

English Martyrs' Newsletter

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

8th / 9th 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.

You may have heard in recent weeks and months of the Closer to Christ campaign in the Parish which concludes this Sunday. The title of the campaign is taken from the vision statement of Bishop Philip for our Diocese 'Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church.' The campaign's purpose is to raise money to train men for the priesthood which costs roughly £30,000 per year, to support priests in ministry and to give priests a dignified retirement.

It has been an uplifting experience to have so many good conversations with individuals and families. It is clear that there is a deep love for our Parish amongst the people of the Parish and there is a strong commitment to helping English Martyrs Parish to be faithful to the mission entrusted to us by the Lord to make disciples of His and to 'invite, encourage and support all to have an ever-deepening relationship with Him' in the words of our Parish vision.

I am delighted that £319,000 has been pledged so far and I am deeply grateful on behalf of all of us to these individuals and families who have been so generous. £135,000 will go to the Diocese to support clergy at all stages as mentioned previously. The good news is that the Parish retains the remainder of monies pledged as well as anything raised from here on. This gives us an amazing opportunity to recover financially from the effects of the pandemic and to prepare for the centenary of the laying of the foundation of the church in 2025 and the decades beyond.

This Sunday, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, is also Thanksgiving Sunday for the generosity so far in the campaign. It is also the last public appeal to support this effort which has such enormous potential to support the Parish into the future. I invite everyone to do something not matter how small to make this appeal as successful as it can be. On this Sunday when we reflect on the Baptism of Jesus we think about our own baptism and the privileges and responsibilities of being a baptised Christian and a member of the body of Christ, the church.

As we look ahead to the centenary the Centenary Welcome Project which we hope to take forward following this campaign will turn the courtyard adjacent to the church into a covered area with glass, wood and foliage leading to an enhanced baptismal font with a baptismal pool. It promises to be a powerful architectural statement by this Parish on the importance of welcome and the centrality of Baptism, the Sacrament of Welcome.

Please support this effort with anything you can afford. I invite everyone to give something. I am very grateful to all who have pledged and to all who give this their serious consideration. May God bless us all abundantly.

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.

Weekdays:

Mon to Fri: 9.30am *

Saturdays: 10.00am

* **Wednesday 12th at 10am**

Weekends:

Saturdays: 6.00pm (Vigil Mass)

Sundays: 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.30am and 5.00pm

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

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.



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.

Closer to Christ Campaign: Update

[Click here to see what we hope to do and for more information](#)

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:

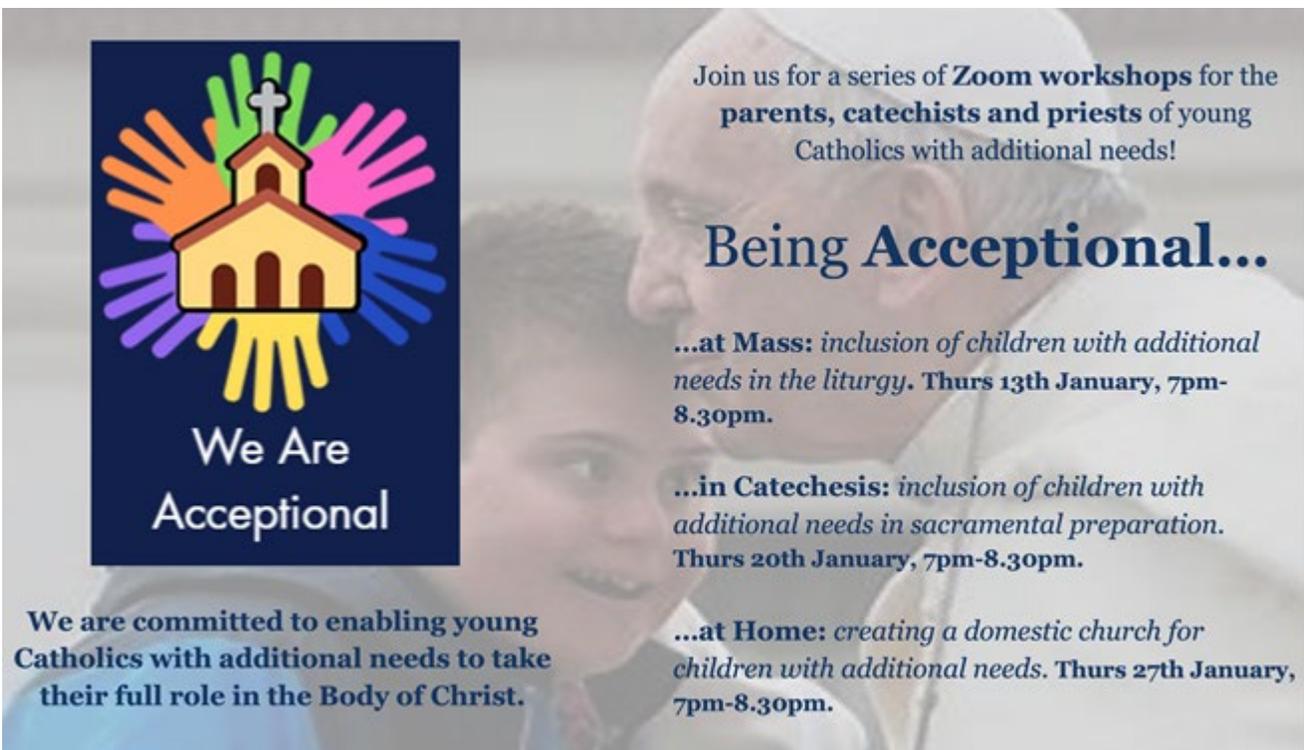
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcud-CgpzspGNNmzyxwCIFle2MiqfHahOnK>

