

English Martyrs' Newsletter

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

20th / 21st February 2021



OUR PARISH VISION

To be 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.

"Come back to me with all your heart." (Joel 2:12). These were the opening words of the First Reading on Ash Wednesday. At the beginning of Lent, we are invited back to God with all our heart. Lent is an interior journey, rather than merely a matter of fulfilling external actions and disciplines for their own sake. These disciplines are intended to bring about change of mind and heart, change of life and behaviour, change that is lasting. And St. Paul reminded us, "Well, now is the favourable time, this is the day of salvation." (2 Cor 6:2).

On the First Sunday of Lent, we are with Jesus in the wilderness. The wilderness is the place of both test and encounter with God in the tradition of the Bible. We are told, "The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness." (Mk 1:12). It is not by accident that Jesus ends up in the wilderness tempted by Satan. The Spirit drives him out there. The testing is a preparation for the ministry of Jesus, which explicitly in Mark's Gospel takes on the forces of evil. "He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him." (Mk 1:15).

The wilderness experience marks a major turning point in the life of Jesus when he is about to start his public ministry of teaching and preaching, healing and forgiveness. It is portrayed by St. Mark as a deep inner struggle when his resolve to take on his God-given mission was tested. We can easily slip into unintentional heresy when we say that since Jesus was God, he knew everything. Monophysitism is a heresy where Jesus' humanity gets swallowed up by his divinity, losing its proper and distinct identity. What Jesus knew as a man was not identical with what he knew in his divine nature. What Jesus knew in his human mind was human, it was finite and limited. The wilderness was a time of real testing and of real encounter with the Father.

Lent is a time for us to be led or 'driven' by the Spirit into the wilderness where we are with the wild beasts and we are tested and tempted. But in the wilderness, we encounter God when the angels minister to us. Are we willing to go where the Spirit drives us, to live a Lent of forty days in obedience to the Spirit? On Friday we have the perfect opportunity to exercise all three disciplines of Lent, prayer, fasting and almsgiving on CAFOD Lent Fast Day. We can pray for the world's poor, fast, and give generously.

Fr. Michael

ACTIVITIES DURING LENT

MASS TIMES

Tuesdays at 7.00pm; Wednesdays 9.30am;
Thursdays at 9.30am; Fridays at 6.30am &
9.30am; Saturdays at 10.00am

Open Masses. No booking required.
Turn up and we will take your details

Saturdays (Vigil Mass for Sunday) 6.00pm
Sundays at 7.30am; 9.30am; 11.30am; 5.00pm

Public Masses. Book your place at:
<https://englishmartyrsrdg.eventbrite.co.uk>



The following Masses will be live-streamed onto our YouTube channel:
Tuesdays at 7pm, Saturdays (Vigil) at 6.00pm and Sundays at 11.30am

Confessions will be heard at the front of the church as follows:
Saturdays after 10am Mass and at 5.00pm.
Sundays at 4.00pm



PRIVATE PRAYER



The church will be open on
Mondays from 3.00pm to 4.00pm and
Tuesdays from 9.00am to 10.00am.



Thursdays at 7.00pm on ZOOM

<https://zoom.us/j/98439484117?pwd=QzIGSm9FMG43S29PVUI1U2sraThpdz09>

Fridays at 7.00pm on the Livestream

Lenten Retreat: "I Thirst".

Every Tuesday until 30th March, 7.45pm to 9pm on Zoom.

This spiritual pilgrimage is an invitation to walk with Mother Mary, and become a presence of consolation for Jesus as his passion unfolds. It is a walk of love along a path that, I hope, would gently lead participants to respond to Jesus' appeal: "I thirst" in the manner he desires. Join on Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89816641271?pwd=bzBSS09xWTRZSnFaU1ZIMzljZWZpUT09>

Lenten Talks

Until 31st March, every Wednesday at 7pm, there will be a Lenten talk to help us prepare ourselves in this season. Join on Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/91674594853?pwd=Vit0N3hLempgWkZkSFNRYIRZWVNYdz09>

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH, READING

Parish website - updated regularly-: www.englishmartyrsrdg.com

Our livestream link on You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVh4RKNcsEo>

Parish Priest: **Canon Michael Dennehy**
mdennehy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Retired Priest: **Fr Richard Maniak**
Parish Office: telephone and e-mail monitored
Tel: 0118 957 2149
Email: englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding Officer: **Charlie McArthur**
Contact through parish office

Schools:

