

English Martyrs' Newsletter

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

26th 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.

Eucharistic Adoration

In our Gospel reading this Sunday (Matthew 4:1-11) we see Jesus countering the devil's temptations using the words of Scripture. Jesus' first words in the wilderness are from Deuteronomy 8:3: "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." Jesus' last words to the devil are from Deuteronomy 6:3: "You must worship the Lord your God and serve him alone."

The link between the word proceeding from the mouth of God and the worship due to God alone was drawn out by Bishop Robert Barron in a memorable address he gave to the Adoremus Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool in 2018. Taking up a remark of Pope Benedict XVI, Bishop Barron explained that the root of the word "adoration" is from the Latin *adoro*: literally to "speak to" a deity, "mouth-to-mouth" as it were. He said: "When we adore, we are mouth-to-mouth with God, aligned to God, ordered to God ... The master theme of the entire Bible is adoration ... when we adore the Lord we become rightly ordered on the inside and peace tends to break out around us."

In context, of course, Bishop Barron had particularly in mind Eucharistic adoration, which was the focus of the congress, and from which it derived its name: Adoremus, "let us adore". Regular, fortnightly, Eucharistic adoration is one of the six holy habits picked out for us by the Bishop in his recent pastoral letters, and a practice that we here at English Martyrs have already embraced. Every Friday there is the opportunity for Eucharistic adoration all day following the 9:30am Mass until 6pm, with a praise and worship Holy Hour from 5pm. In addition, during Lent, we have half an hour of Eucharistic adoration before every Mass, with Rosary together before Sunday Mass.

Adoration doesn't have to be doing anything in particular, so much as allowing ourselves to be in the presence of the Lord. It is being rather than doing. Bishop Barron characterised adoration as "wasting time with God, sitting uselessly with the Lord", but he made clear that he meant this as high praise – as Romano Guardini wrote: "To be at play, or to fashion a work of art in God's sight – not to create, but to exist – such is the essence of the liturgy ... The liturgy has laid down the serious rules of the sacred game which the soul plays before God ... The soul must learn to abandon, at least in prayer, the restlessness of purposeful activity; it must learn to waste time for the sake of God ..."

Fr. Andrew

Sanctuary Hosting

The plight of individuals who have arrived in the UK having fled conflict in Syria, Afghanistan and Ukraine in recent years has highlighted the challenges facing asylum-seekers and refugees in our communities. There are many asylum-seekers from other parts of the world who are being accommodated in hotels while their asylum claims are considered, and who find themselves evicted from the hotels once their claim is decided.

Sanctuary Hosting matches refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable migrants who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness - its "guests" - with people who have a big heart and a spare room - "hosts". It offers training and ongoing support to hosts through its volunteer support workers. It ensures that guests are on a path to living independently, so that there is a "move on" plan. Hosts determine the length of stay for guests:

If you would like to **learn more about Sanctuary Hosting and hear from a host and a guest**, please join us on **Wednesday 15th March, 6.30 – 8.00 pm at Reading Quaker Meeting House**. This is a 'no commitment' evening. All are welcome!

We will be sharing a light meal of soup and rolls together. Please email refugees@ccow.org.uk to let us know that you intend to come.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal

This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquakes in Syria and Turkey. Please return the envelopes provided with your donations for the second collection next weekend. Or, you can give online at cafod.org.uk/give or as directed on the back of the envelope. CAFOD is extremely grateful for whatever you can donate, being a lifeline to someone in urgent need. Please continue to pray for our sisters and brothers in Ukraine, Turkey and Syria where CAFOD's local experts are active in helping to reduce suffering.

DIOCESAN VACANCIES

**Head of Andover Food Bank –
Part time role in Andover
Parish Administrator –
Part time role based in Tadley.**

Full details on Colonnade Noticeboard or from Parish Office.

On behalf of the Nigerian Catholic Community in the Diocese of Portsmouth (NCCDP), Fr. Daniel Msugh-Agber, Chaplain of NCCPD and Parish Priest of Christ the King Catholic Church, would like to invite you to a Mass for all Nigerians and their friends in the Reading, Wokingham, Finchampstead, Bracknell, Basingstoke, Farnborough areas.