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/tZMofuqqD4oGdX6gkO2PYnXzHGGPbIvzPBI>

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

CATHERINE URBAN RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Catherine Urban who died recently. Catherine's coffin will be received into St Joseph's Church, Tilehurst, on Thursday, 20th January at 4 pm, followed by a Funeral Mass on Friday, 21st January at 11 am and burial at St Michael's Churchyard at 12.30 pm. *All are welcome*



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>

You are invited to a Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



**6.00pm Sunday 23rd January, 2022
St Matthew's Church,
205 Southcote Lane, Southcote,
Reading, RG30 3AX**

**Organised by Churches Together
in West Reading, Tilehurst & Southcote**

**With our guest preacher the
Rev Dr. Andreas Andreopoulos,
Reader in Orthodox Christianity
at the University of Winchester**

On bus route 26

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

Job Opportunity



Empowerment Worker Hope into Action: Reading

Hope into Action: Reading (HiAR) is a Christian charity which houses men and women who are homeless, connecting them with support from local churches. The Empowerment Worker is responsible for supporting and mentoring our residents and liaising with churches, working closely with the HiAR Manager and other Empowerment Worker. Currently HiAR has 3 houses in Reading, with the possibility of a fourth next year – we are growing! We are looking for a compassionate and practical person, preferably with experience of working with the disadvantaged, who can come alongside our residents and relate positively with our supporting churches.

Hours per week: 16 (may be increased depending on work demands).

Salary £22,000 - £25,000 pro rata, depending on experience.

Please contact Mary Lewis, HiAR Franchise Lead, for a detailed job description and application form. Closing date for applications: 4 February 2022.

mary.lewis@hopeintoaction.org.uk

Hope into Action: Reading
Registered Company Number: 9358716

HOPE INTO ACTION provides houses for the homeless in partnership with local churches. We train and enable churches to engage with and mentor those living in the houses, whilst providing the necessary professional support. We dream of churches everywhere housing the homeless. We dream of the homeless re-building their lives.

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 8th to Sunday 16th January 2022.

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
Monday 10 th	9.30am	Anne O'Connor RIP
Tuesday 11 th	9.30am	Thanksgiving for the George family
Wednesday 12 th	10.00am	Requiem Mass for Domenico Manzo RIP
Thursday 13 th	9.30am	John Brennan RIP
Friday 14 th	9.30am	Chris Moran RIP
Saturday 15 th	10.00am	Irene Gama RIP
	12.00pm	Nazario Andrade RIP

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 15 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Francis William Brookes intentions
Sunday 16 th	8.00am	Bridie Tighe RIP
	9.30am	Paddy Geraghty RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Colette Ryan RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish

IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEWSLETTER COULD BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN 12.00pm ON THE PRECEDING FRIDAY.