

English Martyrs' Newsletter

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

20th / 21st 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.

We are just two weeks now from the celebration of Easter. The liturgical celebration of Holy Week will inevitably be influenced, but hopefully not dominated, by the pandemic restrictions. For over a year now we have been living in the shadow of the pandemic, the shadow of sickness and death. We have been painfully reminded of our vulnerability.

Since the beginning of Lent, we have been journeying with Jesus on his way to Calvary. We have been reflecting on the abandonment of Jesus the will of the Father that leads to his passion and death. But let us not forget that we do this in Lent and during the Triduum in the light of the resurrection. Even on Good Friday when we can feel the pain of the Lord's death, we do so in firm belief in the resurrection.

Jesus points to the resurrection in the Gospel: "I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest." Death is part of the human condition. We often deal with the reality of death with denial and frenetic distraction. Humour is another way of dealing with death. Woody Allen's famous quip regarding death for example is: "I don't mind dying. I just don't want to be there when it happens." But be there we must. There is no escaping death.

Jesus takes the example of a seed to point out the necessity of death and to highlight life after death. A seed has the capacity to protect itself and to last sometimes for centuries. When it does however it remains a seed. It is when the seed dies, and only when it dies, that it yields a rich harvest. Imagine a tall, magnificent tree that is hundreds of years old. It began as a tiny seed. Unless the seed died the tree would never have come into existence and grown so wonderfully.

The letter to the Hebrews tells us: "Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation." (Hebrews 5:9). Jesus' Blood is "the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins." (Words of consecration Roman Missal). The death of Jesus is a moment of glorification by God. In Jesus' death God reached out to us in tender and vulnerable love.

Fr. Michael



MASS TIMES

Tuesday at 7.00pm;
 Wednesday at 9.30am;
NO OPEN MASS ON
THURSDAY 25th MARCH;
 Friday at 6.30am & 9.30am;
 Saturday at 10.00am

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

Saturday (Vigil Mass for Sunday) 6.00pm
 Sunday 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

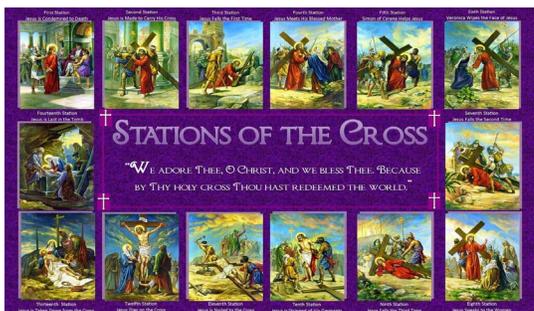


Confessions will be heard in the parish hall;
 ❖ Saturdays after 10am Mass and at 5.00pm.
 ❖ Sundays at 4.00pm

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=bzBSS09xWTRZSnFaU1ZlMzljdWZpUT09>

Lenten Talks Every Wednesday on Zoom 7pm to 8pm.

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

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH, READING

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

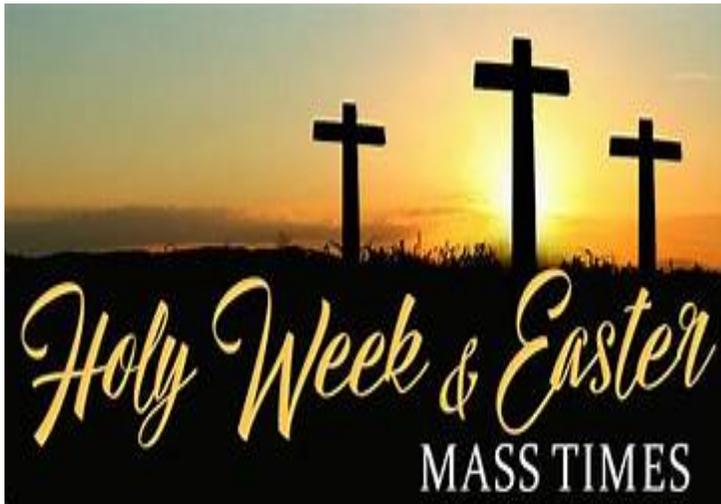
Our livestream link on You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVh4RKNcsEo>

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



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 *) are now open.
(book on <https://englishmartyrsrdg.eventbrite.co.uk/>)

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.

