

English Martyrs' Newsletter

30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

23rd OCTOBER 2022

EXTRACT FROM THE MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 2022

'You shall be my witnesses' (Acts 1:8)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

These words were spoken by the Risen Jesus to his disciples just before his Ascension into heaven, as we learn from the Acts of the Apostles: 'You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth' (1:8). They are also the theme of the 2022 World Mission Day which, as always, reminds us that the Church is missionary by nature. This year World Mission Day offers us the opportunity to commemorate several important events in the Church's life and mission: the fourth centenary of the founding of the Congregation *de Propaganda Fide*, now the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, and the second centenary of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith. A hundred years ago, the latter, together with the Society of the Holy Childhood and the Society of Saint Peter the Apostle, was granted the title 'Pontifical'.

Let us reflect on the three key phrases that synthesize the three foundations of the life and mission of every disciple: 'You shall be my witnesses', 'to the ends of the earth' and 'you shall receive the power of the Holy Spirit'.

1. 'You shall be my witnesses' – The call of every Christian to bear witness to Christ

This is the central point, the heart of Jesus' teaching to the disciples, in view of their being sent forth into the world. The disciples are to be witnesses of Jesus, thanks to the grace of the Holy Spirit that they will receive. Wherever they go and in whatever place they find themselves. Christ was the first to be sent, as a 'missionary' of the Father (cf. *Jn* 20:21), and as such, he is the Father's 'faithful witness' (cf. *Rev* 1:5). In a similar way, every Christian is called to be a missionary and witness to Christ. And the Church, the community of Christ's disciples, has no other mission than that of bringing the Gospel to the entire world by bearing witness to Christ. To evangelize is the very identity of the Church. A deeper look at the words, 'You shall be my witnesses', can clarify a few ever-timely aspects of the mission Christ entrusted to the disciples. The plural form of the verb emphasizes the communitarian and ecclesial nature of the disciples' missionary vocation. Each baptized person is called to mission, in the Church and by the mandate of the Church: consequently, mission is carried out together, not individually, in communion with the ecclesial community, and not on one's own initiative. Even in cases where an individual in some very particular situation carries out the evangelizing mission alone, he must always do so in communion with the Church which commissioned him. As Saint Paul VI taught in the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, a document dear to my heart: 'Evangelization is for no one an individual and isolated act; it is one that is deeply ecclesial. When the most obscure preacher, catechist or pastor in the most distant land preaches the Gospel, gathers his little community together or administers a sacrament, even alone, he is carrying out an ecclesial act, and his action is certainly attached to the evangelizing activity of the whole Church by institutional relationships, but also by profound invisible links in the order of grace. This presupposes that he acts not in virtue of a mission which he attributes to himself or by a personal inspiration, but in union with the mission of the Church and in her name' (No. 60). Indeed, it was no coincidence that the Lord Jesus sent his disciples out on mission in pairs; the witness of Christians to Christ is primarily communitarian in nature. Hence, in carrying out the mission, the presence of a community, regardless of its size, is of fundamental importance.

In addition, the disciples are urged to live their personal lives *in a missionary key*: they are sent by Jesus to the world not only to *carry out*, but also and above all to *live* the mission entrusted to them; not only to *bear witness*, but also and above all to *be witnesses* of Christ. In the moving words of the Apostle Paul, '[we are] always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies' (2 *Cor* 4:10). The essence of the mission is to bear witness to Christ, that is, to his life, passion, death and resurrection for the love of the Father and of humanity. Not by chance did the apostles look for Judas' replacement among those who, like themselves, had been witnesses of the Lord's resurrection (cf. *Acts* 1:21). Christ, indeed Christ risen from the dead, is the One to whom we must testify and whose life we must share. Missionaries of Christ are not sent to communicate themselves, to exhibit their persuasive qualities and abilities or their managerial skills. Instead, theirs is the supreme honour of presenting Christ in words and deeds, proclaiming to everyone the Good News of his salvation, as the first apostles did, with joy and boldness.

