

English Martyrs' Newsletter

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

8th 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

The Baptism of the Lord

In Baptism of the Lord, Jesus' divinity is made clear when God the Father proclaims "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

Jesus's baptism also underlines the mystery of the Son of God becoming one of us.

As a human person, Jesus identified with us not only in our strengths, but in our frailty. Jesus experienced the feelings and emotions we experience. He was hungry, thirsty and wept at the death of his friend. Jesus didn't stand out, but looked just like the rest of us. When he stood in the synagogue in his home town, people were "amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth." But they also asked, "Isn't this the son of Joseph?" (Luke: 4:22). He was so much like everyone around him that he asked to be baptized by John.

After his baptism, Jesus began his public ministry of teaching, preaching, healing and freeing people. Some responded, others turned away, but to those who believed he brought new life.

Those who encountered Jesus then, and today, are changed so radically that an individual can say, "It is no longer I who lives; it is Christ who lives in me."

This transformation compels us to work to bring about justice—where everyone has what they need to have, where their dignity is respected and affirmed, and where all live in right relationship.

If we respond to the needs of others, because we share in the Divine Life through Jesus's death and resurrection, we too, can hear those wondrous words, "This is my beloved daughter/son in whom I am well pleased."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Fr Gaston will be back to his pastoral duties on Tuesday 10th as his Christmas break ends on Monday 9th January.
2. We are glad to welcome Fr Andrew Wagstaff, who will be joining our Parish on Tuesday 10th January. Fr Andrew is from the Bournemouth Oratory and will be serving in our Parish as a Priest for the Diocese of Portsmouth. Below is a photograph of Fr Andrew alone and another with his family. Please, pray for him and ask God to bless his family who are all giving him their support at this moment



PLEASE NOTE THAT THE 6.00pm MASS ON SATURDAY 7TH JANUARY WILL BE A REQUIEM MASS FOR POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI.

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.



Please donate to

Dee Caf foodbank

Our brilliant local foodbank helps families who are struggling.

They really need more donations of non-perishable food items and essential toiletries.

Please leave your items in the boxes marked 'Foodbank' in the colonnade.
Thank you.



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

Reflecting the teachings of Laudato Si, we at English Martyrs have committed to actions demonstrating that we are following plans to Live Simply, Live Sustainably with Creation and Live in Solidarity with the poor. 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.

On 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 at any of the activities over the past months.

Seeker Night - 7-9pm, Fareham

Friday 3rd February

Our monthly Seeker Night is for all those who are discerning their path in life and seeking the will of the Lord. The evening follows a very simple pattern - a meal, a time of discussion and we close with prayer and Adoration.



Sometimes our vocation is not always obvious to us, and it's important to seek opportunities to recognise what our life's mission is to be. That's where discernment comes in. Discernment is being aware and reflective of your heart, to see how God is moving and leading you.

As Pope Francis said last month, "Life always presents choices to us, and if we do not make conscious choices, in the end it is life that chooses for us, taking us where we do not want to go."

If you would like help in your discernment, then please get in touch for information and an invite to these evenings via; vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Gift from Bishop Philip – Lord I am not Worthy (prayer booklet)

Please contact the Parish Office **THIS WEEK** if you did not get one of these booklets but would like one.

Thank you so much for your support for CAFOD in 2022

Many thanks for your support for CAFOD's work last year especially for our emergency appeals- Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal and Pakistan Flood Appeal. Your donations make a huge difference to the communities that we work with around the world. Have you considered using your time and skills to volunteer for CAFOD? Please contact Jo for information on our volunteering opportunities jlewry@Cafod.org.uk or call 07710 094447

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 soul of Michael O'Connell whose funeral mass will be held at St. Joseph's parish church on Friday 20th January at 10.00am.

Michael was the organist at English Martyrs from 1972 to 1999 and more recently the organist at St Joseph's from 2014 to 2019.

White Flower Appeal 2023

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal next weekend.

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.

**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

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 Weeks commencing 8th 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 8th JAN: **Confessions** will be celebrated as follows:

Sunday 30 mins before 9.00am & 11.30am Masses and at 4.00pm.
15 mins before weekday Masses.

Saturday after 10.00am mass and at 5.00pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: every Friday from 10.00am to 6.00pm

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 7th to Sunday 15th January 2023.

The Baptism of the Lord

Saturday 7 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Requiem for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI
Sunday 8 th	9.00am	Mary Mansell RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Mary Mansell RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish
Monday 9 th	9.30am	Barbara Davis RIP
Tuesday 10 th	9.30am	Anne O'Connor RIP
Wednesday 11 th	9.30am	Private Intention
Thursday 12 th	9.30am	Private Intention
Friday 13 th	9.30am	Kay Welsh Intention
Saturday 14 th	10.00am	Private Intention

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 14 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Chris Moran RIP
Sunday 15 th	9.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Mary Mansell RIP
	5.00pm	Jimmy Gallogley RIP

GOING INTO HOSPITAL On admission, all Catholics must inform staff if they wish to receive Holy Communion or see a priest. Catholic Chaplaincy RBH: 0118 322 7105 Arrangements are patient-led.