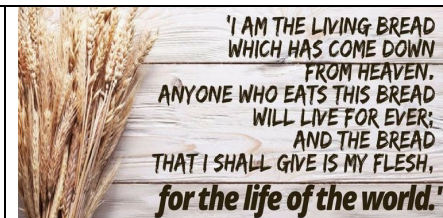


English Martyrs' Newsletter

19th Sunday
of
Ordinary
Time

7th / 8th August 2021



Hearing from the Bread of Life Discourse in the Gospel of John gives us a wonderful opportunity to meditate deeply on the meaning of the Mass and why the Mass is so important.

Next Sunday the sequential reading of John Chapter 6 is broken when we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven, but we return to John's discourse on the Bread of Life the following Sunday.

The Jews complain to each other this Sunday about Jesus. This follows the theme of the grumbling and complaining of the people of Israel in the desert. They have been led to freedom from slavery in Egypt, but they are hungry and thirsty and long for the plenty that they enjoyed when they were slaves in Egypt. They put God to the test in the wilderness and they fail to put their trust in God and in his plan for them. In the same way the Jews cannot accept that Jesus is bread, and they cannot accept that he has come down from heaven, and they complain to each other about Jesus.

Grumbling and complaining are human, perhaps childish responses, when we do not get what we want. But Jesus says, "No one can come to me unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me, and I will raise him up on the last day." (John 6:43). This is a statement of our utter dependence upon God. We cannot come to faith in Jesus without being drawn by the Father. The life of faith is always about submitting ourselves to God and to his will for us. Our human tendency to grumble and complain is an indicator, not only of our spiritual immaturity, but also of our inability or unwillingness to submit ourselves entirely to the will of God.

The experience of Elijah this Sunday highlights the fact that it is often through powerlessness and failure that we come to a more profound awareness of our need of God.

"Everyone who believes has eternal life," Jesus tells us, "...this is the bread come down from heaven, so that a man may eat it and not die." (John 6:49). The Eucharist, Holy Communion is a taste here on earth of heavenly food. To receive the Eucharist in faith is to believe that Jesus is indeed bread that has become his body and that he has come down from heaven. The Jews grumbled and could not accept these things.

Many Catholics grumble today and do not accept or believe in the extraordinary gift that the Mass is and walk away. Many leave Jesus because of his teaching and many Catholics walk away from the Mass today failing to believe that Jesus truly is the bread come down from heaven.

The bread that Jesus gives is his flesh for the life of the world.

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

Open Masses. No booking required.

- Monday 9th at 09.30am
- Tuesday 10th at 9.30am
- Wednesday 11th at 9.30am
- Thursday 12th at 9.30am
- Friday 13th at 9.30am
- Saturday 14th at 10.00am

Saturday 14th (Vigil) at 6.00pm**;
Sunday 15th at 7.30am** : 9.30am** :
11.30am** : and 5.00pm.

At Masses marked ** book your place at
<https://englishmartyrsrdg.eventbrite.co.uk>
(Bookings open at 8.00pm on Monday 9th)

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



Confessions will be heard in the confessional on:
Saturday 14th after 10am Mass and at 5.00pm.
Sunday 15th at 4.00pm



PRIVATE PRAYER

The church will be open from 10.00am to 6.00pm
Monday 9th to Saturday 14th.

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on Friday 13th, 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



Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Ann Brophy, John Keenan, Patricia Leonard, and Sylvia O'Reilly.

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.

CARING FOR CREATION

In November this year, the UK will be hosting the COP26 conference in Glasgow. Government negotiators from around the world will discuss how to keep temperature rises below dangerous levels and prevent the climate crisis from causing even worse catastrophes for the world's poorest. Pope Francis will also be in attendance. It is vital that plans are based around the need for global, green and just actions. If you would like to know more about Climate Change, our Environment and COP 26 then why not visit the CAFOD climate page by clicking on the following link:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Climate>



Rediscover Your Marriage - Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) simply means 'rediscovery'. The programme offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. 10s of 1000s headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. 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 +44 788 7296983 or +44 797 3380443 - or Email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk



10th Anniversary of the Syrian conflict - how your donations have helped the Syrian people

Thanks to your donations, CAFOD has been helping people in Syria since the crisis began 10 years ago. Over 12 million people have left their homes, 5.6 million are refugees in neighbouring countries and within Syria, 13 million people need help.

At the beginning, our focus was on delivering food and blankets through our local church partners. Then we started providing education, health and legal services, and helping people earn a living. Our latest projects are supporting children, lonely elderly people, helping women learn to read, and helping people restart their small businesses. We've always planned for the long term, standing alongside people who lost everything. None of this work would have been possible without your support of CAFOD. Thank you.

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 7th to Sunday 15th August

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 7 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm (Public Mass)	Prabath Perera's intentions
Sunday 8 th	7.30am (Public Mass)	People of the Parish
	9.30am (Public Mass)	Moira Husbands RIP
	11.30am (Public Mass) <i>Live Streamed</i>	Naxie Noonan RIP
	5.00pm (Open Mass)	Private intention
Monday 9 th	09.30am (Open Mass)	Private intention
Tuesday 10 th	9.30am (Open Mass)	Ann Brophy RIP
Wednesday 11 th	9.30am (Open Mass)	Private intention
Thursday 12 th	9.30am (Open Mass)	Private intention
Friday 13 th	9.30am (Open Mass)	Hugh Faringdon Burrett RIP
Saturday 14 th	10.00am (Open Mass)	Boniface Rodrigues RIP

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday 14 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm (Public Mass)	Felix John Dias RIP
Sunday 15 th	7.30am (Public Mass)	Anna Rosario RIP
	9.30am (Public Mass)	Michael Sarjent RIP
	11.30am (Public Mass)	Private intention
	5.00pm (Open Mass)	People of the Parish