

# English Martyrs' Newsletter



26<sup>th</sup> / 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021



The miracles that Jesus worked were a manifestation of his power, a sign of God's presence and compassion. The calming of the sea which we heard last week, was Jesus' way of saying, we are not at the mercy of malevolent and dark forces. Today, St Mark tells us, Jesus came back to the lakeside where the waiting crowds want more from Jesus; they have so many needs.

One of those waiting for Jesus, was Jairus. He approaches Jesus on behalf of his sick child, and Jesus responds. While on the way to the sick house, a woman - who was hemorrhaging for twelve years - is healed as she touches Jesus' garment. Sensing the power leave him, Jesus looks to see who touched him. Falling to her knees, she confesses, she is the one. Even though she is ritually unclean and should have kept her social distance, Jesus praises her faith. He continues his mission to see the sick girl. The delay must have increased Jairus' anxiety and the worst news of all comes, his daughter is dead. Death is unknown territory, and the unknown brings fear, so Jesus says to the father, "Do not be afraid"; now more than ever is the time to have faith, keep believing even in the face of death. The neighbours are dismissed and taking the girl by the hand Jesus commands - "Talitha, kum!"; "little girl, get up" and she got up at once and began walking. Jesus has power over death.

Jairus is a synagogue official, a member of a religious group that had become very cynical about the preaching of Jesus. A big barrier stands between the two and so it takes great courage for him to approach Jesus. In his hour of greatest need, he reached out for the hand of Jesus. The sick woman does not let the barrier of her being ritually unclean stop her reaching out to touch Jesus, perhaps, she would not be noticed.

So many barriers - real or imaginary - are erected to stop us from reaching out to Jesus. Pope Francis in his book 'Let Us Dream' talks about the barrier of 'indifference'. He says, "Covid has unmasked the other pandemic, the virus of indifference, which is the result of constantly looking away, telling ourselves that because there is no immediate or magic solution, it is better not to feel anything." He warns against "looking the other way" saying, "So what? What's it got to do with me?" Jesus by his actions shows us, God is never indifferent. These miracles speak about the importance of touch. Pope Francis says, "Social distancing is a necessary response to a pandemic; we are fearful about hugging and shaking hands with people. We yearn for the touch of those we love, which we must sometimes give up for their sake and ours. Touch is a deeply human need". But today's gospel reminds us of the importance of touch, that we are born for contact not just connections. That is why it is important, as Pope Francis says, to seek new ways of closeness to people while observing social distance.

These miracles are an invitation to look towards heaven, to recognise the greatness of God; to open our eyes and hope with unwavering faith that the Son of God has power over sin and death.

Fr. Michael

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH, READING: Registered Charity No. 246871

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

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

## MASS TIMES



Open Masses. No booking required.

- Monday 28<sup>th</sup> at 09.30am
- Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am
- Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 9.30am
- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9.30am
- Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10.00am

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> (Vigil) at 6.00pm;

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup>)



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

With more and more people attending Mass in person, in the coming weeks only one Sunday Mass will be livestreamed. Details to follow.



**Confessions will be heard on:**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> after 10am Mass and at 5.00pm.**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> at 4.00pm**



### PRIVATE PRAYER

The church will be open from 10.00am to 6.00pm Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June to Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July.



## **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION EVERY FRIDAY**

**Between 10.00am and 6.00pm**

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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 :**

**Homegroups:- Thursdays 7.30 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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**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.

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## **CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT - FACE MASKS**



Every day in the UK, millions of disposable face masks end up in landfill, with others abandoned elsewhere.

Have you considered using reusable, washable masks that can be bought in most stores?

Not only will you save money but you will be helping to show you care for God's Creation.

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This Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> June, there will be a collection for 'Peters Pence'. This is a worldwide collection that supports the activities of the Holy See through which Pope Francis governs the Church and exercises his charitable works. When used for charitable outreach, funds from this collection help those most in need. Take this opportunity to join with Pope Francis and be a sign of mercy. For more information, visit <http://www.peterspence.va/en.html>

If you would like to make a donation, an on-line link is available and can be accessed at:  
<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/second-collection-for-peters-pence>

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## EMERGENCY ALERTS

### What are Emergency Alerts?

The new Emergency Alerts service will enable people to be contacted via their mobile phone if their lives are at risk in an emergency. The service will be used to warn you about life-threatening emergencies such as severe flooding or terror attacks.

### What will the alert look and sound like?

An Emergency Alert looks and sounds very different to other types of messages such as SMS 'text messages'. You'll know if you get an Emergency Alert because you'll hear a loud, siren-like sound and your phone will use a distinct vibration. A message will appear on your screen until you acknowledge it.

For more information about Emergency Alerts visit:  
<https://www.gov.uk/alerts>



## MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July

### 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> June (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm (Public Mass) <i>Live Streamed</i>	Timmy Guidera & deceased members of the Guidera & Mangan families RIP
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	7.30am (Public Mass)	Mike Sarjent RIP
<i>Live Streamed</i>	9.30am (Public Mass)	Louie Fearn's RIP
<i>Live Streamed</i>	11.30am (Public Mass)	Elizabeth Ann Campbell RIP
	3.00pm (Public Mass)	People of the Parish
	5.00pm (Public Mass)	Mary Togher
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> June St. Irenaeus	09.30am (Open Mass)	Maureen Diggins RIP
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June <i>Solemnity of SS. Peter &amp; Paul</i>	9.30am (Open Mass)	Archbishop JH King RIP
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	9.30am (Open Mass)	Rose & Charlie Fletcher RIP
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	9.30am (Open Mass)	Wanda Antao RIP
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	9.30am (Open Mass)	Fearn's family intentions
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle	10.00am (Open Mass)	Mary Nevin intentions

### 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm (Public Mass)	Peter Finn and Gregory Nanayakkara RIP
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	7.30am (Public Mass)	Maria Santana Barreto RIP
	9.30am (Public Mass)	Jim Kelly RIP
	11.30am (Public Mass)	Joe Hickey RIP
	3.00pm (Public Mass)	People of the Parish
	5.00pm (Public Mass)	Ethel Cole RIP