

English Martyrs' Newsletter

love
each other
as I have
loved you.
John 15:12

Sixth Sunday of Easter
8th / 9th May 2021

In preparation for the Feast of Pentecost in two weeks, we will begin a Novena of prayer to the Holy Spirit on Friday, May 14th for nine days at 6.30am on zoom. Last year over 200 people participated on the last day of the Novena and I hope that even more will join this year. I encourage you to commit yourself to this explicit and intentional prayer to the Holy Spirit for our parish, for our families and our schools, for our young people and our sick and housebound. We pray for the world as the pandemic continues to rage, particularly for the people of India and Brazil. "Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth." (Psalm 103).

On Thursday May 13th we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. In normal circumstances it would be a holy day of obligation, but the obligation is lifted due to the circumstances of the pandemic. It would be good nonetheless to be at Mass on this important day. We have been hearing at Mass passages from the Farewell Discourse from John's Gospel. Jesus has been speaking with the disciples of his ascension to the Father and preparing them. The word "ascension" is a metaphor for Jesus' entry into the transcendent realm, a new level of being, after his resurrection.

The Gospel reading from St Mark on Ascension Day ends in an abrupt and slightly negative manner. It is an unsatisfying ending but that is Mark's point. He is forcing us to realise that the story goes on in the lives of all the disciples of Jesus, then and now. We are the bearers of the Good News, we are the continuation of the story, a story which in truth will never really end. Though Jesus ascends to the Father, leaving the disciples behind, he promises in Matthew's Gospel to be with his disciples until the end of time. He promised them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Novena beginning next week gives us the opportunity to pray together, as did the first disciples of Jesus, for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We were in lockdown last year as we prayed but this year we are in a much better position. We pray for all who continue to suffer through the pandemic. Please let us join as a parish of disciples of the Lord and let us pray together to the Holy Spirit for renewal, for strength, for healing and for faithfulness in service to the Lord who has called us.

Fr. Michael

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH, READING

Parish website: www.englishmartyrsrdg.com

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

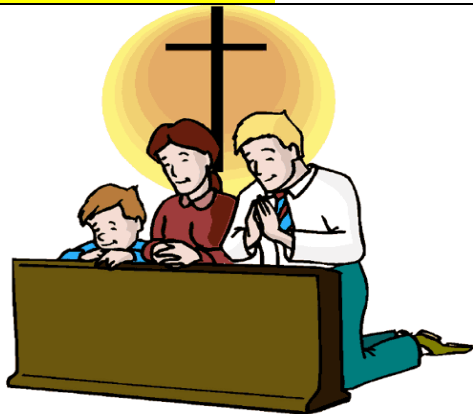
Parish Priest: **Canon Michael Dennehy**
mdennehy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Assistant Priest: Canon Simon Treloar
Retired Priest: **Fr Richard Maniak**
Parish Office: telephone and e-mail monitored
Tel: 0118 957 2149
Email: englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding Officer: **Charlie 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 10th at 09.30am
- Tuesday 11th at 7.00pm
- Wednesday 12th at 9.30am
- Thursday 13th at 9.30am and 7.00pm
- Friday 14th at 9.30am
- Saturday 15th at 10.00am

Saturday 15th (Vigil) at 6.00pm;

Sunday 16th 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 10th)



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 15th after
10am Mass and at 5.00pm.
Sunday 16th 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



Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Derek Taplin.

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 will be prayed between Friday 14th and Saturday 22nd May. It will be on Zoom, starting at 6.30am each MORNING and last approx. 30 minutes. The link to join can be found on our website Calendar page. Everyone is most welcome.

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.



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 8th to Sunday 16th May

Sixth Sunday of Easter - Year B

Saturday 8 th May (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm (Public Mass) <i>Live Streamed</i>	Thomas & Warren intentions
Sunday 9 th May	7.30am (Public Mass)	Clara Bautista RIP
<i>Live Streamed</i>	9.30am (Public Mass)	Bridie O'Gorman RIP
<i>Live Streamed</i>	11.30am (Public Mass)	Martin O'Neill RIP
	5.00pm (Public Mass)	People of the Parish
Monday 10 th May	09.30am (Open Mass)	Elliot Motaung RIP
Tuesday 11 th May	7.00pm (Open Mass) <i>Live Streamed</i>	Filomena & Valentino do Rego Thanksgiving
Wednesday 12 th May	9.30am (Open Mass)	Archbishop Cyprian Kizito Lwanga RIP
Thursday 13 th May <i>The Ascension. Solemnity</i>	9.30am (Open Mass)	Terence Morse RIP
	7.00pm (Open Mass)	Fr. Michael Gwinnell RIP
Friday 14 th May	9.30am (Open Mass)	Deceased members of the McCormack and Martland families RIP
Saturday 15 th May	10.00am (Open Mass)	Barnabas Baroga RIP

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Saturday 15 th May (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm (Public Mass)	Thomas, Warren, Aidan & Ashita
Sunday 16 th May	7.30am (Public Mass)	People of the Parish
	9.30am (Public Mass)	Richard Davis RIP
	11.30am (Public Mass)	Theotonio Goes RIP
	5.00pm (Public Mass)	Nancy Munnely RIP