

Second Sunday of Christmas

2-3 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.

A new year has begun, and I pray God's abundant blessing on our Parish in the year ahead. May we all be richly blessed by God, our families and our schools. We can only hope that this year will bring better news as far as the pandemic is concerned. New vaccines have increased hope but clearly, we still have a journey to go before we can put these dark days behind us. May 2021 bring many blessings and may we all be open to whatever God has in store for us.

We continue the celebration of the Christmas season. The second Sunday of Christmas and the Feast of the Epiphany on Wednesday invite us to continue to reflect on the incarnation, the Word made flesh. In this Sunday's Gospel we hear the magnificent Prologue to John's Gospel: how in the beginning there was the Word through whom all things came to be. When John speaks about Jesus notice how he goes back beyond the time of Jesus' birth and conception to the very beginning of time itself. He sees Jesus as the Word that was with God, the Word that was God.

On Wednesday we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. This feast marks the manifestation or appearance of strangers known as magi. They are astrologers, magicians or wise men and thought to be three in number from the gifts they bring. Whoever they are, their identity is never revealed. They know something the local people do not: that the king of the Jews has just been born not far from Jerusalem. The presence of these strangers worries King Herod, the chief priests, the scribes and the whole of Jerusalem.

The wise strangers of Matthew's Gospel represent all Gentiles who make their own journey to God in Christ. God draws all sorts of different people to him by all sorts of different routes. Most of us travel to God by routes that have been mapped out by generations of faithful Catholics who have gone before us. The magi are patrons of all those who see ways to God that others neither see nor follow. We have much to learn from each other about the mystery of God. The Christmas season concludes next Sunday with the Baptism of the Lord. We move quickly from the infancy of Jesus to his baptism in the Jordan by John the Baptist. It seems likely that we must continue to live with the various COVID restrictions for the foreseeable future. Thank you for being so generous in adhering to these restrictions that are intended to keep everyone safe. Thanks also to the stewards who are working so selflessly on our behalf. Let us continue to pray for one another and bear with one another at this time of anxiety. On behalf of Fr. Richard and myself I want to thank you for your generosity to us over Christmas.

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>



OPEN MASSES DURING THE WEEK

Everybody can now come to the open Masses during the week without booking first, including the Epiphany Masses.

Private Prayer & Adoration 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.

Confessions

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



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**.



Anointing of the sick

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



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: Second Week of Christmas

<i>Second Sunday of Christmas Year B</i>		
Saturday 2nd January (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6pm streamed	Mary Gouge RIP
Sunday 3rd January	7.30am	People of the parish
	9.30am	Kevin RIP
	11.30am streamed	Bruce & Marissa Hayes Thanksgiving
	5pm	Michael Linehan RIP
Monday 4th January	No Mass	
Tuesday 5th January Vigil for solemnity of the Epiphany	7pm Open Mass	Debra Bailey and Maureen Hanson
Wednesday 6th January Solemnity of the Epiphany	9.30am Open Mass	Katherine Soares RIP
Thursday 7th January	7pm Closed Mass	Domingos Rodrigues RIP
Friday 8th January	7pm Open Mass	Deceased members of the Coll Family RIP
<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