

English Martyrs' Newsletter



Seventh Sunday of Easter 15th / 16th May 2021

We are praying for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit these days as we approach the Feast of Pentecost next Sunday. Our Novena to the Holy Spirit each morning on Zoom at 6.30am is a wonderful opportunity for us to pray together to God the Holy Spirit for our Parish, for our young people who will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, for the Church and for the world. We pray for the renewal that only the Holy Spirit can give.

Blessed Elena Guerra petitioned Pope Leo XXIII for the Church to be renewed in these words: "Pentecost is not over. In fact, it is continuously going on in every time and in every place because the Holy Spirit desired to give Himself to all men and all who want Him can always receive Him, so we do not envy the apostles and the first believers; we only must dispose ourselves like them to receive Him well, and He will come to us as He did to them."

Let us, therefore, dispose ourselves like the apostles and the first believers who were so transformed into faithful and passionate followers of Jesus following Pentecost. Let us pray the Novena and invite others to join us, and let us pray continuously these days, "Come Holy Spirit," and "Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth." (Psalm 103). We need to open our hearts in prayer to receive all that God in his infinite goodness wants to give us. We need to be ready to receive, not what we want, but that which the Holy Spirit wants to give us.

I find myself praying this prayer that was recommended by Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa at a retreat I did a few years ago: "Holy Spirit, come to the aid of my weakness and intercede for me in accordance with the mind of God. Yes Amen. I say yes Father to whatever the Spirit has asked you for on my behalf. I say Amen to the Spirit's prayer." St Paul reminds us that the Spirit comes to our help us in our weakness and when we cannot find words to pray, He prays within us. In submitting to the Spirit, we are submitting to the will of God.

Invite and encourage others to pray to the Holy Spirit this week, collectively in the Novena but also in our own prayers. We can simply pray, "Come Holy Spirit," at any time or anywhere. Let us pray for one another and for the suffering peoples of the world, and for the troubled Holy Land, once again torn by violent conflict. "Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth."

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 17th at 09.30am
- Tuesday 18th at 7.00pm
- Wednesday 19th at 9.30am
- Thursday 20th at 9.30am
- Friday 21st at 9.30am
- Saturday 22nd at 10.00am

Saturday 22nd (Vigil) at 6.00pm;

Sunday 23rd at 7.30am: 9.30am: 11.30am: 3.00pm and 5.00pm. Book your place at <https://englishmartyrsrdg.eventbrite.co.uk> (Bookings open at 8.00pm Monday 17th)



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 22nd after
10am Mass and at 5.00pm.
Sunday 23rd at 4.00pm



PRIVATE PRAYER

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

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

The Bishops of England and Wales have written a Pastoral Letter for Pentecost on the care of the environment. This has been uploaded to our website and you can view a copy by visiting:
<https://englishmartyrsrdg.com/newsletters/>

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.



Our Novena to the Holy Spirit continues and will be prayed every day until Saturday 22nd. It is on Zoom, starting at 6.30am each MORNING and lasts approx. 30 minutes. The link to join can be found on our website Calendar page. Please do try and join us.

Pro-life Chain: Saturday 29th May 2021:10am to 12 noon on Kings Road.

SPUC invites you to mark the 53rd anniversary of the Abortion Act coming into force in 1968, by joining our Pro-Life Chain for an hour or two. This is a peaceful, silent roadside vigil in solidarity with unborn children, their mothers and anyone suffering from the effects of abortion. We will be following Government guidance on Covid-secure requirements. The meeting point will be at Cemetery Junction from 9:50am before lining up down the road at 10.00am. For more information, contact Martin at spucreading@gmail.com.



Catholics across the globe are being 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 full 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.

In support of **World Communications Day** there will be a second collection this weekend.

An online fundraising page has been set up to support the collection. If you are able to offer support and would like to make a donation please visit:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/second-collection-for-world-communications-day>

CAFOD Climate Change Petition



As the host of two major international conferences, the British government has a crucial role to play in 2021. Britain will soon host the G7 annual meeting in Cornwall where the leaders of the seven richest countries will gather to discuss some of the most pressing challenges facing us, from how to rebuild after the COVID pandemic to climate change. This will be followed by the UN 'COP26' climate talks taking place in Glasgow in November, where world leaders will come together to agree how they will work towards ending the climate crisis.

With the G7 meeting occurring just weeks away from 11th to 13th June, CAFOD is asking us to sign its petition urging the Prime Minister to make sure communities hardest hit by climate change are listened to at the COP26 meeting. You can view this petition by clicking on <https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/73304/petition/1>.

Indicate to CAFOD your agreement to it on-line by providing the information required and then clicking 'Sign the petition' at the bottom of the page. If you are interested in reading about CAFOD's more wide ranging 'Reclaim Our Common Home' campaign please go to <http://cafod.org.uk/reclaim>



THE ORATORY

Coordinator of Spiritual Life
Closing date: 28 May 2021

The Oratory School is seeking to appoint for September 2021 a lay man or woman who is in full communion with the Catholic Church and fully in sympathy with our Oratorian ethos to the exciting new post of Coordinator of Spiritual Life. The school is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes a diverse pool of candidates.

