

English Martyrs' Newsletter

21st SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

21st / 22nd August 2021



OUR PARISH VISION

To be a welcoming community, inviting, encouraging and supporting all to have an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus.

We are inspired to show God's love to the world with joy and hope.

In the Gospel this Sunday we hear the conclusion of the "Bread of Life discourse" in the sixth chapter of John's Gospel. In the preceding verses, which we have heard proclaimed over the past few weeks, we have heard Jesus explain that he is the Bread of Life, given so that those who believe may have eternal life. This discourse follows the miracle in which Jesus fed more than five thousand people with five barley loaves and two fish. As Jesus has been teaching these things, John's Gospel describes a murmuring crowd unable to accept Jesus' words. In the Gospel, the crowd has dwindled in number, and John no longer refers to them, or the Jews. Instead, John describes the questioning of those considered to be Jesus' own disciples.

The Gospel first records the response of those in the crowd who are described as Jesus' disciples. Just as the larger crowd had struggled with Jesus' teaching, these disciples also cannot accept Jesus' words. Jesus is said to know about their murmuring. He responds by acknowledging their unbelief and by reiterating that only those chosen by the Father will follow Jesus to the end. John's Gospel reports that many of those who had been Jesus' disciples ceased to follow him at this point. The number of people following Jesus dwindled from a crowd of more than 5,000 to only 12 people. And it is to these Twelve that Jesus now turns his attention.

Simon Peter's response to Jesus' question as to whether those closest to him will also leave, reminds us of the reports of Peter's confession of faith in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). Peter announces, on behalf of all the Twelve, that they have come to believe all that Jesus has taught about himself: Jesus is the one from God in whom they have found the path to eternal life.

This conclusion of the Bread of Life discourse focuses on personal faith in the life of Christian discipleship. Each person must make his or her own judgement about who Jesus is and in doing so determine the way of life that he or she will follow. God's grace invites us to be Jesus' disciples, but each person must respond to the grace of God and confess as his or her own the belief that Jesus is the one from God. This faith then commits us to the path of life, leading us to eternal life.

Fr. Michael

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 23rd at 09.30am
- Tuesday 24th at 9.30am
- Wednesday 25th at 9.30am
- Thursday 26th at 9.30am
- Friday 27th at 9.30am
- Saturday 28th at 10.00am

Saturday 28th (Vigil) at 6.00pm;
Sunday 29th 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 28th after 10am Mass and at 5.00pm.
Sunday 29th at 4.00pm



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION EVERY FRIDAY

Between 10.00am and 6.00pm

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.



RETROUVAILLE
A LIFE LINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Thinking about Separation or Divorce? - Is your marriage or that of a relative or friend heading for divorce? Do you know how to save that marriage? Or do you feel helpless? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) is designed to help troubled marriages regain their health.

It helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. The programme is highly successful in saving hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples that have already separated or divorced.

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 **21stst - 24th October 2021**).....

Call or text +44788 7296983/+440797 3380443

Email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk



A small steering group have been studying Laudato Si; a letter from Pope Francis on Care for our Common Home.

Pope Francis implores us to listen to " The cry of the earth and the cry of the poor".

In response to this, we have been researching how we can work together as a parish to Live Simply, Live sustainably with creation and Live in solidarity with the poor.

With this in mind, a parish **Live Simply** Action Plan will be launched shortly.

To discover more about Laudato Si, why not watch a short video available on our website by clicking on <https://englishmartyrsrdg.com/care-of-creation/>

For more information about our group, please contact the parish office.

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 21st to Sunday 29th August

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 <i>Live Streamed</i>	Mateo Jenizan RIP
	5.00pm	Lucy and Kevin Mc Sharry RIP
Monday 23 rd	9.30am	Ann Brophy RIP
Tuesday 24 th	9.30am	Pat Leonard RIP
Wednesday 25 th	9.30am	Jim Pickering RIP
Thursday 26 th	9.30am	George Joseph RIP
Friday 27 th	9.30am	Louie Fearn's RIP
Saturday 28 th	10.00am	Pat Leonard RIP

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 28 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Thomas Donohue RIP
Sunday 29 th	7.30am	People of the Parish
	9.30am	Errol Rodrigues RIP
	11.30am	Frances and Eddie Rogers Thanksgiving. Golden Anniversary
	5.00pm	Pat Leonard RIP