



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 awful spectre of people dying within 28 days of a positive test for COVID each day continues at a truly terrifying level. Reports on what is happening in Intensive Care Units in this country and abroad, fill us with concern for the sick and the dying, as well as admiration and gratitude to those whose vocation and way of life is to serve others in their hour of need. I am deeply conscious of the need to surround the sick and the dying, and those who serve them, with our prayers. I invite us to pray for the Royal Berkshire Hospital, the Duchess of Kent Hospice and all Care Homes in our area where the sick and the dying are cared for and loved. Let us pray for those who serve in them, nurses and doctors and all frontline healthcare workers, some of whom are parishioners here at English Martyrs. We salute them for their extraordinary dedication to a way of life that resembles so closely the care of Jesus for the sick and the dying.

The word of God at each celebration of Mass, weekday or Sunday, gives us much to ponder, much to console us and sometimes much to challenge us. This Sunday we are struck by the deeply personal nature of our relationship with God and of the personal way in which God directs his word to you and me personally. The call of God to Samuel and the call of Jesus to those who became his disciples, is the call that is directed to you and me, uniquely and personally. This is not something to fear. Intimacy with God, as with intimacy with another human being, brings us to a human flourishing that we cannot achieve without intimacy. "No man is an island," John Donne said, and the hermit, the monk and the single person, need the intimacy of love and conversation to achieve the fullness of life which Christ came to bring, in the same way as couples and families. And as St. Irenaeus said, "The glory of God is a human being fully alive."

As this time of fear and anxiety continues, reflect on the personal nature of the God revealed to us by Christ. He knows us intimately, so there is little point in hiding. Invite God into your life, into your heart. Do not push him away out of fear or out of pride. Imagine him calling your name, inviting you to respond to him, inviting you to fulfil the purpose he has in mind for you. Allow him to love you and console you. "God is love," said St. John. It is not in the nature of God to do anything other than love. Bring others to God, and Jesus, the Son of God, as Andrew brought Peter. Bring the sick and the dying, and all who love and serve them. Allow God to do what God does, which is to love. 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.

Next weekend we take the annual second collection in support of the Cathedral in Portsmouth

This collection is the only support our Cathedral receives from the wider Diocesan family.

Due to the lockdown and restrictions being imposed on many people travelling, a 'Give as you Live' page has also been created to enable you to donate online at:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/cathedral-annual-appeal>

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

The Week of Prayer for Christian Union

Please join us at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday January 17, 2021 for a service for Christian Unity.

Very much looking forward to seeing people during these difficult days. Let us celebrate our unity in Christ, our Saviour.

Michael Penny

Chair, Churches Together in Reading and Berkshire

To join the Zoom Meeting click on this link just before 6.30 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83546265111?pwd=b0dXdGIQVkk0TXZBWnUONmE0dDdpUT09>

Meeting ID: 835 4626 5111

Passcode: 566745

Those taking part in the service are:

- ♦ Revd. Julia Binney (Baptist)
- ♦ Bishop Olivia Graham (Church of England),
- ♦ Pastor Rose Sintim (Kharis church)
- ♦ Revd Robert Barthram (URC)
- ♦ Father Chris Heaps (Catholic)
- ♦ Pastor Steve Prince (Brookside Church)
- ♦ Revd David Shaw (Methodist),
- ♦ Major Richard Welch (Salvation Army)
- ♦ David Hare (Ecumenical Officer for Churches Together in Berkshire)
- ♦ Michael Penny (Chair, Churches Together in Reading and Berkshire)

Join our Team

Do you **love to tell** people news of what has been going on?

Have you got an **eye for design**?

Do you enjoy **spotting mistakes** in pieces of writing?

If so, we would love you to be on our team!

English Martyrs Parish is starting a quarterly parish magazine (name to be decided) and we are looking for a team to help make this happen.

We need writers to report on good news stories of parish life, spotlight the wonderful groups that we have and share all that is happening around our community.

And we need designers who can help bring the articles alive to create the magazine under the guidance of our very own editor. We need proofreaders who can spot those pesky mistakes that get in the way of our sentences.

Interested? Curious? Desperate to get involved?

Then send an email (englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) to the parish office by February 6th and we will be in touch.



Mass Intentions: Second Week of Ordinary Time

<i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B</i>		
Saturday 16th January (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6pm streamed	Jim Pickering RIP
Sunday 17th January	7.30am	Maria Angelica Pasquina Fernandes RIP
	9.30am	Aidan Farrelly RIP
	11.30am streamed	Ita Guidera RIP
	5pm	James Towey RIP
Monday 18th January	No Mass	
Tuesday 19th January	7pm Open Mass	Rita Williams RIP
Wednesday 20th January	9.30am Open Mass	Bridie Smyth RIP
Thursday 21st January	7pm	Lya Turner RIP
Friday 22nd January	7pm Open Mass	Thomas Donohue RIP
<i>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B</i>		
Saturday 23rd January (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6pm streamed	Peter Sheppard RIP
Sunday 24th January	7.30am	People of the Parish
	9.30am	Jim Pickering RIP
	11.30am streamed	Maureen Hanson RIP
	5pm	Manuel Xavier do Rego RIP