnight Christmas Mass—**only Tilehurst Road gate open to cars**

## Christmas Day

7.30am Christmas Mass—**only Tilehurst Road gate open to cars**

9.30am Christmas Mass—**only Tilehurst Road gate open to cars**

11.30am Christmas Mass **car park closed to all except those with limited mobility. Please ring the parish office to book a parking bay at the back of church if you do have limited mobility.**

Bookings for these Christmas liturgies available from mid-day Tuesday.

## Saturday 26th December:

6pm Vigil Mass—parking as usual

Sunday 27th December: 7.30am, 9.30am and 11.30am parking as usual



**Helpers welcome at EM Christmas 2020**

You will have heard Fr Michael asking for helpers at the Christmas events this year. 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**

[englishmartyrs@portsmouth.org.uk](mailto:englishmartyrs@portsmouth.org.uk)

***Please offer your help as soon as possible*** to help planning.

## Mass Intentions: Third Week of Advent

<b><i>Third Sunday of Advent Year B</i></b>		
<b>Saturday 12th December (Vigil Mass for Sunday)</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Marie Keogh intentions
<b>Sunday 13th December</b>	<b>7.30am</b>	Deceased of the Walsh and Mullin families RIP
	<b>9.30am</b>	People of the parish
	<b>11.30am</b>	Mary Hendry RIP
	<b>5pm</b>	Private intention
Tuesday 15th December	7pm Open Mass	Caroline Burrett RIP
Wednesday 16th December	7pm	Archbishop JH King
Thursday 17th December	7pm	Tomasz Jasinski RIP
Friday 18th December	7pm Open Mass	Michael Heneghan RIP
<b><i>Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B</i></b>		
<b>Saturday 19th December (Vigil Mass for Sunday)</b>	<b>6pm streamed</b>	Timmy and Ita Guidera RIP
<b>Sunday 20th December</b>	<b>7.30am</b>	Michael Heneghan, Martin and Kathleen Gaynard and John Nevin RIP
	<b>9.30am</b>	Rhea de Araujo Ricardo Thanksgiving
	<b>11.30am streamed</b>	Aidan Farrelly RIP
	<b>5.00pm</b>	People of the Parish



### 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