

# English Martyrs' Newsletter

5th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

6<sup>th</sup>/ 7<sup>th</sup> 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.*

We have been through some tough days in recent times with so much sickness and death. But now we are told that there are reasons to be cautiously hopeful; that there are better days ahead. We must be grateful that the signs are more positive. The vaccine rollout is adding to the hope that we may be getting through this pandemic and there may even be a possibility that we are returning to something resembling normality. How wonderfully comforting and consoling if the end of the pandemic, or at least the worst of it, is in sight.

It is striking how Jesus spends so much time with people who are sick, healing them and loving them, and how he confronts evil and evil spirits that diminish and seek to destroy the human person. This can all be dismissed as primitive and not applicable to the modern world, but the pandemic has brought a timeliness and relevance to the Gospel Readings this Sunday and last that we might otherwise have missed.

The Gospel this Sunday gives a lovely insight into a day and a night in the life of Jesus. He heals Simon's mother-in-law, and he heals the sick and casts out devils. The crowds come to him because they find in Him someone who can transform their wretched state. He can restore their dignity, ease their suffering and set them free. We are told, "In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there." (Mark 1:35). This is a detail we could easily miss in the narrative. Jesus prayed. It is essential for all of us to find a lonely, quiet place and pray there.

The disciples search for him and tell him that everyone is looking for him. He tells them that they must go to the neighbouring towns so that he can preach there too. This is significant because he allows nothing to get in the way of the announcement that he proclaims at the beginning of Mark's Gospel, "The time has come, and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News." (Mark 1:15). St. Paul says that this announcement, this proclamation is a duty that has been laid on him and he should be punished if he did not preach it. (1 Cor 9:16).

Announcing of the Good News is a task entrusted to each of us who belong to Christ. Good news has been in short supply recently, so the Good News of salvation of Christ is urgently needed. Ours is the privilege to share it.

Fr. Michael

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH, READING : 64 Liebenrood Road, Reading RG30 2EB  
Registered Charity No. 246871

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH, READING

Parish website - updated regularly-: [www.englishmartyrsrdg.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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  
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Blessed Hugh Faringdon  
Fawley Road, Reading RG30 3EP  
Head: Dr Simon Uttley 0118 957 4730

**Public Mass times**



Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm; Friday 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm. No booking required. Turn up at church and our stewards will take your details.

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Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> (Vigil) at 6.00pm; Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> at 7.30am: 9.30am: 11.30am and 5.00pm.  
Book your place at  
<https://englishmartyrsrdg.eventbrite.co.uk>  
(Bookings open at 8.00pm Monday 8<sup>th</sup>)



Masses will be live-streamed onto our YouTube channel on Tuesday (7pm), Thursday and Friday (7pm). Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm and Sunday 11.30am



**Confessions** will be heard at the front of the church on Saturdays at 5pm & Sundays at 4pm

**Private Prayer & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** this week will be between 9am and 10am on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. There is no need to book but we will be asking for names and contact details as you come in.

## 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.



## World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

"Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!" Could God be calling you to spread his Word and his love as a priest or consecrated religious?

Contact Fr. John Cooke.

[vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

or call 01329 318 869

## Getting Involved

### English Martyrs School Foundation Governors

English Martyrs Catholic Primary School are actively looking for **two Foundation Governors** to join our Governing Board. You **must be a practising Catholic** and willing to commit to a term of office of four years from the date of appointment.

For more information and how to contact the school go to [www.englishmartyrsrdg.com/schools](http://www.englishmartyrsrdg.com/schools)



This Lent, CAFOD is inviting the whole Catholic community of England and Wales to join the Big Walk for Water on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February. Find out more at <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Walk-for-Water>

## Job Opportunity

### Christ the King clerk to the governors

Christ the King Primary School are looking for an enthusiastic and effective **Clerk to the Governors** to provide administrative support. This is a part-time role starting in April 2021.

An application pack can be downloaded by visiting: [www.christthekingreading.co.uk](http://www.christthekingreading.co.uk)

## **MASS INTENTIONS: FIFTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

### ***Fifth Sunday in Ordinary time - Year B***

Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> February Vigil Mass for Sunday	6.00pm ** (Public Mass)	Jim Pickering RIP
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	7.30am (Public Mass)	People of the Parish
	9.30am (Public Mass)	Kath Donegan RIP
	11.30am ** (Public Mass)	Brian Frangella RIP
	5.00pm (Public Mass)	James Towey RIP
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	7.00pm ** (Open Mass)	Dermot Walsh RIP
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	10.45am (Family invitees only)	Funeral Mass for Agnes Dudgeon RIP
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	7.00pm **	Jose Vicente Goncalo Lourenco RIP
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	7.00pm ** (Open Mass)	Jim Pickering RIP

### ***Sixth Sunday in Ordinary time***

Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> February (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm ** (Public Mass)	Jim Pickering RIP
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	7.30am (Public Mass)	Derek Robins RIP
	9.30am (Public Mass)	Richard Davis
	11.30am ** (Public Mass)	Karen Gallagher RIP
	5.00pm (Public Mass)	Lya Turner RIP

\*\* Live Streamed Mass