This event will mark the second of the bi-monthly Masses in the area. The special Mass will take place on **Sunday 12th March at 12 noon in Christ the King Church, 408 Northumberland Avenue, Whitley Reading, RG2 8NR.**

Please bring a plate of food to share with others for the refreshments afterwards. All are welcome to join this vibrant celebration of the Eucharist. Please contact the parish office on **0118 9756954** for information.

Thank you very much for your anticipated positive response.

Fr. Daniel Agber and the Planning Committee NCCPD


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:

Second topic (4th March): "Why is the concept of Christianity not working to attract people in today's world and why are people abandoning their faith?" 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

UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

The Universe Catholic Weekly Newspaper

Is true to its mission of being "a light to guide the world, and a mirror to reflect it" Keeping Catholics informed about their faith and bringing them ever closer to God. In order to keep our high standard going and maintain a strong weekly Catholic voice at a time when it is much needed in the world, please consider taking out a subscription. We have an excellent website full of trustworthy articles and an online shop with all subscribers receiving a 10% discount.

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We invite you to submit articles/news and celebrations about your local parish activities

Below is the link to the latest edition of the Universe Catholic Weekly:-

<https://universecatholicweekly.co.uk/universe-weekly-newsletters/february-2023/UNIVERSE-17-FEB-2023.pdf>

LENT & EASTER 2023 AT ENGLISH MARTYRS

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

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 26th FEB:

Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm

Monday to Thursday at 9.30am

Friday at 6.30am and 9.30am

Saturday at 10.00am

Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil for Sunday)

Week commencing 26th FEB:

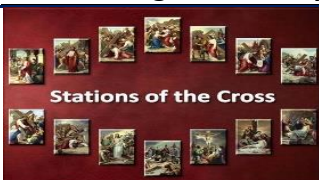
Confessions will be celebrated as follows:

Sunday 30 mins before 9.00am & 11.30am Masses and at 4.30pm.

Mon to Fri: 15 mins before Mass.

Saturday after 10.00am mass and at 5.30pm

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.



Stations of the Cross

**FRIDAYS AT
9.00am and 7.00pm**

ON FRIDAY 3rd MARCH: -

**7.00pm STATIONS WILL BE LED BY:
S.V.P.**

ORGANISER: Theresa Rodrigues

DURING LENT

There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for 30 minutes before every Mass.

Additionally on Saturday 6.00pm and Sunday 9.00am, 11.30am and 5.00pm: The rosary will be said during this time.

Fridays: There will be an additional 6.30am Mass

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 25th February to Sunday 5th March 2023*First Sunday of Lent (Yr. A)*

Saturday 25 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Annie Murphy RIP
Sunday 26 th	9.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Jim McAuliffe RIP
	5.00pm	Deceased members of the Barrett & Commins families RIP
Monday 27 th	9.30am	Holy Souls in the Intentions of the Petitioner
Tuesday 28 th	9.30am	Frank Lennon RIP
Wednesday 1 st March <i>St David's Day</i>	9.30am	Dickson & Roseline Fernandes Thanksgiving.
Thursday 2 nd	9.30am	Matthew Joseph Thanksgiving
Friday 3 rd	6.30am	George Family Intentions
	9.30am	Ann Kenny RIP
Saturday 4 th	10.00am	In Thanksgiving

Second Sunday of Lent

Saturday 4 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Antoinette Rosario RIP
Sunday 5 th	9.00am	Eugene Carolan RIP
	11.30am	Marian Hickey RIP
	5.00pm	Parents, family and friends of Jennifer Hickey, (both living and deceased)

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND: - A warm welcome to William McBride, Edward Stewart and Theodore Maher who are all receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this Saturday 25th February.

Collection Monies – January 2023

Direct Debits	£ 1,950
Standing Orders/Direct Payments	£ 3,613
Online/Electronic Giving	£ 420
Weekly Cash collection (5 weeks)	£ 4,357
Total	£ 10,340

The parish thanks you for your generosity