

English Martyrs' Newsletter

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5th / 6th FEBRUARY 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.

"Synod" comes from an ancient Greek word, and it means not only an assembly but a journey, a journey that we take together - not a journey from one physical place to another, but a journey of mind, heart, and spirit that brings us together as one. Likewise, the word "synodality" refers to discussions and conversations, both formal and informal, guided by the Holy Spirit that bring about that oneness of mind and heart so necessary for the advancement of the Church's mission.

Pope Francis is leading us to rediscover a reality that has been at the heart of the Church's life from the very beginning. Echoing both Scripture and ancient Christian writers, he speaks of synodality not as a recent innovation but as a vital part of the Church's life. It goes to the heart of being "the Body of Christ" and "the People of God." It is at the core of the Church as a "communion" of believers, united to one another in Christ through the Holy Spirit. Synodality touches the essence of a diverse Church that manifests the unity of the distinct persons of the Trinity, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Synodality means that we participate in the faith, not as isolated individuals, nor as ideological factions, but as fellow believers united by "one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Eph. 4:5). Synodality requires us to build a "culture of encounter" in the grace of the Holy Spirit. It means creating an atmosphere of hospitality and welcome, love as St. Paul reminds us, where we learn how to live our faith together, in patience and charity. Synodality means a deep respect and openness to our fellow Catholics with a willingness crucially to listen and to dialogue with fellow believers . . . including those with whom we disagree, theologically, philosophically, and politically. True to form, Pope Francis does not want synodality to remain just an idea, but he wants us to learn how to put it into practice.

The first and most important synodal habit is prayer. Without prayer, there is no synodality, no discernment worthy of the name. Prayer connects us with the Lord and with one another in faith and love. Only when we withdraw from the rough and tumble of life to pray, do we hear the voice of Christ communicated by the Holy Spirit. Only when we are "with Jesus" in prayer are our hearts opened to the Good News and thus more open to the people around us, to their aspirations, needs, and experiences. Therefore, every meeting under the banner of synodality must be prayerful, not merely the recitation of the Synod Prayer but imbued with prayerful listening to the living Word of God, time for quiet reflection, for adoration and praise.

A second synodal requirement is fidelity to the authentic faith of the Church through which we encounter the Person of Christ in a real and a living way. It is the one faith we already profess, the faith we already strive to understand and live. Within the Church, there have always been differences of opinion, and there will always be, until the Lord comes again in the glory. Yet, no one of us, from the best educated to the newest inquirer, is 'above' the faith. Rather, all of us must accept the faith with childlike simplicity of heart.

The path of synodality, of journeying together in faith and on mission, is not easy. The synodal process is genuinely love in action, a love that is patient and kind as St. Paul puts it. As this process unfolds, we may become more aware of what divides us. Yet, if we are open to the Holy Spirit, who reminds us of all that Christ taught us, we will find new paths to understanding, to harmony, and unity and to co-responsibility for the Church's mission.

Responding to Pope Francis' summons with openness and love, we will strengthen the Church's communion, participate in God's life more profoundly, and advance the Church's mission beyond the walls of our church. Let us pray for a great openness to the work of the Holy Spirit at this time and for Pope Francis who is gently guiding us along this synodal path.

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

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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Every Friday:- 10.00am to 6.00pm
Including from 5.00pm, Praise and
Worship, Evening prayer and Benediction.
(except on 1st Fridays)

FORMATION FOR MISSION TEAM: (<https://www.pffm.org.uk/>)

For Adults who wish to know their faith better: We are offering a 6 weeks course on Tuesdays 15th February to 22nd March, 7.00 - 8.30 pm. This course, entitled: **Anchoring your Faith: the Mass**, will help you (re)discover the Mass, exploring its liturgy in the light of our faith. We will go through the Mass step by step but also through the essential truths of our faith, using Scripture, artworks, and breakout group activities.

You can register here for Anchoring your Faith:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcuceCorDovG9QrjWx_cp3PAjFr0s1z1Q9m

Essential Training for Catechists

(5 Mondays, 21st Feb – 21st March, 7.30 to 9.00 pm).

In this 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/tZUKcuytpzMrGNTFXcThp9NMAfCmfL8GIoOh>



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 018 322 7105 to let them know that you or your loved one would like a visit from a priest.



New Catholic Governors Wanted.

St Joseph's College, the only Catholic independent school in the Reading area, is seeking to recruit new governors; particularly people with skills in any of the following areas: *Finance, Safeguarding, IT, Health, HR or Estates.*

The full governing body meets six times a year and all governors also sit on one of the other committees which meet between three and six times a year.

For more information or to express an interest, please contact David Hallé, Chair of Governors, on chair@sjcr.org.uk or on 07484 318174.

For more information about the College, please visit the College web site at <https://sjcr.org.uk>

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.

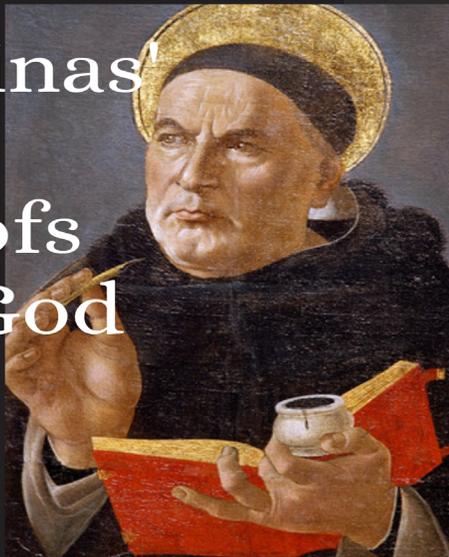
mary.lewis@hopeintoaction.org.uk

Hope into Action: Reading
Registered Company Number: 8358716

HOPE INTO ACTION provides houses for the homeless in partnership with local churches. We train and enable churches to engage with and assist 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.

English Martyrs Young Adults

Aquinas' Five Proofs for God



Talk by Fr Edward Gerhard -
Saturday 12th February

After the 6pm evening mass, join us in the church hall where we will have pizza and learn about Aquinas' Five Ways.

For more details, please email englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Notice to all Parish Keyholders.

To ensure that we are complying with our Insurers requirements for the security of our beautiful church and buildings, we are updating our list of all Keyholders.

Barbara in the Parish Office will be contacting each of you over the next couple of weeks.

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 5th February to Sunday 13th February 2022.***Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time***

Saturday 5 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Mick Heneghan RIP
Sunday 6 th	8.00am	Sean McLoughlin RIP
	9.30am	Patrick Kilbane RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Pat Togher RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish
Monday 7 th	9.30am	Maggie McGuire and Thomas Fox RIP
Tuesday 8 th	9.30am	Derek Taplin RIP
Wednesday 9 th	9.30am	Packie & Mary Cafferkey RIP
Thursday 10 th	9.30am	Sydney Burrett RIP
Friday 11 th	9.30am	Justo Jamudlong, Cara & Rita Tagaan RIP
Saturday 12 th	10.00am	Patrick Geraghty RIP
<i>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>		
Saturday 12 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Lawrence Alexander RIP
Sunday 13 th	8.00am	Private intention
	9.30am	Mick Heneghan RIP
	11.30am	John Brennan RIP
	5.00pm	Kathleen Urban RIP

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