

English Martyrs' Newsletter

6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

12th FEBRUARY 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.

Jesus and the Torah

Many of us have been enjoying watching the Angel media production *The Chosen*, a television series about the life of Jesus and his disciples. Now in its third season, *The Chosen* is free to view using the free to download Angel app, but many viewers decide to make a donation, meaning that the series has so far been self-funding. Many testimonials bear witness to the powerful effect of bringing the Gospel to life in this way in the lives of those who have watched the series. If you haven't already seen *The Chosen*, you might consider taking it up for Lent!

A recent episode of *The Chosen*, "Physician, Heal Thyself", dramatises Jesus' homecoming to Nazareth, which we read about in Luke 4:16-30. At the climax of the confrontation between Jesus and his fellow townspeople, he declares: "I am the Law of Moses", much to their consternation.

Commenting on the text of this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 5:17-37) from the Sermon on the Mount, the late Pope Benedict XVI wrote that: "Jesus understands himself as the Torah [Law] – as the Word of God in person. The tremendous prologue of John's Gospel – 'in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God' (Jn 1:1) – says nothing different from what the Jesus of the Sermon on the Mount [says]." (Joseph Ratzinger, *Jesus of Nazareth* (2007), p.110).

Pope Benedict argues in *Jesus of Nazareth* that we should not assume that Jesus is relaxing or liberalising the Law of Moses. Rather, "the intention is not to abolish, but to fulfil, and this fulfilment demands a surplus, not a deficit of righteousness": see Matt 5:20. But what Jesus demands goes beyond "merely increased rigor in obeying the Law" (*Jesus of Nazareth*, p.102). His "Torah of the Messiah" is not the literal application of Jewish Law to all other peoples. This would not be a universal mission at all. Yet freedom from the written Law is not a free-for-all: our freedom in Christ is not "a blind and arbitrary freedom ... according to the flesh" but rather "a seeing freedom, anchored in communion of will with Jesus, and so with God himself." (*Jesus of Nazareth*, p.119).

"If Jesus is God, then he is entitled to handle the Torah [Law] as he does. On that condition alone does he have the right to interpret the Mosaic order of divine commands in such a radically new way as only the Law-giver – God himself – can claim to do." (*Jesus of Nazareth*, p.115).

Fr.Andrew

GOODBYE TO CATHERINE AND SIMON HARRINGTON

We are grateful to Catherine and Simon Harrington for the wonderful support they have offered us throughout their time in this parish. Now as they are soon leaving us, it would be great to organize something special for them.

Next Sunday at 9am Mass, Catherine and Simon will have a special blessing. Then, there will be a reception in the hall. Please, all those whom Catherine has supported for the baptism of their children are invited to come. Also, all the various groups in which Catherine and Simon have worked are kindly invited to be in the hall and make that moment memorable for them.

CAFOD Syria-Turkey Earthquake Appeal

CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible. Let us join CAFOD in praying for our sisters and brothers affected by the earthquakes and the winter weather. Your support for CAFOD throughout the year allows our Catholic agency to act quickly when disasters strike. For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at [Syria-Turkey Emergency Appeal](#).

WALKING THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO THE WAY OF ST JAMES

A group of Reading parishioners are hoping to walk the Camino del Norte on Monday 11th – Tuesday 19th September 2023.

If you are interested contact Charles on:

charles@trevere.co.uk

Closing date 28.02.23

A Gap Year opportunity: Are you 18-30, or do you know someone who is? Do you want to develop a wide range of skills including leadership while learning about global justice and inspiring others to use their faith in action? CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, believes in equipping and inspiring young adults to contribute to a more just and peaceful world. Step into the Gap is a fully funded year of volunteering, with food, accommodation, stipend and training within a UK placement plus a Rome and Assisi pilgrimage. Visit the CAFOD website for more information: cafod.org.uk/gapyear



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>

YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES

The Summary of Feedback from Parish Consultations July – December 2022

Is now available to download from our website. Go to:

[you will be my witnesses – English Martyrs Reading \(englishmartyrsrdg.com\)](#) and follow the link.