English Martyrs Catholic Primary
Dee Road, Reading RG30 4BE
Head: Mrs Doberska 0118 937 5466

Blessed Hugh Faringdon
Fawley Road, Reading RG30 3EP
Head: Dr Simon Uttley 0118 957 4730



"Christ suffered for sins once for all." Is He asking you to suffer with Him and bring others to God as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Contact Fr. John Cooke.
vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
or call 01329 318 86



CAFOD Family Fast Day is on Friday 26th February

Our parish is marking this year's Lent Family Fast Day to help people like Abdella who face daily problems accessing safe drinking water. Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being

wasted as he has no time for anything else. Please give to this year's Lent campaign so that CAFOD can reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support. A short talk about Abdella's daily battle to collect water for his family can be seen under Family Fast Day on the CAFOD website. Many thanks from CAFOD for your support.

Please donate online at cafod.org.uk/lent or by phoning 0303 303 3030 or by cheque using one of the CAFOD envelopes which you should freepost directly to CAFOD. You can also give via text by texting LENT 10 to 70460 to donate £10.

Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about CAFOD's work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, please text CAFODNOINFO to 70085. For more information please see CAFOD's Privacy Policy: cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice

Going into Hospital: If you or a loved one are taken into hospital, please 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 you or your loved one would like a visit from a priest.



Enabling churches to house the homeless

*Hope into Action is a national charity that provides supported housing to the homeless by partnering with local churches. A group of parishioners have agreed to provide friendship and support to the residents of a new shared house alongside the professional support provided by Hope into Action. Would you like to help with this project? There will be an online training day on **Saturday 27 February 10am-4pm**. Please contact Mary Lewis if you would like to attend: mary.lewis@hopeintoaction.org.uk*

Respond to Department of Health consultation to stop home abortions!

The Department of Health is holding a public consultation on whether to continue the practice of allowing abortion providers to send abortion pills to women so that they can perform their own abortion at home. We need as many pro-life people as possible to complete the Department of Health's questionnaire in order to help stop dangerous DIY abortions becoming permanent. The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) has prepared a briefing which gives a step-by-step guide to completing the consultation questionnaire.

Please go to: <https://www.spuc.org.uk/Get-Involved/Campaigns/England-DIY-Abortion-Consultation>

The consultation ends on 26 February 2021.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP TO OUR PARISH REGISTER?

We need your details so that we can keep in touch with you and let you know what is happening in the parish. The easiest method is electronically on the parish database at:

<https://p1.pamis.co.uk/cwreading/onlinee16cb5>

If you are not sure if you are registered or your circumstances have changed, then please register again.

All information provided by individuals, together with all other personal data held by the Parish and the Diocese of Portsmouth, is processed in accordance with the Diocese's Privacy Notice.

A copy of this notice can be obtained from the Department of Administration or by visiting:

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/gdpr>

New parish magazine - please give us your views

The magazine team had its first meeting recently. We have lots of views and ideas about it and now we need to hear yours.

Please take a few minutes to complete this very short survey: <https://forms.gle/fiGT3WX1JxeXx1fC9>

MASS INTENTIONS: FIRST WEEK IN LENT

First Sunday in Lent - Year B

Saturday 20 th February (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm (Public Mass) <i>Live Streamed</i>	Jim Pickering RIP
Sunday 21 st February	7.30am (Public Mass)	People of the Parish
	9.30am (Public Mass)	Thanksgiving
	11.30am (Public Mass) <i>Live Streamed</i>	Silverio Guansing RIP
	5.00pm (Public Mass)	Margaret Summerville RIP
Tuesday 23 rd February	7.00pm (Open Mass) <i>Live Streamed</i>	Baptista Roque Dias RIP
Wednesday 24 th February	9.30am (Open Mass)	Jim Pickering RIP
Thursday 25 th February	9.30am (Open Mass)	Valencia Victoria De Araujo Thanksgiving
Friday 26 th February	6.30am (Open Mass)	Sydney Burrett RIP
	9.30am (Open Mass)	Bryan Taylor RIP
Saturday 27 th February	10.00am (Open Mass)	Francis (Bart) Brooks Intentions

Second Sunday in Lent

Saturday 27 th February (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm (Public Mass)	Stanley Perera RIP
Sunday 28 th February	7.30am (Public Mass)	People of the Parish
	9.30am (Public Mass)	Dickson and Rosaline Fernandes Thanksgiving
	11.30am (Public Mass)	Jim Ryan RIP
	5.00pm (Public Mass)	Anna Rosario RIP