

English Martyrs' Newsletter

4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

29th 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.

This Saturday 28 January we celebrated the memorial of St Thomas Aquinas, Doctor of the Church. This Sunday, we read in the Gospel Jesus' proclamation of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12). St Thomas in his writings linked each Beatitude to one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2).

"Blessed are the poor in spirit." St Thomas finds the Gift of the Fear of the Lord to be perfected in this beatitude because one who fears the Lord will seek greatness only in God, not in himself or in honours and riches. Poverty of Spirit conquers pride and attachment to the world.

"Blessed are the gentle" or "meek" is associated by Aquinas with the Gift of Piety. In this context, piety is linked to the virtue of Justice, as it is the performance of duty or the offering of right worship. Meekness removed the obstacles in the way of piety.

"Blessed are those who mourn: they shall be comforted": St Thomas associates this beatitude with the gift of knowledge, quoting St Augustine: "Knowledge befits the mourner, who has discovered that he has been mastered by the evil, which he coveted as though it were good." To put any created thing in the place of God is loss; to mourn this loss is to restore God as Lord of our lives.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness" is the complement of the Gift of Fortitude, which means a certain firmness of mind, courage, in the pursuit of good and the endurance of evil. It might include, for example, being willing to stand up for the oppressed.

"Blessed are the merciful" corresponds to the Gift of Counsel, which is the perfection of the virtue of Prudence; it guides us in knowing what to do and how to act. By Counsel, the Spirit directs mercy to a good end.

"Blessed are the pure in heart: they shall see God." For Aquinas, this beatitude has to do with the Gift of Understanding, since heart and mind must be purified of earthly imagery and representations in order truly to know God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God" corresponds to the Gift of Wisdom because "peace is the tranquillity of order" (St Augustine), and it is the job of wisdom to set things in order. To be a child of God is to be formed in the image of God's Only Begotten Son, the Word who is Wisdom incarnate.

In this Year of Prayer to the Holy Spirit in our Diocese of Portsmouth, we might reflect on how we can discern and live the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and take the Beatitudes for our guidance and inspiration.

Fr. Andrew

RITE OF ELECTION Please, pray for our candidates, their sponsors and families who will be taking part in the Rite of Election in the Cathedral on February 25th in view of the Easter Sacraments.

MAINTAINING A PRAYERFUL ATMOSPHERE IN CHURCH Many thanks to all of us who help to maintain a prayerful atmosphere in church, especially during Masses. Please, continue to observe silence and speak in a low tone if absolutely necessary.

DIOCESAN VACANCIES

- Parish Administrator** – A part-time role based in Southampton.
Clergy Support Coordinator – A part-time role based in Sandhurst, Berks.
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

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.



CATENIANS
FRIENDSHIP IN FAITH

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 we are having a multi-cuisine buffet (Indian / Chinese) at Spice Oven, Caversham. Price is £10 per person.

On **Wednesday 22 March** we are visiting the Hexagon Theatre in Reading for the Sensational 60s Experience featuring Dozy, Beaky, Mitch & Titch, The Tremas and other popular acts from the 60s. Price is £26.50 per ticket if booked by 22 February. 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

SAFEGUARDING: FACE-TO-FACE TRAINING ON SATURDAY 11TH FEBRUARY

Christ the King church, 408 Northumberland Avenue, Reading. RG2 8NR.

- 10 am until 12 noon and will cover child protection.
- 1-3 pm will cover working with adults at risk.

Please note, anyone working in a role with children and/or adults at risk within the Diocese should have completed training within the last 2 years. If you are able to attend either of these sessions, you will be made very welcome.

If this church is not within your parish, but you are able to make your own way, anyone working or volunteering in a relevant role is most welcome. To book your place please email: safeguarding@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Please say which session you are attending and which church and parish you usually attend.

A warming cuppa will be supplied, but if you are attending both, please bring your lunch with you.

AFTERNOON SOCIAL DANCE



Country & Irish Music by
FINBARR & PAUL

2nd Thursday of
every month

9 Feb

Sponsored by MARTIN PARSONS

9 Mar

Sponsored by STEVE & LESLEY EVANS

13 Apr, 11 May, 8 Jun, 13 Jul

Available for Sponsorship!

10 Aug

Sponsored by EMILIO VILLA

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)

Award to English Martyrs Reading



24th January 2023

Jo Lewry (C.A.F.O.D) offers congratulations to English Martyrs Parish for achieving the Livesimply award!

Well done to the Caring for Creation Group at English Martyrs who have been working on the livesimply award since Autumn 2021 and had their assessment on 15th January 2023.

Please take a look at the Notice boards in the hallway outside the kitchen for details of all the activities that the Parish has undertaken over the past year

"Amazing! Such fantastic activities - thank you so much!"

Taken from this week's Enews – see link for the full story. [Portsmouth Diocese e-News Issue 394 \(mailchi.mp\)](mailto:Portsmouth Diocese e-News Issue 394 (mailchi.mp))



**The Big Lent Walk is the only Lent challenge you need:
5km a day, 200km throughout Lent - done your way!
For more details visit <https://walk.cafod.org.uk>**

HOPE into ACTION

Enabling churches to house the homeless

Hope into Action Reading, partner with English Martyrs, to support 2 houses for homeless men in Reading. The charity has a vacancy for a trustee to join the board. Please contact Mary Lewis at mary.lewis@hopeintoaction.org.uk if you would be interested in this role.

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 29th 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 29th 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, From 5.00pm, Praise and Worship featuring music, scripture reading, guided reflection, a time of silence and concluding with Benediction.

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 28th January to Sunday 5th February 2023.

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 <i>Live Streamed</i>	Eugenia Forero RIP
	5.00pm	Frank McDermott RIP
Monday 30 th	9.30am	John Joseph O'Sullivan RIP
Tuesday 31 st <i>St. John Bosco, memorial</i>	9.30am	Frank McDermott RIP
Wednesday 1 st February	9.30am	Frank McDermott RIP
Thursday 2 nd <i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	9.30am	Louie Fearn's RIP
Friday 3 rd	9.30am	Bernadette Ward RIP
Saturday 4 th	10.00am	Gerard Lawrence RIP

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 4 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Domingos Rodrigues RIP
Sunday 5 th	9.00am	Michael Conneely RIP
	11.30am	Benjamin Massaquoi RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish