

# English Martyrs' Newsletter

7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

19<sup>th</sup> 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.*

### THREE SUGGESTIONS ON HOW WE CAN REFLECT GOD'S HOLINESS?

Firstly, God's holiness is reflected in an unconditional hatred of sin. Proverbs 6:16-19: "There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers." Reflecting God's holiness means rejecting sin. "No one who lives in Him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen Him or known Him" (1 John 3:6). These words of St John invite us to desire holiness. We may be weak and fall into sin, but we must not surrender to sin and normalize it.

Secondly God's holiness is reflected in an unconditional love for His people. "How great is the love the father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God . . ." (1 John 3:1). God's heart looks beyond the deed to the doer. He can't accept the sin, but He can wrap His arms of acceptance and forgiveness around the repentant sinner. If we want to be like God, we must strive to love as He does. His love does not discriminate. His love does not judge. Out of love, he embraces everyone and encourages everyone to grow in his Love.

Thirdly, God's holiness is reflected in unconditional sacrifice for the welfare of others. John 3:16 says: "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." He loved . . . He gave . . . He paid the ultimate price for every person.

Reflecting God's holiness entails putting aside selfishness for the redemption of others. According to Paul the apostle, that is seen in the home as well as on the highways. Ephesians 5:25 admonishes: "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. "Holiness is the everyday business of every Christian." The refers to the call to holiness, as a universal call – addressed to every baptized person.

Though we are not "little gods," we can have a little of God in us. "It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption" (1 Corinthians 1:30).

These three aspects, unconditional hatred of sin, unconditional love for God's people and unconditional sacrifice for the welfare of others, are perfectly manifest in the life of Christ. Therefore, if we want to reflect God's holiness, let us strive to be Christ-like in our words and actions.

Fr. Gaston

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

#### Bidding Prayers Team

It is always heart-warming to see Parishioners offer their time and talents to support the Parish in different ways. I would like to render immense thanks to the team of parishioners, who accepted the role of composing bidding prayers for our weekend liturgy. They started composing bidding prayers from the first Sunday of Advent 2022 and each of them have had a turn or two to do this. May I mention their names so that we continue to kindly pray for them: Gerard Rocks, Arsenia Buhay, Yvonne Newman, Margaret Gardner, Angela Wills, Catherine Harrington, and Anne Hogg.

**FUNERAL:** Please Pray for Maria Helena Monteiro RIP, whose funeral is on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 12:15p.m.

**CONFIRMATION AT THE CATHEDRAL:** Please pray for our 15 youth who will receive the Sacrament of confirmation on 28<sup>th</sup> May – Pentecost Day - at 3pm in the Cathedral.



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>  
 Paula Wild from the 'Caring for Creation' team will be starting her Big Lent Walk on Ash Wednesday.

### Emmaus Groups

Small groups of parishioners meet to read and discuss either the readings for the following Sunday or one of the books of the Bible. It is a great way to prepare for Sunday Mass as we try to discover what God is saying to each of us. No expert Biblical knowledge is needed. The meetings are held on the following days/times:  
**Saturday afternoons at 4.30pm** (monthly, at the church), **Wednesday mornings at 10.30am** (weekly, at the church),  
**Monday evenings at 7.00pm** (fortnightly, on Zoom) and **Thursday mornings** (by arrangement, on Zoom).  
 For further information, please contact Richard Kennedy vis e-mail at [rk1500@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rk1500@hotmail.co.uk) or on 07484 807151.



### "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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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."

### Watch RISE Theatre's new play about

#### Marie Madeleine d'Houët

St Joseph's Catholic Church in Tilehurst are delighted to welcome RISE Theatre, a professional Christian theatre company, who will be performing their original play 'Faithful Companions' in St Joseph's church hall on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 2:30pm and 7:30pm. 'Faithful Companions' explores the inspirational true story of Marie Madeleine d'Houët, foundress of an international Society of Catholic sisters called the Faithful Companions of Jesus ([www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org)).

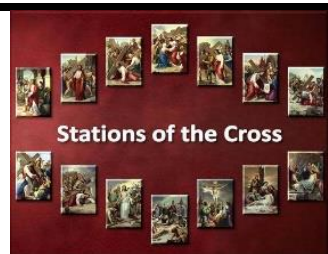
A story of faith, love, loss, discernment, vocation, social justice and missionary zeal.

Come and experience this exciting new play for yourself, performed with energy and passion by the RISE Theatre team.

For tickets please visit [www.ticketsource.co.uk/risetheatre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/risetheatre)  
 Performance lasts approximately 75 minutes and is suitable for adults and children 11+.

### LENT & EASTER 2023 AT ENGLISH MARTYRS

Day	Date	Time	Service
Ash Wednesday	22 <sup>nd</sup> February	6:30 am	Mass & Ashes
		9:30 am 7 pm	Mass & Ashes Mass & Ashes
Fridays	24 <sup>th</sup> February weekly till	9 am	Stations of Cross then 9:30 Mass
		10 am - 6 pm 7 pm	Adoration & Holy Hour Stations of Cross
Saturday	31 <sup>st</sup> March 1 <sup>st</sup> April	9.45am	Lenten Service of Reconciliation
Palm Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> April	6pm Sat 9 am	Palm Blessing & Procession
		11:30 am 5 pm	before all Masses from the back of the hall
Maundy Thursday	6 <sup>th</sup> April	7:30 pm TBC	Mass including Washing of Feet
		till Midnight TBC	Veneration at Place of Repose
Good Friday	7 <sup>th</sup> April	9:30 am	Public Stations of Cross in Church grounds
		3 pm	Celebration of Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday Easter Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup> April 9 <sup>th</sup> April	8:30 pm	Easter Vigil
		9 am 11:30 am 5 pm	Easter Masses



