

# English Martyrs' Newsletter

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

13<sup>th</sup>/ 14<sup>th</sup> March 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.*

This Sunday is mid-Lent Sunday. We set out on this Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday under the circumstances of lockdown. But now that schools are fully reopened, there are signs of a further gradual lifting of restrictions.

The longer, lighter days leading to Easter lift our spirits, and with Spring in the air, we can look forward in hope. The successful vaccination roll-out is another reason to be hopeful. It is appropriate therefore that this Sunday is known as Laetare Sunday (Rejoicing Sunday) - 'Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her; be joyful all who were in mourning.' And as it is also Mothering Sunday, we wish all mothers a happy day!

Only in the years to come will the full impact of the coronavirus pandemic become apparent. The economic impact is gradually being revealed but there has also been an impact on mental health and on the education of children and young people. Spiritual health has also been impacted, and parishes around the world are going to have to assess the impact. It has been a challenging time, but there won't be a better opportunity to do what we can to make sure that our parishes are fit for purpose and ready to fulfil the mission entrusted to the Church by the Lord.

We find in the first reading this Sunday from the book of Chronicles a synopsis of the history of the relationship between God and his people. It is a story of infidelity, rejection of the Prophets, destruction of the Temple and exile of the people. It is always a challenge for us human beings to hold on to a belief in the faithful love of God amid calamities that afflict us from time to time. We often conclude that God has abandoned us or is punishing us when calamitous events occur. But maybe these events are expressions of the divine love. Maybe, far from abandoning us, these events reveal that God is intimately involved in every aspect of human existence.

The reading from the book of Chronicles concludes with a foreign, non-believing king coming to the rescue of God's people, acting on behalf of God to rebuild the Temple. Let us rejoice on this Laetare Sunday in God who calls us from mourning to joy. This overwhelming love of God is wonderfully expressed by St. John: 'Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.'

Fr. Michael



## MASS TIMES

Tuesdays at 7.00pm;  
 Wednesdays at 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; and 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

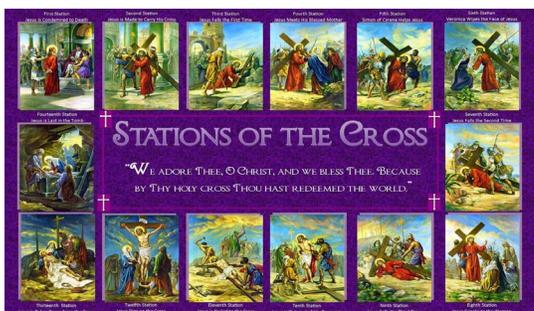


**Confessions** will be heard in the parish hall;  
 ❖ Saturdays after 10am Mass and at 5.00pm.  
 ❖ Sundays at 4.00pm

## PRIVATE PRAYER

The church will be open on

- Mondays from 3.00pm to 4.00pm
- 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=bzBSS09xWTRZSnFaU1ZlMzljZdWZpUT09>

## Lenten Talks

Every Wednesday on Zoom 7pm to 8pm.

<https://zoom.us/j/91674594853?pwd=Vit0N3hLempqWkZkSFNRYIRZWVNYdz09>

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH, READING

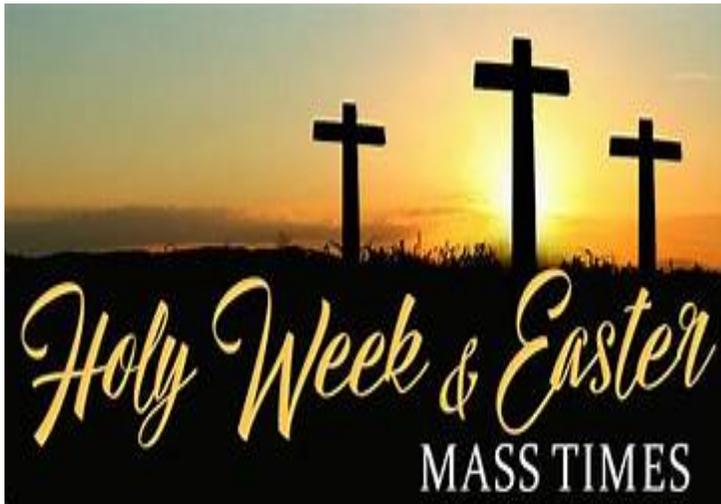
Parish website - updated regularly-: [www.englishmartyrsrdg.com](http://www.englishmartyrsrdg.com)

