

English Martyrs' Newsletter

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

26th/27th MARCH 2022

Lætare Sunday / Mothering Sunday

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.

It could be said that there are two important journeys in the great parable of the Prodigal Son which we hear this Sunday. One is that of the younger brother who realises the foolishness of his ways and turns towards home not sure what to expect and certainly not expecting what he finds there.

The other journey is, at least in terms of distance, much shorter. It is that of the older brother who remains out in the fields unable to make the brief trip home because of his rage and anger.

In Lent the focus is usually on the long return home but it might well be that for many of us the real challenge is to recognise in ourselves the desire to limit God's mercy to those we consider worthy. Such a mindset may keep us away from our true home with the Father.

What Paul is saying about reconciliation is explained in the Gospel for today not by concepts or ideas but in the story of the Prodigal Son. If the season of Lent were to come and go without us giving time to thinking about reconciliation, then something would indeed be missing.

It would be tragic if we came to Easter without being moved by the overwhelming compassion of our God who seeks out the lost and celebrates our return to him. It would also be tragic if we were to forget that if we welcome God's forgiveness for ourselves then we automatically become ambassadors of that forgiveness to others.

We must be careful not to end up like the older brother who is resentful of God's generosity to the undeserving.

Pastoral Area clergy will be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession on Saturday April 2nd at 11:00 am

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/UCUlg5ncxA SpguMmd_0MNtA

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: CLOSED. Reopens Tuesday 22nd March.

Telephone and e-mail monitored at all times

Email: englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Charlie McArthur

Contact through parish office

Schools:

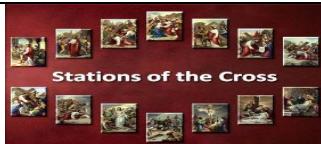
English Martyrs Catholic Primary
Dee Road, Reading RG30 4BE
Head: Mrs Doberska
0118 937 5466

Blessed Hugh Faringdon
Fawley Road, Reading RG30 3EP
Head: Dr Simon Uttley
0118 957 4730

ACTIVITIES DURING LENT

MASS TIMES

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday at 9.30am
Wednesday & Friday at 6.30am & 9.30am;
Saturday at 10.00am
Saturday (Vigil Mass for Sunday) 6.00pm
Sundays at 8.00am; 9.30am; 11.30am; 5.00pm
11.30 Mass is Livestreamed.



Fridays at 9.00am and 7.30pm.

Confessions will be celebrated in the confessional as follows:

Sunday: 30 mins before and immediately after 8.00am; 9.30am & 11.30am Masses. At 4.00pm and after 5.00pm Mass.

15 mins before weekday Masses.

Saturday after 10.00am Mass, at 5.00pm and after Vigil Mass.

LENT READINGS

The Scripture readings for Lent are particularly rich and a major source of help in living a good Lent. Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest, Scripture scholar, and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, has prepared commentaries on all the readings in the Liturgy of the Word at Mass throughout Lent, from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday. The full text of the biblical readings and commentary are accessible from the home page of www.whatgoodnews.org

Lenten virtual Pilgrimage of Grace in the Holy Land: You can watch a teaser video [here](#).

This is a free virtual pilgrimage, with daily 15 minute videos with reflection from the Holy Land.

The Thursday Emmaus Group is going to be reflecting on Lent using the *Embrace the Middle East Lent Reflections*.

<https://embraceme.org/lent-reflections>

Anyone who would like to join us this Lent on a Thursday 7.30pm to 8.45pm, please email me at: cath_harrington@compuserve.com for the Zoom link.

The Life of Christ
The greatest story of all time
21–25 JUNE 2022 - 10.00AM – 3:30PM
BOOK NOW!

WINTERSHALL
Experience the story

10% discount on groups of 30 or more.

Our powerful biblical outdoor drama takes you back in time to when Jesus lived on earth.

Follow over 100 actors in full costume moving through the beautiful grounds of the Wintershall estate with its lakes and ancient woodland re-enacting the remarkable events of Jesus' life.