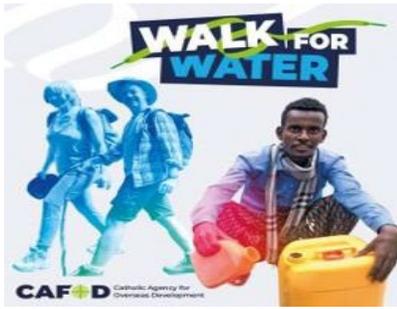
Join us for a short 15 minute Liturgy. A chance to gather and share the week, to hear a Bible story presented in a child-friendly way and to pray together. Concludes with a family blessing from Father Michael. Although initially offered for the Under-5s and their teddy bears, their over 5 siblings and 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 people of Israel journeying in the Desert. <https://youtu.be/ZeJzqJoFi2w>



CAFOD LENT APPEAL

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.

Formation for Mission are have the following courses in March & April for readers and catechists:

- 1. Readers Workshops** - Saturdays 17th and 24th April from 10 am to 1 pm - on Zoom.
Join us for two workshops to equip or refresh you as a church reader. Workshop 1 is an introduction to the Liturgy and the practical skills of reading, and workshop 2 is an introduction to the Bible. Attend both workshops and sign up for reading practice with a diocesan listener to receive a diocesan *Recognitio*. Find out more and register here: <https://www.pffm.org.uk/readers>
- 2. Online Catechesis 101** - Tuesday 23rd March at 7 pm - on Zoom
Are you a FHC catechist wanting to hold your sessions online? Do you find the idea of online catechesis a bit daunting, and would you like to pick up some tips and tricks from other catechists? If so, this friendly introduction to online catechesis is for you. Join other catechists to find out how to adapt your FHC catechesis to an online format such as Zoom or Teams. There will be practical demonstrations and opportunities for discussion.
This event is aimed primarily at First Holy Communion catechists but other catechists may find some of the information useful. All are welcome! Register here:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckc-muqDMjGNX40U_ablzNjNGgZGzCsk1A
- 3. Essential Training for Catechists** - Every Monday evening at 7 pm for 5 weeks, starting on the 19th April - on Zoom
Sr Hyacinthe will run the Essential Training for Catechists course, over five weeks, on Monday evenings, starting on the 19th April. This course is for seasoned or new catechists working with children, young people or adults, for everyone involved in Children's liturgy of the Word, and for anyone interested in passing on the faith. Find out more here:
<https://www.pffm.org.uk/catechists> and register here:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtdu-qpzsoH9HdUzaJXyM4D1LdHq5EfXZR>

MASS INTENTIONS: FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Fifth Sunday of Lent - Year B

Saturday 20th March (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm (Public Mass) <i>Live Streamed</i>	Anne Tudor RIP
Sunday 21 st March	7.30am (Public Mass)	Michael Heneghan RIP
	9.30am (Public Mass)	Thomas Donohue RIP
	11.30am (Public Mass) <i>Live Streamed</i>	Paula Walsh RIP
	5.00pm (Public Mass)	Jim Rafter and the deceased members of the Kelly family RIP
Tuesday 23 rd March	7.00pm (Open Mass) <i>Live Streamed</i>	Dinky Amelia Smith Good RIP
Wednesday 24 th March	9.30am (Open Mass)	Fr. Giles Goward RIP
	2.00pm (Family Invitees Only)	Requiem Mass for Richard Davis RIP
Thursday 25 th March	9.30am (Family Invitees Only)	Requiem Mass for Angelo Rabuano RIP
Friday 26 th March	6.30am (Open Mass)	Reginald Cecil Powys Lybbe RIP
	9.30am (Open Mass)	Steve O' Callaghan RIP
Saturday 27th March	10.00am (Open Mass)	Sarah Gould RIP

Palm Sunday

Saturday 27th March (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm (Public Mass)	Nanda Perera RIP
Sunday 28 th March	7.30am (Public Mass)	People of the Parish
	9.30am (Public Mass)	Thomas Donohue RIP
	11.30am (Public Mass)	Paula Walsh RIP
	5.00pm (Public Mass)	Jan Treder RIP