

English Martyrs' Newsletter

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5th 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.

YOU ARE SALT OF THE EARTH

Dear friends, on this racial justice Sunday, there is no better reminder that the gospel can give us than that we are salt of the earth. Yes, we are meant to make a positive difference by fighting against injustice in any form. One form of injustice which we are invited today to fight against is injustice that has racial undertones. We must always bear in mind that we are all children of God, equal in dignity and deserving of respect and fair treatment irrespective of our physical appearance, our culture and history. To do this well, it is important to reflect a bit on what Jesus means when he refers to us, his disciples, as salt of the earth.

Jesus, during His memorable Sermon on the Mount, declared that believers were the "salt of the earth" and advised that it was possible for them to lose their flavour. If believers lost their "flavour," they would be of no benefit to others.

Salt is an amazing seasoning that adds flavour to food. Just like salt, we are not made to simply be the star and centre of attention. We are not made only for ourselves. Instead, it is our Christian duty to enter our world and add to it, helping to transform it into a world of grace and mercy, full of the "flavour" of God's Kingdom. This is done, especially, by the building up of relationships. It's done by striving to touch one person at a time to enhance their lives and help them to be closer to Christ. The love of God that we bring into our world, and into the lives of those whom we encounter, can be seen analogously as salt entering food and enhancing it.

So, let us commit ourselves to being the salt of the Earth so that this world of ours will be a better place, filled with the flavour of the Kingdom of God.

Fr. Gaston

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



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.

On **Thursday 9 February** at 7pm we are having a multi-cuisine buffet (Indian / Chinese) at Spice Oven, Caversham. Price is £10 per person.

If you would like further information about this event 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.



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.

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

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/signthepetitionorishi>

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



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>

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 18th 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). 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 - visit www.risetheatre.co.uk/faithfulcompanions to watch the trailer.

"A superb new play by RISE Theatre celebrating the remarkable life of the foundress of the FCJ sisters, Marie Madeleine [d'Houët]" Conference of Religious.

For tickets please visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/risetheatre

Performance lasts approximately 75 minutes and is suitable for adults and children 11+



A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages

Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work.

For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on **24th – 26th February**, or a Virtual weekend on **6th – 9th July**, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

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 5th FEB:

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

Week commencing 5th 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 4th to Sunday 12th February 2023.

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 <i>Live Streamed</i>	Benjamin Massaquoi RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish
Monday 6 th	9.30am	Private Intention
	12.00pm	Requiem Mass for Olga Palamartschuk RIP
Tuesday 7 th	10.00am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Requiem Mass for John McCarron RIP
Wednesday 8 th	9.30am	Michael Cashin RIP
Thursday 9 th	9.30am	William Walsh RIP
Friday 10 th	9.30am	Sydney Burrett RIP
Saturday 11 th	10.00am	Michael Connors RIP

6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 11 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Eugene Herbert RIP
Sunday 12 th	9.00am	Sam McCarthy RIP
	11.30am	Eugenia Forero RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish