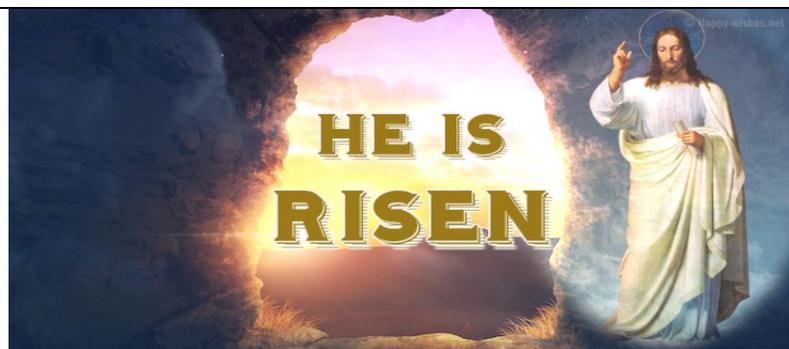


English Martyrs' Newsletter



Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord 3rd/4th April 2021

It is with great joy that we arrive at the celebration of Easter. It has been a long Lent, a long winter and a long year since the beginning of the pandemic. It is such a blessing that we could celebrate the Triduum with parishioners participating, which we could not do last year. Now with the celebration of Easter we have reason truly to rejoice because the Lord is risen! Death is defeated and the Lord's resurrection changes everything forever. We have the hope of one day sharing in the life of the risen Lord in heaven.

The pandemic has been traumatic for the peoples of the world and continues to be for so many. We have been forced to confront the reality of death on a terrible scale. Sickness, and the fear of getting sick, has put pressure on us all and caused us to dig deep and to think about life's most serious questions. The full scale of the damage wrought by the pandemic may take years to quantify.

But Easter now summons us to a new hope-filled vision of who we are and what our destiny is. The Resurrection changes everything. St. Paul says that if the Lord has not risen then our preaching and teaching is useless. In fact, if the Lord is not risen Christianity is futile. But the Lord is indeed risen. We rejoice truly because we have been set free to live now for God and to embrace the purpose God has for each of us. We are to set our hearts on the kingdom of God and on the hope of heaven.

The Good News of the gospel is good news for the world. As believing Christians we need to be more courageous and more faithful in sharing this Good News. Pandemic or no pandemic, human beings are always attracted to good news and good news doesn't get any better than what Easter celebrates. It is the news that every human person needs to hear. This is both our privilege and our responsibility.

In wishing you all the richest blessings of Easter, as we inch our way out of lockdown and through the pandemic, I encourage us all to pause for a moment and reflect. We have Good News that defeats all the bad news of the past year and answers all the deep and serious questions that have arisen in peoples' minds these last months. What is this Good News? It is Jesus, the Son of God, crucified on the Cross, is risen. That's the Good News the world needs to hear. It is up to us all who have been baptised to share it and to use all the wonderfully innovative media available to us to do so.

Many Easter blessings to you all. Let's embrace the Good News of Easter joy and share it with a weary world. Many Easter blessings to you all!

Fr. Michael

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
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



EASTER OCTAVE

Monday 5th at 10.00am
Tuesday 6th at 9.30am and 7.00pm;
Wednesday 7th at 9.30am
Thursday 8th at 9.30am
Friday 9th at 9.30am
Saturday 10th at 10.00am
Open Masses. No booking required.

Saturday 10th (Vigil) at 6.00pm;

Sunday 11th 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 5th)



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 as follows:

❖ Saturday 10th at 5.00pm. Sunday 11th at 4.00pm



PRIVATE PRAYER

The church will be open on

➤ Monday 5th from 3.00pm to 4.00pm

EASTER OFFERING

Your offering on Easter Sunday is a personal gift to Father Michael and represents a large share of his income for the year. As we are unable to have a physical collection, if you are able, please make your gift on-line by visiting:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/reading-english-martyrs-easter-Sunday-collection>

If you are a taxpayer, please consider Gift Aiding your gift. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

I am pleased to let you know that Bishop Philip has appointed an assistant priest to our parish. He is Canon Simon Treloar, a priest of the Diocese of Wrexham, who will be with us on-loan. Fr. Simon has family in this Diocese and will thus be nearer to them. He arrives on April 7th and I'm sure that you will make him warmly welcome.

