

English Martyrs' Newsletter

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 1st/2nd JANUARY 2022

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.

Many blessings for 2022 to you all!

On Christmas Day, we heard the wonder of God sharing our human experience in the familiar story of Mary, Joseph and the Baby Jesus, the angels, shepherds, and the manger. This first Sunday of the year we hear the same great event again but this time with different language.

The Gospel today is the opening words of John's Gospel - "In the beginning was the Word." The starting point for this is that God, who created the universe and whose first and deepest desire was for us is that we should exist. St John packs all that image of indescribable greatness, majesty, and power into a single phrase "In the beginning was the Word". And this Word of God left its greatness to be a fragile baby in a poor family in a very troubled world.

We are surrounded by words today - radio, television, newspapers, internet, meetings, and conversations of all kinds - so many that we find it hard to distinguish their quality. How close do our words come to the Truth? We are frail human beings and as we tell every story, every sentence they are coloured by our humanity, our frailty. We tell things as we see them and because we see them with human eyes our stories, our words only tell the truth as we see it - a half a story. Only God, who is perfect Truth can speak a Word which is totally true.

And this is Christmas, the baby born to Mary and Joseph is God's Word. It was spoken two thousand years ago but unlike our human words, which disappear as soon as we say them, God's Word resonates across the universe, like an eternal echo which never dies away. As we enter a new year, may our words be ones of truth, hope and love and in that way become echoes of the Word we celebrate today.

Minnie Louise Haskins wrote this poem for those standing at the entrance to a new year as we are. "And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown. And he replied: Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way. So, I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East."

May our hands this year always be in the Hand of God.

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/UCulqb5ncxASpguMmd_OMNtA

Parish Priest: Canon Michael Dennehy
mdennehy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr. Anthony Fyk

Retired Priest: Fr Richard Maniak

Secretary: Barbara Poole. Tel: 0118 957 2149

Parish Office: Open Tues to Thurs 10am to 3pm.

Telephone and e-mail monitored at other times

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.

Sunday 2nd 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.30am and 5.00pm

Monday 3rd 10.00am.

Tuesday 4th 9.30am

Wednesday 5th 9.30am

Thursday 6th 9.30am and 7.00pm

Friday 7th 9.30am

Saturday 8th 10.00am and 6.00pm (Vigil Mass)

Sunday 9th 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.30am and 5.00pm

Confessions will be celebrated in the confessional as follows: Sunday 30 mins before 8.00am; 9.30am & 11.30am Masses and at 4.00pm.

15 mins before weekday Masses.

Saturday after 10.00am Mass and at 5.00pm.

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



Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed.

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.

Essential Training for Catechists

(5 Mondays, 10th Jan - 7th Feb, 7.30 to 9.00 pm) followed by our new course, Further Training for Catechists (5 Mondays, 21st Feb - 21st March, 7.30 to 9.00 pm). In the first course, we will look at the fundamental principles of catechesis to discover **what it is**, and in the second course, we will look at specific questions: **how to speak** to adults, young people and children about God, Jesus, salvation, the human person and the Church. To find out more and register, check our website: <https://www.pffm.org.uk/> or to register directly for the Essential Training visit: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcud-CgpzspGNNmzyxwCIFle2MiqfHahOnK> and for the Further Training visit: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkcuytpzMrGNTFXcThp9NMAfCmfL8GIoOh>

Both courses are open to everyone - you don't have to be a catechist to sign up.

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Join us for a series of **Zoom workshops** for the **parents, catechists and priests** of young Catholics with additional needs!

Being Acceptional...

...at Mass: *inclusion of children with additional needs in the liturgy. Thurs 13th January, 7pm-8.30pm.*

...in Catechesis: *inclusion of children with additional needs in sacramental preparation. Thurs 20th January, 7pm-8.30pm.*

...at Home: *creating a domestic church for children with additional needs. Thurs 27th January, 7pm-8.30pm.*

We are committed to enabling young Catholics with additional needs to take their full role in the Body of Christ.

For those who care for children with Additional / special needs: we are offering 3 workshops on **Thursdays 13th, 20th and 27th January, 7.00 - 8.30 pm** for the parents, catechists and priests of young Catholics with additional needs: **Being Acceptional**.

Workshop 1: At Mass: inclusion in the Liturgy. Workshop 2: In Catechesis: sacramental preparation; Workshop 3: In the Home: the domestic Church for children with additional needs.

You can register here for the workshops:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMofuqqqD4oGdX6gkO2PYnXzHGGPbIvzPBI>

For more information please visit:- <https://www.pffm.org.uk/>

Rosary. Songs. Bible reflection.
Adoration. Confessions. Intercessory prayers.
Benediction.

IN HONOUR OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS



1st
Friday
PRAISE &
WORSHIP

KNOW, LOVE, WORSHIP HIM

Venue: English Martyrs Parish Reading

Date: First Friday of Every Month.

Time: 7pm - 9pm



Don't forget to visit our [Caring for Creation](#) on YouTube for the latest news, tips and upcoming activities.

If you like what you see and want to be kept up-to-date, then please consider subscribing to our YouTube Channel: English Martyrs Caring for Creation.

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLB2JNoDOPmP9NqcwA9MzyJM6E6hPatXhh>

Deputy Director of Estates

We are looking for a chartered surveyor or equivalent to support the Diocese of Portsmouth as we go through a period of significant change; to oversee the management of all Diocesan Properties, working towards the decarbonisation of our estate and to undertake line management responsibilities for the Estates Team.

The successful candidate will have a proven track record of leading development projects including both refurbishment and new build schemes. They will also have proven team leadership experience, with the capability to lead internal staff members as well as external project teams. They must have excellent communication and leadership skills, along with the ability to operate successfully at a senior level liaising with a variety of stakeholders is essential to succeed in this role.

Experience of working with parishes, schools and residential property is advantageous although not essential. It is expected that candidates will be a Chartered Building Surveyor with 10 years post qualification experience or possess an equivalent professional qualification.

The Diocesan Estates Team is based in Portsmouth, with a hybrid office/home model. It will require occasional evening/weekend working and flexibility will be required. The role involves site visits throughout the Diocese, therefore a clean driving license and access to a vehicle is essential.

Salary: up to £50,000 per annum

For Job Description and details of how to apply please contact:

Recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Closing Date for applications: 12 noon on Monday 17th January 2022

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 1st to Sunday 9th January 2022.

2nd Sunday after Christmas

Saturday 1 st (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Perera family
Sunday 2 nd	8.00am	Agnes and Mick Kelly RIP
	9.30am	Jose Vincente Goncalo Lourenco RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Chrissy Ryan and family
	5.00pm	Michael Linehan RIP
Monday 3 rd	10.00am	Patrick Geraghty RIP
Tuesday 4 th	9.30am	Private intention
Wednesday 5 th	9.30am	Rebacka Mariyapillei RIP
Thursday 6 th (The Epiphany of the Lord)	9.30am	Anna Rosario RIP
	7.00pm	Private intention
Friday 7 th	9.30am	Domingos Rodrigues RIP
Saturday 8 th	10.00am	Deceased members of the Donohue family RIP

Baptism of the Lord

Saturday 8 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Andrew Ward RIP
Sunday 9 th	8.00am	Archbishop JH King
	9.30am	Lillian Campbell RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Deceased members of the Farrelly family RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish

Wishing you all a happy, joyful and peaceful New Year