**FRIDAYS AT  
 9.00am and 7.00pm**

**ON FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY: -  
 7.00pm STATIONS WILL BE LED BY:  
 Lourdes Volunteers.  
 ORGANISERS: Gerard Rocks  
 Judith Crimmins & Roz Doctor.**

**25**  
FEB

LENT  
**CRUSADERS**

**10**  
AM

YOUTH GROUP OLOP  
AGES 11 – 25 ARE WELCOME



BEHOLD ME AT YOUR MOST HOLY FEET, O DEAR JESUS. TO MANIFEST TO YOU MY GRATITUDE FOR THE CONTINUAL FAVORS WHICH YOU HAVE BESTOWED UPON ME

LENT  
**CRUSADERS**

INTRODUCING OUR LENT CATECHESIS FOR YOUTH

**DIRECTED TO:**  
YOUTH AGED 11 – 25 ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US

**DATES AND TIMES:**  
AT 10 AM – 11.30 AM ON THE FOLLOWING DATES  
25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL

**LOCATION:**  
OUR LADY OF PEACE & BL DOMINIC BARBERI PARISH  
338 WOKINGHAM ROAD  
EARLEY, READING  
RG6 7DA

**TOPICS:**  
SHORT CATECHISM FOR YOUTH FOCUSING ON THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST REFLECTING ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY – TEMPTATIONS  
11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH – FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY  
25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH – ABORTION AND LOVE  
1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL – CHILDREN'S CHOICE

**OUR LADY OF PEACE - EARLEY**

**OUR LADY OF PEACE - EARLEY**

**God awakening us**   
LENT 2023

Saturday 11th March: God uniting us  
Saturday 18th March: God crying out to us  
Saturday 25th March: God listening to us  
Saturday 1st April: This is our God

Fr. Chris and the Carmelite Community invite you to join us for a series of Lenten reflections. Journeying through the themes of the Gospel to discover a God that calls us, listens to us, and desires us to be awakened this Lent.

Beginning at 11am till 12 noon at St. James',  
with tea and coffee from 10:45am.




**LENT TALKS AT ST JOSEPH'S, TILEHURST**

Lent Talks after 10 am Mass (around 10.45 am) in the large hall on Saturdays during Lent. There will be a different topic every week:

First topic: "The Holy Spirit . . . . . the most neglected person of the Holy Trinity". This is not a sharing or discussion group, but a powerful talk and catechesis for those who wish to gain knowledge and understanding about the power of the Holy Spirit.


**CAFOD Lenten Appeal**

The Lent Family Fast Day is on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. The envelopes for CAFOD's Lenten collection will be distributed at all Masses next weekend, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February. Please return them with your donations for the second collection at the Masses on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> March. Information will be provided next weekend on how it will be possible to make donations to CAFOD online.

Monies raised from the Fast Day Lenten appeal go to CAFOD's general funds for use in CAFOD's long term development projects and its emergency work. This ensures that CAFOD has significant financial resources that can be used quickly where CAFOD sees the greatest needs. Whatever you can donate will help CAFOD reach more families with urgent assistance. Please continue to pray for our sisters and brothers in Ukraine, Turkey and Syria where CAFOD's local experts are now active in helping to reduce suffering.

**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](#)

 **Rest In Peace**

- Please pray for the repose of the souls of Antoinette Rosario RIP, Patrick McGinty RIP, Eileen Wallace RIP and Maria Monteiro RIP.

**NEEDED COUNTERS**

To count the weekly collection once every six weeks approximately. Please contact the Parish Office if you can assist

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

**Registered Charity No. 1199568**

Parish website: [www.englishmartyrsrdg.com](http://www.englishmartyrsrdg.com)

Livestream link on You Tube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCulqb5ncxASpguMmd\\_0MNtA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCulqb5ncxASpguMmd_0MNtA)

Parish Priest: Fr. Gaston Forbah [gforbah@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:gforbah@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)  
 Assistant Priest: Fr. Andrew Wagstaff [awagstaff@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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

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 Blessed Hugh Faringdon  
 Fawley Road, Reading RG30 3EP  
 Head: Dr Simon Uttley  
 0118 957 4730

**MASS TIMES Week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> FEB:**

Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm  
 Monday to Friday at 9.30am  
 Ash Wednesday at 6.30am, 9.30am & 7.00pm  
 Saturday at 10.00am  
 Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil)

**Week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

**MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023.**

**7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Stephen McCreight RIP
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Bridie O’Gorman RIP
	5.00pm	Eugene Carolan RIP
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Thecla Walsh RIP
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	Deceased members of English Martyrs Parish RIP
	12.15am	Requiem of Maria Monteiro RIP
Ash Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> <i>Beginning of season of Lent</i>	6.30am	People of the Parish
	9.30am	Frank McDermott RIP
	7.00pm	Richard Davis RIP and the Davis family.
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	Baptista Roque Dias RIP
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Mary Gerrity RIP
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Valencia Victoria De Araujo, Thanksgiving

**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Annie Murphy RIP
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Jim McAuliffe RIP
	5.00pm	Deceased members of the Barrett & Commins families RIP