In the final analysis, then, the true witness is the 'martyr', the one who gives his or her life for Christ, reciprocating the gift that he has made to us of himself. 'The primary reason for evangelizing is the love of Jesus which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to ever greater love of him' (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 264).

Finally, when it comes to Christian witness, the observation of Saint Paul VI remains ever valid: 'Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses' (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 41). For this reason, the testimony of an authentic Christian life is fundamental for the transmission of the faith. On the other hand, the task of proclaiming Christ's person and the message is equally necessary. Indeed, Paul VI went on to say: 'Preaching, the verbal proclamation of a message, is indeed always indispensable... The word remains ever relevant, especially when it is the bearer of the power of God. This is why Saint Paul's axiom, 'Faith comes from what is heard' (*Rom* 10:17), also retains its relevance: it is the word that is heard which leads to belief' (*ibid.*, 42).

In evangelization, then, the example of a Christian life and the proclamation of Christ are inseparable. One is at the service of the other. They are the two lungs with which any community must breathe, if it is to be missionary. This kind of complete, consistent and joyful witness to Christ will surely be a force of attraction also for the growth of the Church in the third millennium. I exhort everyone to take up once again the courage, frankness and *parrhesía* of the first Christians, in order to bear witness to Christ in word and deed in every area of life.

To keep up to date with the news of the Diocese and the Bishop please follow us on: **Facebook:** @PortsmouthRC / **LinkedIn:** Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth / **Twitter:** @PortsmouthRC / **Diocesan website:** <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/>
If you have news that you want to share with the Diocese, please contact communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH, 64, LIEBENROOD ROAD, READING, RG30 2EB:
Registered Charity No. 246871

Parish website: www.englishmartyrsrdg.com

Livestream link on You Tube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCulqb5ncxASpguMmd_OMNtA

Parish Priest: Fr. Gaston Forbah
gforbah@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Retired Priest: Fr Richard Maniak
Secretary: Barbara Poole. Tel: 0118 957 2149
Parish Office: Open Tues to Thurs 9.00am to 3.00pm.
Telephone and e-mail always monitored
Email: office@englishmartyrsrdg.com
Parish Safeguarding Officers: Charlie McArthur & Yvonne Newman.
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 W/C 23rd OCT:

Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm

Monday to Friday at 9.30am

Saturday at 10.00am

Saturday (Vigil Mass) 6.00pm

The 11.30 Mass on Sunday will be Livestreamed.

Confessions will be celebrated as follows:

Saturdays after 10.00am Mass & at 5.00pm.

Sundays: 30 mins before 9.00am & 11.30am Masses
and at 4.00pm.

15 mins before weekday Masses.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: every Friday from 10.00am to 6.00pm

HOLY HOUR TO CONCLUDE THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY AT PARISH LEVEL.

This will take place this Friday 28th October starting at 5p.m. There will be short scripture readings, reflections and Marian Hymns at each of the Mysteries of the Rosary. A moment of quiet meditation and then Benediction. Please, it will be great if you can create time to attend.



Today is World Mission Sunday.

World Mission Sunday is being celebrated in every Catholic parish around the world today! It supports missionaries who work alongside communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. By supporting Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission, you will help missionaries like Maria witness to their faith and offer vulnerable women in Ethiopia hope for a better future.

Please pray for the mission of the Church throughout the world and give what you can to this very important collection which will sustain the future of our Church. If you use the donation envelopes to give by credit/debit card, please return the envelopes directly to Missio. Do not put them in the Church collection. Please call 020 7821 9755 (office hours) or visit Missio's website to give a single gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation if possible: missio.org.uk

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT
PUT ON THICK CLOTHES FOR MASS

You are encouraged to wear thick clothes when attending Mass as we go through winter, due to some of the doors and windows of the church being open for ventilation. This will impact on the heating of the church which we are also trying to manage so that we can cope with the skyrocketing energy bills.