"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 23rd February at 2.30pm. Please tell all your friends and if you can 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 on a Wednesday evening via Teams 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.

SOME MEETING DATES HAVE CHANGED. SEE WEBSITE CALENDAR PAGE FOR FULL DETAILS

Next Meeting Dates: March 1st – 15th – 29th

Time: 7.00 - 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](#)



JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 18th February 1.00pm
Parish Centre

If you have any jumble to donate, please bring it to the hall on Saturday morning.

Portsmouth Diocesan "Don Bosco" Boys Camp - 23 to 29 July 2023

We are delighted that this camp will be going ahead again this summer for boys of secondary school age. The camp will be at St. Cassian's, Kintbury. There will be plenty of sport, outings, competitions and fun and games to ensure that boys will have a fantastic few days. This will continue to take place within the context of the celebration of the Catholic Faith, including daily Mass and morning prayer. The cost of the camp is £230 (part bursaries may be available on application).

In addition, we are holding a **Bosco Experience/Reunion** on **Sunday 5 March 2023** from **2 to 4pm** at St. Peter's Church, Jewry Street, Winchester SO23 8RY. This is for boys currently in Year 6 up to Year 11. This is a chance for new boys who want to find out more and have a 'taste' of the Bosco Experience and for those who have been on camp to meet with old friends. Fun activities and a chance for parents to find out more and sign up for camp. Booking is essential. To find out more or to reserve a place, please email dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

NEEDED COUNTERS

To count the weekly collection
Once every six weeks approximately

Please contact the Parish Office if you can assist.

PARKING

Please **ALWAYS** ask at the Parish Office if you want to leave your car in the Parish Carpark outside of service times.

Please note that parking in the car park is at your own risk, at all times.

Petition to stop the introduction of abortion up to birth.

In 2021, abortion campaigners brought forward an amendment to a Government Bill that would have introduced abortion on demand, for any reason, up to birth (including sex-selective abortion). This amendment did not go to a vote and pass, but the abortion lobby is expected to make another attempt to introduce this extreme abortion law change shortly. This would be the single biggest change to abortion legislation since 1967 and would introduce one of the most extreme abortion laws in the world. Right To Life UK is running a petition to ask the Prime Minister to do everything in his power to stop the introduction of abortion up to birth. Please add your name to the petition here:

<https://righttolife.org.uk/signthepetitiontorishi>

We remain resolute to uphold respect and protection of life from conception to birth.

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 12th FEB:

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 12th FEB:

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.
No Adoration 1.15pm to 2.15pm due to Funeral.

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 11th to Sunday 19th February 2023.

6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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| Saturday 11 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday) | 6.00pm | Eugene Herbert RIP |
| Sunday 12 th | 9.00am | Sam McCarthy RIP |
| | 11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i> | Eugenia Forero RIP |
| | 5.00pm | People of the Parish |
| Monday 13 th | 9.30am | Eugene Carolan RIP |
| Tuesday 14 th <i>St. Cyril & St. Methodius, feast</i> | 9.30am | Holy Souls in the Intentions of the Petitioner RIP |
| Wednesday 15 th | 9.30am | Ethelreda Davis RIP |
| Thursday 16 th | 9.30am | Malcolm Livingston Intention |
| | 1.30pm | Requiem of Antoinette Rosario RIP |
| Friday 17 th | 9.30am | Martin Walsh RIP & Margaret McGuire RIP |
| | 1.30pm | Requiem of Patrick McGinty |
| Saturday 18 th | 10.00am | Marlene & Monika Michaluk RIP |

7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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|---|---------|-----------------------|
| Saturday 18 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday) | 6.00pm | Stephen McCreight RIP |
| Sunday 19 th | 9.00am | People of the Parish |
| | 11.30am | Bridie O’Gorman RIP |
| | 5.00pm | Eugene Carolan 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.