

English Martyrs' Newsletter

2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

15th JANUARY 2023

OUR PARISH...

...is 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

CHRIST IS OUR PEACE

Dear friends, as we observe this weekend, a Day of Prayer for Peace, I wish you take time to prayerfully go through the following reflection which focuses on Jesus Christ as our true peace.

Ephesians 2:14 begins with a bold proclamation: "For he himself is our peace." In context, the "he" is Christ, whose blood brought the Gentiles near to God and God's people (2:13).

What does it mean for Christ to be our peace? When we hear this, we may be inclined to think of the inner peace Christ gives. We might recall the encouragement of Philippians 4 to pray with thanksgiving. Then, "the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (4:7).

Yet, however wonderful and true it is that Christ gives us inner peace, this is not the meaning in Ephesians 4:14. When we read this verse in context, we see that peace has to do with ending all forms of hostility and forging a new relationship of unity in Christ. Christ is our peace in the sense that he and he alone can mend the broken, hostile relationship between all enemies.

Of course, Paul could have written, more prosaically, "Christ is the source of our peace." But by saying "He himself is our peace," Paul intensifies the truth he is seeking to convey. Moreover, he implies that Christ is not only the source of peace. He is also the one who keeps the peace, so to speak. If we wish to live without conflict among people, if we wish to live fruitful lives in community with others, then we must live in Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT)

Many thanks to **Sharon Antony, Tony Maina, Angela Wills, Meghan Dimbylow and Gerard Rocks, who have graciously accepted to be on our Parish Senior Leadership Team (SLT)**. The SLT is not a Pastoral Council but only a strategy team that support the clergy to pursue the vision of the Parish and fulfil the mission of the Church – forming disciples after the heart of Christ. The aforementioned members of our Parish SLT will be getting in touch with different group coordinators and are happy to offer their support when and where possible. They will also get feedback from the different group coordinators to report at the SLT meetings

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our Adoration team are seeking volunteers to attend Adoration on Friday's. Can you spare an hour either from **11am to 12pm, 2pm to 3pm or 4pm to 5pm** to pray before the Blessed Sacrament? If you can please contact the Parish Office or a Welcomer at Mass. If you can only do occasional Friday's, please add your name plus times and dates to the Adoration File which is on the table in the colonnade

ADJUSTMENT IN CONFESSION TIMES

There is a little adjustment on the schedule for confessions on Saturday and Sunday evenings. On **Saturday evenings, confessions will begin at 5: 30p.m** instead of 5p.m while on **Sunday evenings, confessions will begin at 4:30p.m** instead of 4p.m.

The other schedules for confession remain unchanged. Please, call the Parish office (01189572149) if you need the sacrament of confession out of the indicated schedule. The Priests are always happy to attend to you

As part of Caring for creation, English Martyrs Parish is working towards

CAFOD LIVE SIMPLY AWARD.

Please see the Parish Website for more details. Here is the link:

<https://englishmartyrsrdg.com/caring-for-creation/>

We also have a poster in the Colonnade sharing the work done so far.
Please do have a look.



Can you give some food to local people in need?

We collect tinned and dry food, and toiletries, in boxes in the colonnade.

Each week we take them to Dee Caf food bank or New Beginnings for homeless people and families in need.

All donations are very gratefully received. Thank you.



During the last year, the Caring for Creation Group and its supporters, have been working towards The Live Simply Award.

Visit our parish website at <https://englishmartyrsrdg.com/caring-for-creation/> and follow the links to read about our plan and what we have actually achieved! OR visit <https://youtu.be/W-N7fFeRpbw> for our latest video update.

This Sunday, 15th January, Maureen Thompson from CAFOD will be at the 11.30 mass. She will be with us to assess our achievements to see if we are worthy of The Live Simply Award. Do join us for coffee after mass to share with Maureen your experiences of any of the activities over the past months.

You are invited to a Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. 6.00pm Sunday 22nd January 2023 at St George's Church, St George's Road, Tilehurst, Reading, RG30 2RG. Organised by Churches Together in West Reading, Tilehurst & Southcote. Guided by the churches of Minneapolis seeking to explore how the work of Christian unity can contribute to the promotion of racial justice across all levels of society.

Volunteers needed! Marriage Care is looking to recruit volunteers to help present their Marriage Preparation courses in the local area (a couple of Saturdays in the year). Full training and support are given. To find out more visit our website www.marriagecare.org.uk or contact Sue Cooper on 07939495774 or at sue.cooper@marriagecare.org



Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Michael O'Connell RIP, Collette Moran RIP, Paula Raw RIP and João Rodriguez RIP.

White Flower Appeal 2023

There will be a Second Collection at all masses this weekend on behalf of The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC).

