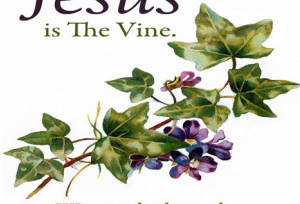


English Martyrs' Newsletter

Jesus
is The Vine.



We are the branches.

Fifth Sunday of Easter
1st / 2nd May 2021

Tremendous progress has been made with the vaccine roll-out and it looks as though all legal limits on social contact will be removed on June 21st if the various tests are met. It has been a challenging time but now it is time for our Parish of English Martyrs to rebuild and reset. 450 people booked a place at Mass in our parish last weekend, and I want to encourage all parishioners, individuals and families, to return to the weekly celebration of Sunday Mass. Please invite back those who have become disconnected and all who are seeking Jesus, "the true vine." (Jn 15:1). It is time to rebuild and reset, not just returning to how things used to be, but adapting to become to parish God is calling us to be in the 21st century.

When we receive Communion, we receive the Lord who said, "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood you will not have life in you." I hope that by the time we celebrate Corpus Christi on June 6th many parishioners who have not been at Mass since before the first lockdown will have returned. I encourage all who have returned to Mass to speak with anyone you know who has not yet returned and share your experience of what it is like at Mass with the current restrictions. Share with them your love of Jesus in the Eucharist. Encourage them to take the first step on the journey home to the Sunday Mass. We are ambassadors for Christ when we encourage Catholics we know to return to Sunday Mass. Thanks to our wonderfully generous stewards and the cooperation of everyone in complying with the restrictions, we have been able to maintain a safe environment thus far.

Livestreaming has been a great blessing and I am hugely grateful to a few pioneers who got us up and running when the first lockdown happened last year. But now it is time to reduce the livestreaming of Sunday Mass so that parishioners understand the need to be present at Mass in person. The sacraments are outward signs of an inner reality. They are in the form of bread and wine, oil and water, physical signs. We need to be physically present to be able to partake in the sacraments, fully, consciously and actively participating in their celebration. We are not spectators but participants in these lived experiences of God's grace.

With deep gratitude to God for his blessings during the awfulness of the pandemic, let us now rebuild and reset with fortitude and faith, and with the Eucharist, the Mass at the centre of our parish life.

Fr. Michael

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH, READING

Parish website: www.englishmartyrsrdg.com

Livestream link on You Tube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCulqb5ncxASpguMmd_OMNtA

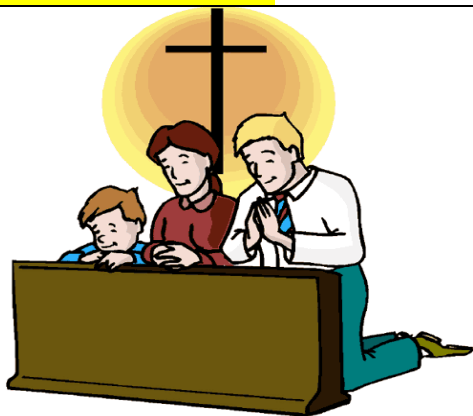
Parish Priest: **Canon Michael Dennehy**
mdennehy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Assistant Priest: Canon Simon Treloar
Retired Priest: **Fr Richard Maniak**
Parish Office: telephone and e-mail monitored
Tel: 0118 957 2149
Email: englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding Officer: **Charlie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

- Monday 3rd at 10.00am
- Tuesday 4th at 7.00pm
- Wednesday 5th at 9.30am
- Thursday 6th at 9.30am
- Friday 7th at 9.30am
- Saturday 8th at 10.00am

Saturday 8th (Vigil) at 6.00pm;

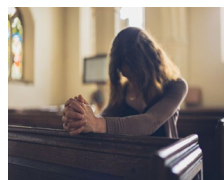
Sunday 9th at 7.30am: 9.30am: 11.30am and 5.00pm. Book your place at <https://englishmartyrsrdg.eventbrite.co.uk> (Bookings open at 8.00pm Monday 3rd)



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 8th after 10am Mass and at 5.00pm. Sunday 9th 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 Rena Pinto.

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.



Alpha online @ English Martyrs Wednesdays at 7.45pm on Zoom



It is not too late to join the current round of Alpha and get answers to those big questions you have.

Visit the Alpha page on the website for more details.



Homegroups @ English Martyrs : Starts Thursday 27th 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.



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



Pope Francis has asked for a marathon of prayer around the world throughout May for an end to the pandemic.

Catholics across the globe are encouraged to dedicate the Marian month of May to praying for an end to the pandemic. The initiative, behind which the Pope has thrown his support, involves 30 Marian Shrines from various parts of the world. It takes place under the theme "The whole Church was fervently praying to God," which recalls a verse in the Book of Acts (12:5).

The Rosary will be broadcast on [Vatican News](#) daily at 6pm Rome time (5pm UK time).

It is the heartfelt desire of the Holy Father that the month of May be dedicated to a prayer marathon dedicated to the theme, 'from the entire church an unceasing prayer rises to God'.

As a parish, we also have an opportunity to pray the rosary together daily at 4pm on Zoom.

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 1st May to Sunday 9th May

Fifth Sunday of Easter - Year B

Saturday 1 st May (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm (Public Mass) <i>Live Streamed</i>	Sue Ferreira RIP
Sunday 2 nd May	7.30am (Public Mass)	People of the Parish
	9.30am (Public Mass) <i>Live Streamed</i>	British MPs
	11.30am (Public Mass) <i>Live Streamed</i>	Pat Keogh RIP
	5.00pm (Public Mass)	Mick Burke RIP
Monday 3 rd May	10.00am (Open Mass)	Fr. Keith Collins RIP
Tuesday 4 th May <i>Feast of The English Martyrs</i>	7.00pm (Open Mass) <i>Live Streamed</i>	Sarah Beeston Thanksgiving
Wednesday 5 th May	9.30am (Open Mass)	Arthur Quinn RIP
Thursday 6 th May	9.30am (Open Mass)	Theresa Matthew RIP
Friday 7 th May	9.30am (Open Mass)	Gregory Sakaria RIP
Saturday 8 th May	10.00am (Open Mass)	Intention of Menino Goes

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Saturday 8 th May (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm (Public Mass)	Thomas & Warren intentions
Sunday 9 th May	7.30am (Public Mass)	Clara Bautista RIP
	9.30am (Public Mass)	Bridie O'Gorman RIP
	11.30am (Public Mass)	Martin O'Neill RIP
	5.00pm (Public Mass)	People of the Parish