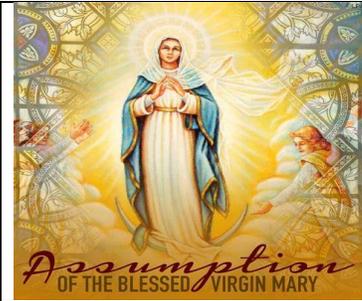


English Martyrs' Newsletter



14th / 15th August 2021



This Sunday we celebrate the Solemn Feast of the Assumption of our Lady into heaven. We do not have direct evidence of Mary's assumption body and soul into heaven, but it is a tradition going back to the early days of the Church. It was, no doubt, appropriate that Mary should share in the destiny and glory of her Son. St. Paul reminds us, "Christ has been raised from the dead, as the first fruits of all who have fallen asleep." (I Cor. 15:20). Jesus was the first to rise from the dead and gives the assurance that all who are linked to him in faith and love would share in his resurrection. We can be very confident that Mary, the mother of Jesus and Son of God, would share in that assurance. Her faith and lifelong relationship with her Son down to his death on Calvary entitled her to share his glory.

The Gospel at Mass gives us a good insight into Mary's character and person. She showed herself to be a woman of compassion and care. The Angel Gabriel reminded her that her elderly cousin had conceived a son and at that time was in her sixth month. Mary immediately set out on a two- or three-day journey to a little town near Jerusalem to help and support Elizabeth in the latter days of her pregnancy. When she arrived, Elizabeth gave her a prophetic welcome. She assured her that she was blessed among women. She praised her for her extraordinary faith. "Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Elizabeth exclaimed that the child in her womb leapt for joy when Mary arrived. Then she raised a telling question. "Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?" There is more to this than meets the eye. When the Ark of the Covenant approached Jerusalem the Book of Samuel reports that David and the whole house of Israel danced before God. The Ark of the Covenant was precious because it was there that God dwelt among the people of Israel. David also raised a pertinent question, not unlike that of Elizabeth. "How can the Ark of the Covenant come to be with me?" (2 Sam. 6:9). We are told that before coming into Jerusalem that the Ark of the Covenant remained in the house of Obed Edom for three months. Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months. There is no doubting the parallels. The message is that Mary is the new Ark of the Covenant where God dwells. She is the sacred place where God now resides.

The Gospel concludes with Mary's Magnificat. She praises God for the great dignity he bestowed on her. The burden of her message is that God thinks differently to us. Her thinking resembles that of Isaiah, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts and your ways are not my ways." (Is.55:8) God chooses the lowly and insignificant of this world to fulfil his purposes. It is not the proud and the powerful that God chooses, but "he has looked on his lowly handmaid."

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

Parish website: www.englishmartyrsrdg.com

Livestream link on You Tube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCulqb5ncxASpquMmd_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: No Booking Required for any of our Masses

- Monday 16th at 09.30am
- Tuesday 17th at 9.30am
- Wednesday 18th at 9.30am
- Thursday 19th at 9.30am
- Friday 20th at 9.30am
- Saturday 21st at 10.00am

Saturday 21st (Vigil) at 6.00pm;
Sunday 22nd at 7.30am: 9.30am: 11.30am:
and 5.00pm.

11.30am Sunday Mass will be live-streamed
onto our YouTube channel.



Confessions will be heard in the confessional on:
Saturday 21st after 10am Mass and at 5.00pm.
Sunday 22nd at 4.00pm

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

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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on Friday 20th, from 10:00am to 6.00pm. Come for 15 minutes, 30 minutes or more, for some time of silent prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To allow us to continue Adoration every Friday, we need 2 volunteers for each hour. If you can commit to just **one hour** between 10.00am and 6:00pm every week then please email your details to:

englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



Married Singles Lifestyle -The Married Singles Lifestyle describes couples that may have lost a sense of closeness they once had as marriage partners and are living more like roommates. Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) teaches couples how to survive times like these in their marriages.

This programme has helped 10s of 1000s of couples experiencing difficulty at all levels of marital distress from disillusionment to deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work
For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the programme commencing with a 'Virtual' weekend on ...**21st - 24th October 2021**

Call or text +44 788 7296983 or +44 797 3380443 or

Email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com

- or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Don't forget.....



Women of the Bible blog:

<https://women-of-the-bible.com/>



Five Minutes with Teddy and Jesus

<https://five-minutes-with-teddy-and-jesus.org/>

More stories coming soon.

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 14th to Sunday 22nd August

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday 14 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Felix John Dias RIP
Sunday 15 th	7.30am	Anna Rosario RIP
	9.30am	Michael Sarjent RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Private intention
	5.00pm	People of the Parish
Monday 16 th	9.30am	Holy Souls RIP
Tuesday 17 th	9.30am	Derek Taplin RIP
Wednesday 18 th	9.30am	Private intention
Thursday 19 th	9.30am	Rufilna Goes RIP
	11.30am	Requiem Mass for Pat Leonard RIP
Friday 20 th	9.30am	Private intention
	11.00am	Requiem Mass for Sylvia O'Reilly RIP
Saturday 21 st	10.00am	Kay's intentions

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 21 st (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Gregory Nanayakkara RIP
Sunday 22 nd	7.30am	People of the Parish
	9.30am	Olive and Egbert D'Cruz RIP
	11.30am	Mateo Jenizan RIP
	5.00pm	Lucy and Kevin Mc Sharry RIP