

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

9 - 10 January 2021



**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.

Lockdown 3 brings with it a deeply distressing death toll. Hospitalisations and coronavirus infections are increasing day by day. There appears to be no end in sight despite the availability of vaccines. We are told that the weeks ahead are going to be testing in the extreme. What are we to do in these most challenging times?

I invite you to turn to God with all your heart, perhaps as you have never turned to God before. Speak with him of your fears, your pain and sorrow, as well as your deepest longings and hopes. Spend time with him, just you and him. At this time of need our faith and our prayer is crucially important, not just for ourselves, but for those we love and for the peoples of the world. Bring everything to God, tell him everything and hold nothing back. Listen to him in the silence of your heart and, as Advent reminded us, be prepared to wait for him to act in his own way and in his own time. We need to pray also for the RBH, for the doctors and nurses, and for all front-line staff, especially in ICU. They are experiencing pressure and stress at an unsustainable level. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude so let us make sure that they are in our prayers every day. I am also conscious of my brother priests Fr. Pat, Fr. Matthew and Fr. Seth who are responding to calls from patients in the RBH every day with dedication and generosity. Please spread the word that Catholics should not hesitate to ask for a priest whether they are in hospital, care home or in their own home.

Christmas concludes this weekend, and we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The profound message of Christmas we have been reflecting on is 'God is with us.' This Sunday Jesus, the Son of God, joins thousands of people who respond to the preaching of John the Baptist on the banks of the river Jordan. He joins the ranks of sinners at the Jordan because that is why he came. His mission was to free people from their sins, and he submitted himself to John's baptism though he was sinless. The words of the Father were heard: "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."

The Father rejoices in us His sons and daughters born again through baptism. Just imagine the voice of the Father addressing you: "You are my beloved son or daughter; my favour rests on you." We are the beloved children of our Father, adopted in baptism. Think this Sunday of your Baptism, your parents and godparents. Your body has been a temple of the Holy Spirit since you were baptised. Give thanks to God for the grace and blessing your Baptism has been and continues to be. In these difficult and painful times let us ponder the love of our heavenly Father for us. The love of the Father is personal to each human being, and the Father is waiting for us ask him for what we need. Let us pray for one another and for the world, and please be assured of my prayers.

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>



HOPE^{into} ACTION

Enabling churches to house the homeless

Hope into Action - A group of 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 early this year once a property has been purchased. Hope into Action already have 2 houses in Reading and this will be the third. There will be an information session on Zoom for potential investors on **Friday 22nd January 7.30-8.30pm**. If you are interested in investing in such a property or getting involved in the project, please contact Mary Lewis on 07967 681020 or mary.lewis@hopeintoaction.org.uk.

Going into Hospital

If you or a loved one is taken into hospital, you or your family are the only people who can let the Catholic Chaplaincy know. Hospital staff are not allowed to ask **you**.

Ring the hospital on **0118 322 7105** to let them know that your loved one needs a visit from a priest.



Private Prayer & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Private prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will continue this week, Tuesday to Saturday (not Wednesday when we will have Mass), 9am - 10am. There is no need to book for this but we will be asking for names and contact details as you come in.

Congratulations to Luke and Savanagh who were married here at EM last month

Confessions

Confessions will be heard on Saturdays at 5pm and Sundays at 4pm.



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

Mass Intentions: First Week of Ordinary Time

<i>Baptism of the Lord Year B</i>		
Saturday 9th January (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6pm streamed	Chris Moran RIP
Sunday 10th January	7.30am	Anne O' Connor
	9.30am	Kevin Commins, Annie Kate and Thomas Walsh RIP
	11.30am streamed	Maureen Hanson RIP
	5pm	Jim Pickering RIP
Monday 11th January	No Mass	
Tuesday 12th January	7pm Open Mass	Thomas Donohue RIP
Wednesday 13th January	9.30am Open Mass	Lourdinho Soares RIP
Thursday 14th January	7pm Closed Mass	Thomas Donohue RIP
Friday 15th January	7pm Open Mass	Bridget and Graham Lowe RIP
<i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B</i>		
Saturday 15th January (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6pm streamed	Jim Pickering RIP
Sunday 16th January	7.30am	Maria Angelica Pasquina Fernandes RIP
	9.30am	Aidan Farrelly RIP
	11.30am streamed	Ita Guidera RIP
	5pm	James Towey RIP