Fr. Michael



Parish Hall Roof Work

Work to the hall roof has been approved by the Diocese and it will begin on April 12th. The cost is £48,655 including VAT and excluding an asbestos survey and the project manager's fees. Grants secured for the Parish towards the cost of the roof repair by the Diocese from various sources amounts to £18,200. Generous donations from parishioners amount to £16,736. The work is expected to take four weeks.

I am pleased to inform you that a further grant of up to £19,200 has been secured this week by the Diocese for our Parish from the National Heritage Memorial Fund in partnership with Historic England for other necessary work. This programme was established to safeguard cultural and heritage organisations across England from the economic impact of COVID-19. There is potential for a further significant grant.

You will gather therefore that the Diocese of Portsmouth has provided excellent support to parishes in the year since the pandemic began. More than £1 million has been secured to support parishes from Trusts and organisations offering grants. We have not been left to fend for ourselves. There is a great deal of necessary work to be done to maintain our buildings and to fund the outward looking vision for our Parish that is needed for us to fulfil the mission entrusted to us by the Lord.

I invite all parishioners therefore to review your giving to the Parish and increase if possible. The entire flat roof adjacent to the church needs significant work. We maintain our buildings so that we become the welcoming community that our vision suggests that we aim to be. The emphasis now is to be ready to re-open completely when the time comes. Everyone's support is needed. Everyone needs to be giving sacrificially in imitation of the Lord who sacrificed Himself for us. Please do not leave it to others to bear the financial burden.

We have not been having collections in church since this time last year. I therefore encourage everyone to sign up for one of the direct means of giving to the Parish which you can find on our parish website englishmartyrsrdg.com. We have long since needed to depart from the loose change mentality where whatever change one had in one's purse or pocket went into the collection. Now is the time to think seriously about our giving and to do so in a planned, thoughtful and sacrificial way.

I am grateful to all who contribute generously to the finances of our Parish.
May God bless you all abundantly,

Fr. Michael.

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 3rd to Sunday 11th April

Easter Sunday - Year B

Saturday 3 rd April (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	8.00pm (Public Mass) <i>Live Streamed</i>	Annie Kate and Thomas Walsh RIP
Sunday 4 th April	5.30am (Public Mass)	Lucy Hope RIP
	7.30am (Public Mass)	People of the Parish
	9.30am (Public Mass)	Violet and Danny O'Boyle RIP
<i>Live Streamed</i>	11.30am (Public Mass)	Anna Rosario RIP
	5.00pm (Public Mass)	Agnes Dudgeon RIP
Monday 5 th April	10.00am (Open Mass)	Sofio Jenizan RIP
Tuesday 6 th April	9.30am (Open Mass)	Fr. Michael Taylor RIP
<i>Live Streamed</i>	7.00pm (Open Mass)	Josie Grant RIP
Wednesday 7 th April	9.30am (Open Mass)	Moira Husbands RIP
Thursday 8 th April	9.30am (Open Mass)	Dolan Durian RIP
Friday 9 th April	9.30am (Open Mass)	Mick McElligott RIP
Saturday 10 th April	10.00am (Open Mass)	Joanna Laska family

2nd Sunday of Easter

Saturday 10 th April (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm (Public Mass)	Dickson Fernandes thanksgiving
Sunday 11 th April	7.30am (Public Mass)	People of the Parish
	9.30am (Public Mass)	Kay Rogers RIP
	11.30am (Public Mass)	Mary Fahy RIP
	5.00pm (Public Mass)	Angelita Francisco thanksgiving