

English Martyrs' Newsletter

3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

22nd 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.

TRUE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST DO NOT WALK IN DARKNESS

Dear friends, the readings of this weekend remind us that Christ has effected a great transformation in the lives of God's children, whom we all are. As announced in the first reading and confirmed in the gospel, Christ appeared as the light, and he overcomes darkness wherever he is welcomed.

There is physical light and spiritual light. There can be no physical life without physical light. So also, there can be no spiritual life without spiritual light.

Jesus chose us and put His light into our hearts so that we will reflect His light to the people who walk in the darkness of sin. God has made us the light not to draw people to us, (for we have no light of our own to attract people), but that they may see the light and follow Jesus. When people of this world, who walk in darkness, see our good deeds in the light of Jesus, they will glorify our Father in heaven.

God commands that we walk in the light of the truth of the Gospel. True followers of Christ do not walk in darkness. They love the light and try to stay close to it. The light reveals their sins, which helps them to confess and get back to God. *"Your word is lamp to my feet and light for my path"* (Psa.119:105).

We are called to walk in the light and reflect this light to others. When the people walking in darkness see the light, they will be attracted to the real light. The light will expose their sins. God has not made us the light to judge or condemn others. That authority rests with God alone. Even Jesus, when He was in the world, did not condemn anyone. *"For God did not send His Son to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him"* (Jn.3:17).

However, God expects that light to expose the sins of the world so that the sinners can be saved.

Announcements

Friday Eucharistic Adoration: From Friday 27th January, we will begin having some praise and worship music during the last hour of Eucharistic Adoration from 5pm. There will also be Scripture reading, guided reflection, and a time of silence. This holy hour will end with Benediction.

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

English Martyrs becomes a Live Simply parish

English Martyrs joins five other Portsmouth parishes in receiving the **Live Simply** award, after a visit by Maureen Thompson from CAFOD (pictured right).

The award recognises our efforts to hear 'the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor' as Pope Francis urges.

Jo Lewry, Community Participation Officer for Portsmouth CAFOD, said: "Please congratulate the [Caring for Creation] group and the parish on a fantastic achievement."

The parish will be presented with a plaque in the near future – watch this space for details!



Don't forget to visit <https://youtu.be/W-N7fFeRpbw> for our latest video updates.

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



"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.

DIOCESAN VACANCIES

Head of Fundraising – A full-time role based in Portsmouth.

Head of Communications – A full-time role based in Portsmouth.

Education Administrator – A term-time only role based in Portsmouth.

Music Team Leader – A part-time, fixed term role based in Winchester.

Full details on the Noticeboard in the Colonnade, or from the Parish Office

White Flower Appeal 2023

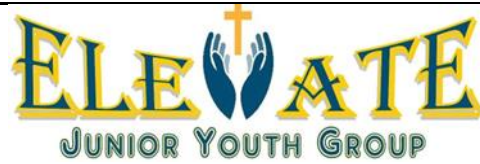
The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Last Sunday's collection raised a wonderful **£514.69.**



This weekend we take the annual second collection in support of our Cathedral in Portsmouth. This collection is the only support our Cathedral receives from the wider Diocesan family.



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

Join Friends of the Holy Land for an unforgettable evening of uplifting music on Thursday 16th February in Westminster Cathedral at a concert featuring the London Welsh Male Voice Choir supported by The Priests. The London Welsh Male Voice Choir has recorded with Charlotte Church, Aled Jones and Bryn Terfel. The Priests are three Roman Catholic priests from Northern Ireland who scooped the Guinness World Record for "Fastest-selling UK debut for a classical act" with their first album. The concert starts at 7:30 pm and tickets starting at £20 are available now through Eventbrite at - <http://bit.ly/3i0ath2> or search LWMVC Concert at Westminster Cathedral, or by calling the office – 01926 512980. www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/westminster-concert2023



PRAYER & HEALING SERVICE ON SATURDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY AT 5.00.PM

There will be a celebration of Praise, and a Healing Service at St Joseph's. Please bring your friends and family along and see what wonders the Lord has for you! Do not be afraid to open your heart to the power of the Holy Spirit. *Everybody is welcome!*

We ask that you please park your car considerately and under no circumstances block anyone's driveways. If at all possible, please park further away and/or come to the service on foot. There will be no 5.00pm Vigil Mass on this day.



THE CATENIAN ASSOCIATION: The Catenian Association is a National and International Fellowship of Catholic Men living their Faith through Friendship, Family and Fun. Reading Circle currently has 39 Members. With their wives and families, they organise numerous social events. The Catenians are organising two events shortly open to all parishioners. On **Thursday 9 February** at 7pm there's a multi-cuisine buffet (Indian / Chinese) at Spice Oven, Caversham. Price is £10 per person. On **Wednesday 26 March** they are visiting the Hexagon Theatre in Reading for the Sensational 60s Experience featuring Dozy, Beaky, Mitch & Titch, The Tremms and other popular acts from the 60s. Price is £26.50 per ticket if booked by 23 January. There will also be an optional pre-dinner supper at Bill's restaurant.

If you would like further information about these events or the Catenians please contact Sean Walsh **07850 933647** sean.walshx@icloud.com



Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Honora Sawyer RIP and Olga Palamartschuk-Rodden RIP

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.

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 22nd 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 22nd 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 5.30 to 5.45pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: every Friday from 10.00am to 6.00pm, including from 5.00pm, praise and worship, music, scripture reading, guided reflection, a time of silence and concluding with Benediction.

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 21st to Sunday 29th January 2023.

3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 21 st (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Peter Sheppard RIP
Sunday 22 nd	9.00am	Peader Conneely RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	People of the Parish
	5.00pm	Nazario de Andrade RIP
Monday 23 rd	9.30am	Mary Gerrity RIP
Tuesday 24 th <i>St. Francis de Sales, memorial</i>	9.30am	Manuel Xavier do Rego RIP
Wednesday 25 th THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL, feast	9.30am	Stanley Austin RIP
Thursday 26 th <i>St. Timothy & St. Titus, memorial</i>	9.30am	William Walsh RIP & Tommie Walsh Intention
Friday 27 th	9.30am	Private Intention
Saturday 28 th <i>St Thomas Aquinas, memorial</i>	10.00am	Moira Husbands RIP

4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 28 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Din McGunniess RIP
Sunday 29 th	9.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Eugenia Forero RIP
	5.00pm	Frank McDermott RIP