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



Holy Thursday; 8pm \*  
Good Friday Liturgy; 3pm \*

Good Friday Veneration of the Cross  
and Communion - 4.30pm  
(Open - No booking but details taken)

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil; 8pm \*  
Easter Sunday; 5.30am\* 7.30am\*  
9.30am\* 11.30am\* and 5.00pm\*.  
(\* Booking required)

Booking for all the above (marked \*) will open on Friday 19th March at 8pm.  
(book on <https://englishmartyrsrdg.eventbrite.co.uk/>)

**The Clergy Assistance Fund** supports the invaluable work of the Clergy Support Team who are responsible for looking after our clergy., They support newly ordained priests to settle into their ministry, provide ongoing support and formation for those in active ministry and care for our clergy through illness or in a time of need.

As a Diocese, we are responsible for supporting 73 diocesan clergy in active ministry, 40 from religious orders or overseas and 45 in retirement all of whom with dedication and care, serve our parishes, chaplaincies, schools, outreach and mission: bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church.

We rely on your commitment and generosity to help us carry on this work and as we are unable to hold the usual second collection this Sunday, we hope you will be able to continue helping us by making a donation at:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/clergy-assistance-fund>

Thank you for your support.

**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.



**CAFODs WALK FOR WATER at English Martyrs Catholic Primary**

**17<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Children to wear anything blue or white to represent water. They will walk a fun 1km circuit as many times as they can on the day and altogether aim to walk over **1000km.**

Please sponsor your child and ask as many friends and family to do so by donating to our just giving page at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/reading-english-martyrs>

Many thanks for all your support in turning concern into action!!

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**English Martyrs Liturgy for the Under-5s (Over 5s welcome too) has returned for Lent at the NEW time of 2.30pm on Sundays via ZOOM.**

**Join us for a short 15 minute Liturgy. A chance to gather and share the week, to hear a Bible story presented in a child-friendly way and to pray together. Concludes with a family blessing from Father Michael. Although initially offered for the Under-5s and their teddy bears, their over 5 siblings and friends are very welcome as well.**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/94291393644?pwd=cGkwMDZMbzFSUjZrWkJ2QTRQcTNpQT09>

**Meeting ID: 942 9139 3644 Passcode: 018481**

**We are following the story of Moses through Lent - link to video story of Moses - The Passover and the Escape from Egypt. <https://youtu.be/w62GWRnO594>**

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## MASS INTENTIONS: FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

### *Fourth Sunday of Lent - Year B*

Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> March (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm (Public Mass) <i>Live Streamed</i>	Eugene Herbert RIP
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	7.30am (Public Mass)	Kathleen Brown RIP
	9.30am (Public Mass)	James McMenamin
	11.30am (Public Mass) <i>Live Streamed</i>	Anne Tudor RIP
	5.00pm (Public Mass)	Mary Hendry RIP
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00pm (Open Mass) <i>Live Streamed</i>	Regson de Rego Thanksgiving
	2.00pm <i>(Family Invitees Only)</i>	Requiem Mass for Ralph Lamden RIP
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am (Open Mass)	Anne Morris RIP
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am (Open Mass)	Wilfred Henwood RIP
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	6.30am (Open Mass)	Michael Joyce RIP
	9.30am (Open Mass)	Agnes Dudgeon RIP
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00am (Open Mass)	Joanna Laska family

### *Fifth Sunday of Lent*

Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> March (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm (Public Mass)	Anne Tudor RIP
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	7.30am (Public Mass)	Michael Heneghan RIP
	9.30am (Public Mass)	Thomas Donohue RIP
	11.30am (Public Mass)	Paula Walsh RIP
	5.00pm (Public Mass)	Jim Rafter and the deceased members of the Kelly family RIP