This is a performance in three acts with a lunchtime interval.

Prices:
Weekday
Adult £22
Child (3-18 yrs) £12
Family (2 adults and 2 children) £55

Weekend
Adult £25
Child (3-18 yrs) £12
Family (2 adults and 2 children) £60

Book tickets now on our website: www.wintershall.org.uk or by calling 01483 892167

Supported by Bible Society

English Martyrs is proposing a Parish outing on Saturday 25th June to see 'THE LIFE OF CHRIST'; details as shown on the adjacent poster.

It is a Bible story for all ages, all faiths and none, through the presentation of high quality drama. Staged open-air in the stunning Surrey countryside in the heart of Guildford, the play focuses on the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Immerse yourself in the stories that shaped our world.

THIS IS AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE NOT TO BE MISSED.

You will be in the crowd and feel JESUS near you.

If you are interested, either individually or as a family, please contact Mel on 0118 996 7208 or email: noronhamel@hotmail.com.

If we can get a group of 30 or more, we can make a block booking and avail ourselves of a 10% discount on ticket prices.

**Such a booking would need to be done by 30th April so please contact Mel as soon as you can.
For travel to & from the event, we are, at the moment, looking at the idea of CAR SHARING.
Note: Other dates are possible.**



DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH

VACANCY
Foundation Governor

Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School

A vacancy for Foundation Governor on the governing body has arisen and expressions of interests are being sought from practising committed Catholics for the ministry.

The term of office is for four years from the date of appointment.

Foundation Governors are personally appointed by Bishop Philip, Bishop of Portsmouth to diocesan schools to represent his interests and those of the Catholic community as a whole.

The governors of a Catholic school work as a team, in close co-operation with the headteacher and all the staff. Foundation governors share the responsibilities of all governors:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

In addition to this, foundation governors are appointed specifically to ensure:

- that the religious character of the school is preserved
- that the school is conducted in accordance with its trust deed
- that the religious education curriculum is in accordance with the Bishop's policy for this Diocese

The school would benefit from people with skills or experience in one or more of the following: accountancy, legal, contracts, project/facilities management, quantity surveying.

Anyone interested in the mission of foundation governor should not be put off by a lack of experience. Appropriate training is available during the period of service.

NOMINATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM:

<http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/schools/governance.php>

The School: please e-mail s.cook@hughfaringdon.org

The School website: <https://www.hughfaringdon.org/information/governing-body>

of
Catholic and Academies Schools Office
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
St. Swithun Wells House
22 Edinburgh Road
Portsmouth
PO1 1DH

Or email : governors@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

MISSIO Red Boxes

In April, parishioners who keep a red "mission box" in their home to fill with loose change for overseas missions can expect to be contacted by a Missio volunteer offering to empty their box. Holders of a box who are not contacted can bring it to the parish office for forwarding to the relevant volunteer. Any member of the parish wishing to join the scheme can do so by sending a request via the parish office to Paul Fanning, the local Missio Secretary."

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.

Our Second Collection NEXT Sunday (2nd/3rd April) is for the **Clergy Assistance Fund**, which resources the invaluable work of the Department for Clergy Team. The Team is responsible for looking after the welfare, ongoing formation, and personal support of our clergy, from the early days of ordination all the way into retirement. As a Diocese, we are responsible for supporting the 70-diocesan clergy in active ministry, 47 from religious orders, the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham or overseas, and 53 in retirement, who with dedication and care serve our parishes, chaplaincies, schools, outreach, and mission: bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church. You can donate online by visiting:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/clergy-assistance-fund>

