

## Second Sunday of Advent

5-6 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.

On the second Sunday of Advent we hear the opening of the Gospel of Mark, which introduces us to the two great figures that stand at the beginning of the Christian story: Jesus and John the Baptist. All four evangelists witness to the truth that you cannot tell the story of Jesus without first speaking about John the Baptist. It is the figure of John that introduces the adult Jesus in all the Gospels. John stands as the only religious leader that Jesus ever sought out and spoke of with deep affection and admiration. He is described as a voice crying in the wilderness.

John the Baptist is a waiting figure but his waiting is anything but passive. He does not go into the wilderness to sit in solitude and wait for the one who was to come. Rather, the word of God invades his whole being, calling the people of Israel to a radical change of heart in readiness for the approach of the Lord. From the wilderness his voice has a powerful impact. It attracts people who have grown accustomed to the silence of God, and people who are hungry to be nourished again by the word which they recognise to be God's own word.

People respond to the preaching of John by confessing their sins and undergoing a baptism of repentance. To the word of God spoken through John, people change their lives. Their change of heart is shown in their public baptism, which would have taken place at one of the fords in the river Jordan. John's baptism marks a new beginning for them, a time of personal spiritual renewal, when they would attempt again a life of fidelity to God.

On this Second Sunday of Advent, what change do we need to undergo in response to the call of John the Baptist to prepare a way for the Lord? There is a penitential flavour to the season of Advent. It is therefore an appropriate time for repentance and confession in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. But it is also a time for conversion, change of mind and heart, a time to seriously address those aspects of our life that need changing. John the Baptist was not one to mince his words and he points the way to Jesus. He is the towering figure of Advent.

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>





## 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=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.



## 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](mailto: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](http://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.

## 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 soul of John Benham, a faithful servant of the parish who died recently at the grand age of 100.

Please pray also for the soul of Michael Kane whose funeral took place last week.

## 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**.

# 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**

[emartyrsreading@gmail.com](mailto:emartyrsreading@gmail.com)

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

## Mass Intentions: Second Week of Advent

<b><i>Second Sunday of Advent Year B</i></b>		
<b>Saturday 5th December (Vigil Mass for Sunday)</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Jim Knox RIP
<b>Sunday 6th December</b>	<b>7.30am</b>	People of the Parish
	<b>9.30am</b>	Jim Knox RIP
	<b>11.30am</b>	Patrick O' Donoghue
	<b>5pm</b>	Fr. Timothy Garrett RIP
<b>Tuesday 8th December Solemnity: Immaculate conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	7pm Open Mass	Bento Fernandes RIP
<b>Wednesday 9th December</b>	7pm	Nina Walsh RIP
<b>Thursday 10th December</b>	7pm	Mick Mc Soley RIP
<b>Friday 11th December</b>	7pm Open Mass	Jack and Gertie Burke RIP
<b><i>Third Sunday of Advent Year B</i></b>		
<b>Saturday 12th December (Vigil Mass for Sunday)</b>	<b>6pm streamed</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 streamed</b>	Mary Hendry RIP
	<b>5.00pm</b>	Private intention
	<b>7.00</b>	Thanksgiving for medical staff at RBH



### 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