For further details please contact the Human Resources department:
E-mail: recruitment@oratory.co.uk

Alternatively, please visit our website for an application form
www.oratory.co.uk

The Oratory Schools Association Registered Charity No. 309112 is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 15th to Sunday 23rd May

Seventh Sunday of Easter - Year B

Saturday 15 th May (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm (Public Mass) <i>Live Streamed</i>	Thomas, Warren, Aidan & Ashita
Sunday 16 th May	7.30am (Public Mass)	People of the Parish
<i>Live Streamed</i>	9.30am (Public Mass)	Richard Davis RIP
<i>Live Streamed</i>	11.30am (Public Mass)	Theotonio Goes RIP
	3.00pm (Public Mass)	People of the Parish
	5.00pm (Public Mass)	Nancy Munnelly RIP
Monday 17 th May	09.30am (Open Mass)	Lucy and Kevin Mc Sharry RIP
Tuesday 18 th May	7.00pm (Open Mass) <i>Live Streamed</i>	Ita Dowling Thanksgiving
Wednesday 19 th May	9.30am (Open Mass)	Patrick Reidy RIP
Thursday 20 th May	9.30am (Open Mass)	Nancy Munnelly RIP
Friday 21 st May	9.30am (Open Mass)	Ruaidhre O' Halloran RIP
Saturday 22 nd May	10.00am (Open Mass)	Nancy Munnelly RIP

Pentecost Sunday

Saturday 22 nd May (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm (Public Mass)	Lucy Mc Gullion RIP
Sunday 23 rd May	7.30am (Public Mass)	Charles Livingston's intentions
	9.30am (Public Mass)	Aidan Farrelly RIP
	11.30am (Public Mass)	Ita Guidera RIP
	3.00pm (Public Mass)	People of the Parish
	5.00pm (Public Mass)	Helen Lourenco & Francis Vito Araujo RIP

Newsletter Extra follows.....

Saturday 15th and
Sunday 16th May 2021

Newsletter Extra

A new way of sharing information in our parish



hopeintoaction.org.uk



Hope into action by Mary Lewis & George Nowacki

Preach the Gospel at all times; if necessary, use words

Have you ever wondered what happens to people who are released from prison after serving their sentence? Some of them have homes and families to go back to but many have not. Those without any support get an allowance of £46 and are expected to find accommodation and work (have you seen the Shawshank Redemption?)

Those working with ex-prisoners are overloaded and there are simply not enough resources to do all that is necessary to help. Not unexpectedly, many ex-prisoners cannot manage, some end up on the streets and there often follows a vicious re-offending cycle. The links between offending, mental health, relationship breakdown, job loss and substance abuse are complex.

No individual is the same in how they are affected by any or all of these factors and the list is by no means comprehensive. Some ex-prisoners will go back to jail for stealing or shoplifting if this is a behaviour they know and revert to in order to cope with struggles in their life.

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR NEWSLETTER EXTRA?

We'd love to hear about it.

It's a great way to keep people in touch with what's happening in the Parish.

GET IN TOUCH

Just email
tracey.gurr@btinternet.com or
call her on 07733 060443

Some re-offend to simply feel safer, warmer, less hungry in prison which for them is a place with structure if the chaos of their life on the outside gets too much. About half of ex-prisoners go back to jail within a year and 70% within 4 years. How can we help them avoid this?

An innovative solution

Hope Into Action is a Christian organisation that does just that; housing not just ex-prisoners but those from many backgrounds who have found themselves without a home. HIA was started by Ed Walker in Peterborough in 2010 and now has more than 75 houses. Last year 300 residents were housed across the country in 23 different towns and cities.

Every house is opened in partnership with a local church. The residents are befriended and helped by volunteers from the partner church under the supervision of HIA staff. HIA provides a home for a limited period during which residents re-build their confidence and set up a firm base on which they can get back into a stable, independent and productive life.

Last year 92% of HIA residents maintained their tenancies and moved on well; 89% of HIA residents with previous custodial sentences did not re-offend.

The houses are usually single sex, with no drugs or alcohol permitted. HIA also supports families, and children make up about 20% of the residents nationally. Running costs are met from rent paid by the tenants from their housing benefits or earnings, and from donations and other fundraising activities.

Collective funding

A clever part of the arrangement is the funding for the houses. We call it "crowd lending." It is like crowd funding but you lend the money rather than give it. Individuals who have accumulated some cash, perhaps have paid off mortgages and expect no major expenditure, lend money to the venture at a better rate (currently 2%) than that offered by banks and building societies for a limited period (currently 5 years). If an unexpected

“*Every house is opened in partnership with a local church.*”

need for the money occurs, it can be reclaimed earlier. In doing this they become part of a group of investors that part-own a house for a limited time. The investors lease the house to HIA who enable and support churches to house the homeless. There are two HIA houses in Reading and HIA Reading plan to open a third this summer in partnership with English Martyrs and St James and St William Catholic churches.

Want to find out more?

If you're interested in helping HIA as a befriender or volunteer, or in investing in a HIA property, or just want to know more, please contact Mary.lewis@hopeintoaction.org.uk - or watch this space!



Hope into Action's mission is:

“To mobilise, unite and unleash Christian prayer, investments, donations and relationships to fight the injustice of homelessness.”

What does success look like?

Hope into Action says: “Success to us is: church members, out of their pews, striving to love and tenants receiving and feeling loved.

“We are as passionate about empowering churches as we are tenants. At least 50% of our mission is to churches.”