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME COMMENCES 01.00 SUNDAY 27TH MARCH.
CLOCKS GO FORWARD 1 HOUR.**

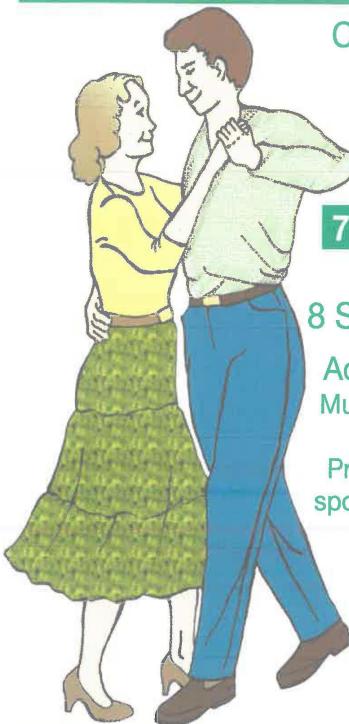
St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)

The SVP is an International Voluntary Lay Organization dedicated to helping needy people in the world. Volunteers come together in groups, based in parishes, to assist the needy and to help each member develop spiritually. We help people by person to person contact and our assistance can take many forms. We visit individuals in their homes, and we can sometimes organise lifts for appointments or shopping etc. A lot of what we do involves simple practical help, but occasionally when there is financial need, we can also offer help from our SVP group funds. To do this, we rely on the generosity of our parishioners in giving donations to the SVP. Obviously over the last 2 years this has been difficult, so this weekend on 26/27th March the second collection will be for the work of our SVP group. Could you please place your gift aid envelope in the basket at the second collection this weekend? Alternatively, you can donate online directly into our English Martyrs SVP account by following the link below. If you would like to know more about becoming a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society, then please pick up a leaflet from the table in the Colonnade and speak to one of our members.

<https://giving.give-star.com/online/saint-vincent-de-paul-society-england-and-wales/svp-english-martyrs-fundraising-page>

Thank you for your help.

AFTERNOON SOCIAL DANCE



Country & Irish Music by

FINBARR & PAUL

Usually 2nd Thursday
of every month

7 April, 12 May, 9 June,
14 July, 11 August,
8 September, 13 October.

Admission £5 from 1.00pm
Music from 1.30pm until 4.30pm

Price held due to very generous
sponsorship by RICHARD HORGAN

FREE tea & coffee

Light refreshments
at a nominal charge

For more info call Paul **07773 016589**

Our Lady of Peace & Bl Dominic Barberi RC Main Hall

(Thomas Lane Hall)

338 Wokingham Road Earley Reading RG6 7DA

(Sat Nav RG6 7DB)



Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Harry Mullin, Henry Kamau Mwatha and all the faithful departed.

The Easter Day Collection supports our parish priests directly, in grateful thanks for their dedication, service and witness throughout the year.

If you would like to give a gift to support Fr. Michael & Fr. Anthony in their mission and ministry this Easter, please visit: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/reading-english-martyrs-parish-easter-collection-2022>

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 26th March to Sunday 3rd April 2022.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Saturday 26 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Clodaigh Cummins RIP
Sunday 27 th	8.00am	Tess Heenan RIP
	9.30am	Kay Rodgers RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Pat Togher RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish
Monday 28 th	9.30am	Peggy Herraghty RIP
Tuesday 29 th	9.30am	Lucy Hope RIP
Wednesday 30 th	6.30am	Joseph McCarthy RIP
	9.30am	Linda Wells
Thursday 31 st	9.30am	Stephen Aldworth RIP
Friday 1 st April	6.30am	Tagaan family
	9.30am	Mickey Heneghan RIP
Saturday 2 nd	10.00am	Roseline Fernandes
<i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>		
Saturday 2 nd <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Mary Togher RIP
Sunday 3 rd	8.00am	People of the Parish
	9.30am	Bernadette Ennis RIP
	11.30am	John Brennan RIP
	5.00pm	Nancy Munnelly RIP

Reading Half Marathon - Sunday 3rd April

Tilehurst Road between Russell Street and Liebenrood Road closed between 09.30 & 13.15
 Liebenrood Road (entire length) closed between 09.30 & 14.00