

# English Martyrs' Newsletter



## Fourth Sunday of Easter Good Shepherd Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> April 2021

This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday. Jesus says in the Gospel: "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep." (John 10:11). Jesus goes on to speak of the good shepherd knowing the sheep and the sheep listening to his voice. There is a relationship of trust between sheep and shepherd.

We take the opportunity on this Sunday each year to consider the theme of vocation. Vocation comes from the Latin word *vocare* meaning to call. The call we think about is the call of God. Each of us, created in the image and likeness of God, is given a unique and personal vocation or calling that only we can fulfil. There is a general sense in which we are called by God but there is also a specific sense in which God calls each of us uniquely and personally. The Christian understanding of God is of a personal God who out of love for the world has drawn close to us in the person of His Son Jesus for our salvation in his death and resurrection.

In considering the theme of vocation we are to set our eyes and hearts on the Good Shepherd, Jesus who laid down his life on the Cross. He is the model of self-sacrificing love that we are called to imitate. On the Cross he offers himself to the Father and we unite ourselves to the self-offering of Jesus of himself to the Father in the celebration of Mass. A vocation is therefore a call to sacrifice in imitation of the Good Shepherd. Each of us who are baptised are called to this self-sacrificing love in whatever state of life we find ourselves. The Church's mission is served by all the baptised responding to the call of God, imitating the generosity of the Good Shepherd, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Church through the centuries has relied on men and women responding to the call of God and giving themselves exclusively to the mission entrusted to it by the Lord. In praying for a renewed culture of vocation, we are invited also to pray for vocations to priesthood and consecrated life. Vocations to priesthood and consecrated life mainly come from families and parishes that are faithful and supportive. We currently have twelve men preparing for the priesthood for our Diocese of Portsmouth. I will be involved in interviewing seven men next week as they discern to will of God for them. We need good and faithful priests, so please do pray for this intention and encourage men and women who may be considering a vocation to priesthood or consecrated life.

Fr. Michael

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH, READING

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

Livestream link on You Tube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCulqb5ncxASpguMmd\\_OMNtA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCulqb5ncxASpguMmd_OMNtA)

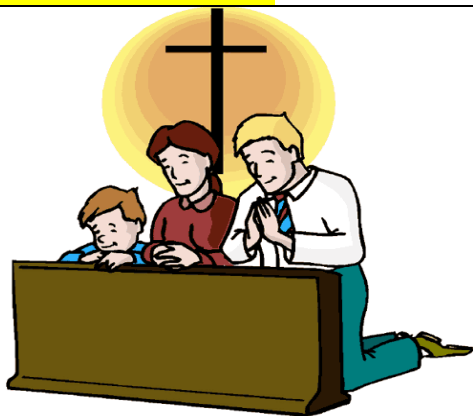
Parish Priest: **Canon Michael Dennehy**  
[mdennehy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:mdennehy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)  
Assistant Priest: Canon Simon Treloar  
Retired Priest: **Fr Richard Maniak**  
Parish Office: telephone and e-mail monitored  
Tel: 0118 957 2149  
Email: [englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.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

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

**MASS TIMES**



**Open Masses. No booking required.**

- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am
- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am
- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 10.00am

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May (Vigil) at 6.00pm;

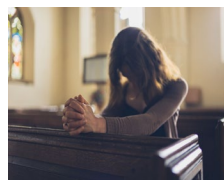
Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 7.30am: 9.30am: 11.30am and 5.00pm. Book your place at <https://englishmartyrsrdg.eventbrite.co.uk> (Bookings open at 8.00pm Monday 26<sup>th</sup>)



The following Masses will be live-streamed onto our YouTube channel;  
Tuesday at 7pm, Saturday (Vigil) at 6.00pm and Sunday at 09.30 & 11.30am.



**Confessions** will be heard  
on: Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May after  
10am Mass and at 5.00pm.  
Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 4.00pm



**PRIVATE PRAYER**

The church will be open from  
10.00am to 6.00pm Monday  
to Saturday.



**Rest In Peace**

Please pray for the repose of  
the soul of Elizabeth Linley.

**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.

We will have a Second Collection this weekend for the Clergy Training Fund. This collection provides funding to support our seminarians through the 7 years it takes to train for the priesthood. On average, it costs £27,000 per year for each seminarian. Investing in our next generation of priests is a great privilege and responsibility for our Diocese.

If you are able and would like to give a gift to this collection, you can donate on line at:

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

Thank you for your continued and generous support.

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### **Alpha online @ English Martyrs Starts Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April.**



Every day we ask questions. What shall I wear? What is the weather? Will I get everything done?  
But what about the deeper questions?  
What is my purpose...? What happens when I die...?  
Why is there suffering...?

Alpha gives you the opportunity to ask these and other 'big' questions and explore the Christian faith in a welcoming, low-pressured environment.

Interested? Then contact the parish office or visit the Alpha page on the website for more details.

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### **Homegroups @ English Martyrs : Starts Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May.**



So what is a homegroup?

It is a small group of parishioners who will meet together mid-week to pray, share fellowship and have meaningful discussions.

For more information and details on how to get involved, please visit our website and follow the links on the 'Homegroups' page.

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### **Available on Zoom (our website Calendar page has the links)**



Faith Formation weekly on a Monday 7.00 to 9.00pm

Emmaus Groups various days/times

Divine Mercy Chaplet 3.00pm Daily

Pray the Rosary 4.00pm Daily

Night Prayer 9.00pm Daily

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## MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

### Fourth Sunday of Easter - Year B

Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> April (Vigil Mass for Sunday) <i>Live Streamed</i>	6.00pm (Public Mass)	John Knox RIP
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	7.30am (Public Mass)	People of the parish
<i>Live Streamed</i>	9.30am (Public Mass)	Mick Reeve RIP
<i>Live Streamed</i>	11.30am (Public Mass)	Pam and Hugh Roddie RIP
	5.00pm (Public Mass)	Martin Walsh RIP
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	9.30am (Open Mass)	Private Intention
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	7.00pm (Open Mass) <i>Live Streamed</i>	Private Intention
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	9.30am (Open Mass)	Archbishop JH King RIP
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	9.30am (Open Mass)	Paul Knight RIP
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	9.30am (Open Mass)	Richard Davis RIP
	11.30am (Family Invitees Only)	Funeral Mass for Elizabeth Linley RIP
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	10.00am (Open Mass)	Rosita de Paez and Moises Paez RIP

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> May (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm (Public Mass)	Sue Ferreira RIP
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	7.30am (Public Mass)	People of the Parish
	9.30am (Public Mass)	British MPs
	11.30am (Public Mass)	Pat Keogh RIP
	5.00pm (Public Mass)	Mick Burke RIP