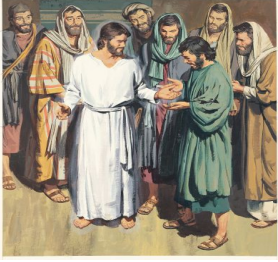


English Martyrs' Newsletter



Third Sunday of Easter 17th/18th April 2021

These days of Eastertide are days of rejoicing and of proclaiming 'Alleluia' even if we are not yet allowed to sing it! We continue to live through the strangest of times, but a profound hope is proposed to us in the Easter event of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Death is defeated and there is the hope of eternal life, a sharing in the risen life of Jesus.

The disciples of Jesus are frightened and alarmed, agitated and doubting, when Jesus appears to them following his resurrection. They have been through the trauma of his passion and crucifixion. It is just too much for them to believe that he is now alive, that he is risen. It takes time for them to take it all in. Their feelings of fear and doubt prevent them from believing that it is truly the Lord now risen and present to them.

Our own fears and doubts can be a barrier preventing us from encountering Jesus in faith and love. But it is precisely at times of fear and doubt that the Lord brings us the hope of his risen presence. The wonderfully privileged way we have of experiencing the Lord's presence is in the Eucharist, the Mass. The Mass, the breaking of bread, is a moment for us to recognise Jesus, truly and substantially present, just as the first disciples of Jesus recognised him at the breaking of bread following his resurrection.

We need to renew this eucharistic faith in the coming weeks. I hope that Covid restrictions will be lifted gradually, and we can encourage people back to the Mass. In his 2003 encyclical, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* (The Church from the Eucharist), Pope St. John Paul II invited Catholics to regain a sense of "Eucharistic amazement." He said that in the celebration of the Mass, our time is linked to the time of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection, because the Eucharist has a truly enormous capacity, which embraces all of history as the recipient of the grace of the redemption. In a spirit of eucharistic amazement, we live history as His-story: God's story.

Having been through the various lockdowns, apart from being denied the Eucharist for a while, people have also been denied the solidarity and belonging of being the People of God gathered as a worshipping people of faith. We need to build this solidarity and belonging as a parish by having as many people as possible in groups where people can connect, grow, serve, pray and reach out to others. We need solidarity in faith and a strong sense of belonging to one another. We are not intended to make the journey alone.

Fr. Michael

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH, READING

Parish website: www.englishmartyrsrdg.com

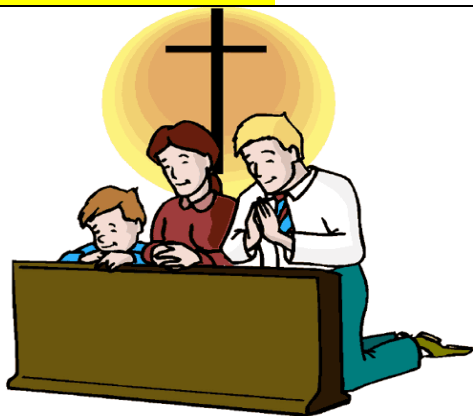
Livestream link on You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFcSMfQGyIY>

Parish Priest: **Canon Michael Dennehy**
mdennehy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Assistant Priest: Canon Simon Treloar
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

MASS TIMES



Open Masses. No booking required.

- Tuesday 20th at 7.00pm
- Wednesday 21st at 9.30am
- Thursday 22nd at 9.30am
- Friday 23rd at 9.30am
- Saturday 24th at 10.00am

Saturday 24th (Vigil) at 6.00pm;

Sunday 25th 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 19th)



The following Masses will be live-streamed onto our YouTube channel:
Tuesday at 7pm, Saturday (Vigil) at 6.00pm and Sunday at 11.30am.



Confessions will be heard on: Saturday 24th after 10am Mass and at 5.00pm. Sunday 25th at 4.00pm



PRIVATE PRAYER

The church will be open on Monday 19th from 3.00pm to 4.00pm



Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Barbara Frampton.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 17th to Sunday 26th April

Third Sunday of Easter - Year B

Saturday 17 th April (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm (Public Mass) <i>Live Streamed</i>	Eleanor Cox
Sunday 18 th April	7.30am (Public Mass)	People of the Parish
	9.30am (Public Mass)	Jim Pickering RIP
	11.30am (Public Mass) <i>Live Streamed</i>	Francisco Vito de Araujo RIP
	5.00pm (Public Mass)	Timmy Guidera RIP
Tuesday 20 th April	7.00pm (Open Mass) <i>Live Streamed</i>	Joe O'Neill RIP
Wednesday 21 st April	9.30am (Open Mass)	Anne O'Connor intentions
	11.00am (Family Invitees Only) <i>Live Streamed</i>	Requiem Mass for Nancy Munnelly (Private reception into church at 4.00pm Tuesday 20 th)
Thursday 22 nd April	9.30am (Open Mass)	James Murphy RIP
Friday 23 rd April	9.30am (Open Mass)	Louie Fearn's RIP
Saturday 24 th April	10.00am (Open Mass)	Joanna Laska family

4th Sunday of Easter

Saturday 25 th April (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm (Public Mass)	John Knox RIP
Sunday 26 th April	7.30am (Public Mass)	People of the parish
	9.30am (Public Mass)	Mick Reeve RIP
	11.30am (Public Mass)	Pam and Hugh Roddie RIP
	5.00pm (Public Mass)	Martin Walsh RIP