"Parish Afternoon Tea"

There will be an Afternoon Tea for parishioners to come together; to socialize and relax with tea / cake and a chat with friends. The event is being held in the Parish Hall on Thursday 27th October at 2.30pm. Please tell all your friends and if you are able to come, please tell us so that we can cater for the right number of people. Contact Stephen Hogg on 07891 773379. We can also arrange transport should you need it. We look forward to seeing you all again."

HOPE^{into} ACTION

READING

Enabling churches to house the homeless

NEXT VOLUNTEER TRAINING ONLINE – SATURDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 10AM to 3PM

Contact Mary on T: 07967 681020
(email: mary.lewis@hopeintoaction.org.uk)

AFTERNOON SOCIAL DANCE



Country & Irish Music by
FINBARR & PAUL
2nd Thursday
of every month

10 Nov 2022
Sponsored by EMILIO VILLA

8 Dec 2022
12 Jan & 9 Feb 2023
Sponsored by MARTIN PARSONS

Admission £5 from 1.00pm
Music from 1.30pm until 4.30pm
FREE tea & coffee

Light refreshments
at a nominal charge

For more info call Paul 07773 016589

Our Lady Of Peace & BI Dominic Barberi RC Main Hall
(Thomas Lane Hall)
338 Wokingham Road Earley Reading RG6 7DA
(Sat Nav RG6 7DB)

For all my wonderful friends in the parish. Thank you very much for all the Mass cards, get-well messages and gifts I received whilst being poorly.

There were times when I could not pray but I know I was being buoyed up on a raft of prayers and positivity that you were directing towards me, it was tangible.

It has certainly been a scary and challenging time, but thank God and our wonderful NHS, I am well on the road to recovery. I am truly blessed to have received the most advanced treatments.

I am humbled and grateful for your prayers, love and care.

Looking forward to getting back to Parish Life and meeting friends again soon.

Mass will be offered for your intentions.

Linda Heneghan

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 22nd to Sunday 30th October 2022.

30th Sunday in Ordinary time

Saturday 22 nd (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Sylvia Geraghty RIP
Sunday 23 rd	9.00am	Michael Sarjent RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Norah O'Dowd RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish
Monday 24 th	9.30am	Tommy Donohue RIP
Tuesday 25 th	9.30am	Benjamin Massaquoi RIP
Wednesday 26 th	9.30am	Brendan Crummey RIP
Thursday 27 th	9.30am	Louie Fearn's RIP
Friday 28 th	9.30am	Private Intention
Saturday 29 th	10.00am	People of the Parish
31st Sunday in Ordinary time		
Saturday 29 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Eddie Maher RIP & Peggy Geraghty RIP
Sunday 30 th	9.00am	Mary & Kevin Donovan RIP
	11.30am	Mike Baxter RIP
	5.00pm	Thanksgiving for Vithayathil Family

BOOKSTALL

We hope to re-open the Bookstall/Repository in the near future, but to do this we will need a team of helpers willing to take part on a rota basis on Sunday mornings. If this is something that you could see yourself doing please get in touch with the parish office..

Meanwhile if anyone requires a 2023 Sunday Missal please contact Ann Davis via the parish office.

INFORMATION EVENING FOR ALTAR SERVERS

This will take place on Saturday 5th November at 7:10p.m, after the 6p.m Mass. It will be an opportunity for those who have already been serving at Masses to refresh themselves regarding some of the basic aspects that Altar Servers need to be aware of. Also, this will be an occasion for potential altar servers to get orientation, training/formation on what it means to be an Altar server. This is open to adults and young people.

If you feel that you can assist as an Altar Server, please do attend this programme. Only those who attend this programme will be eligible to serve at our weekend Masses. We hope that all of our weekend Masses will have Altar Servers in the very near future.