SPUC wants a world where abortion is unthinkable; and is raising awareness of the widespread problem of abortion coercion.

According to an independent poll, 87% of GPs are concerned that the Government's "pills by post" scheme leaves women vulnerable to coerced abortion. SPUC is calling on the Prime Minister to condemn this abhorrent tragedy.

Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers by highlighting this urgent crisis.

The SVP urgently need volunteer drivers (male or female) for Food Centre deliveries in the Reading area.

Can you spare a few hours a week for a very worthwhile cause? A car, estate or small van would be needed. Membership of the SVP is not necessary. For more details please contact Jack Ewins , President SVP Portsmouth Central Council. Mob 07734 499190. Email jackewins9@gmail.com

CAFOD meeting Saturday 28th January

10:30am to 12:30pm at St William of York Church, Upper Redlands Road, Reading RG1 5JT

You are invited to come to a meeting about CAFOD and how your donations make a difference to the communities that we work with. There will be an update on our work tackling climate change in Bangladesh as that is our focus story for Lent fast day. Please contact Jo Lewry for more details and to book your place by emailing jlewry@cafod.org.uk or call 07710 094447

DIOCESAN VACANCIES

HEAD OF FUNDRAISING: - A Full time role, based in Portsmouth
HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS: - A Full time role, based in Portsmouth
For further details, see noticeboard in colonnade or contact parish office



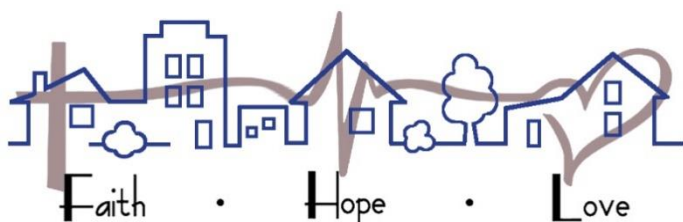
"Parish Afternoon Tea"

There will be an Afternoon Tea for parishioners to come together and socialize. Relax with tea / cake and a chat with friends.

The event is being held in the Parish Hall on Thursday 26th January 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.

DOMESTIC CHURCH



Help your family grow in Faith, Hope and Love together.

Join us every other Wednesday on Zoom for a short time as we look to the Sunday's Gospel and help our children grow in faith.

This is the place to start for families interested in their child making their First Holy Communion.

Dates: January 18th and February 1st & 22nd

Time: 7-7.30pm

Location: Teams

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 377 595 913 131

Passcode: BdySYH

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)



We aim to inspire and guide them along their journey so they become intentional disciples and active members of our community.

**Dates: January 27th, February 10th and 24th
6pm in the parish hall**

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH, 64, LIEBENROOD ROAD, READING, RG30 2EB:

Registered Charity No. 1199568

Parish website: www.englishmartyrsrdg.com

Livestream link on You Tube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCulqb5ncxASpguMmd_0MNtA

Parish Priest: Fr. Gaston Forbah gforbah@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr. Andrew Wagstaff awagstaff@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 Week commencing 15th JAN:

Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm

Monday to Friday at 9.30am

Saturday at 10.00am

Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil)

Week commencing 15th JAN: Confessions will be celebrated as follows:

Sunday 30 mins before 9.00am & 11.30am Masses and 4.30 to 4.45pm.

Mon to Fri: 15 mins before Mass.

Saturday after 10.00am mass and 5.20 to 5.45pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: every Friday from 10.00am to 6.00pm

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 14th to Sunday 22nd January 2023.

2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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| Saturday 14 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday) | 6.00pm | Chris Moran RIP |
| Sunday 15 th | 9.00am | People of the Parish |
| | 11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i> | Mary Mansell RIP |
| | 5.00pm | Jimmy Gallogley RIP |
| Monday 16 th | 9.30am | Archbishop J H King RIP |
| Tuesday 17 th <i>St Anthony of Egypt, memorial</i> | 9.30am | Margaret Sheridan RIP |
| Wednesday 18 th | 9.30am | Intention of Sheila Dursley |
| | 12.30pm | Funeral Mass for Joao Rodrigues |
| Thursday 19 th | 9.30am | Private Intention |
| Friday 20 th | 9.30am | Private Intention |
| Saturday 21 st <i>St Agnes, memorial</i> | 10.00am | Mary Mansell RIP |

3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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|---|---------|------------------------|
| Saturday 21 st (Vigil Mass for Sunday) | 6.00pm | Peter Sheppard RIP |
| Sunday 22 nd | 9.00am | Peadar Conneely RIP |
| | 11.30am | People of the Parish |
| | 5.00pm | Nazario de Andrade RIP |