

English Martyrs' Newsletter

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

12th MARCH 2023

Water of Life

The image of the well of water in today's Gospel inevitably calls to mind the Sacrament of Baptism; as we hear Jesus offer the Samaritan woman "living water", we are each reminded of the new life in Christ we have received at our own Baptism. "The water that I shall give", says Jesus, "will become in him [or her] a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:14 cf 7:38). "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3) will be our song as we gather on Easter Night to bless the baptismal font and to celebrate the Eucharist.

If we take a second look at the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman, we can see that the Eucharist is also foreshadowed in Jesus' words. In order for the water of life to become a "spring ... welling up to eternal life" we must first "drink this water". As with the Bread of Life discourse (John 6:51), Jesus gives us life by allowing us to consume Him.

The Church uses the language of drawing and drinking from the well when she discusses the Eucharist: "The Church draws her life from Christ in the Eucharist ... the very wellspring of grace" (St John Paul II, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, 2003). The worship of the Father "in spirit and truth" of which Jesus speaks (John 4:24) will go beyond any sacrificial worship yet known to Jews or Samaritans (John 4:21). This worship is fulfilled in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, "the acceptable offering of the nations, sanctified by the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:16, cf Malachi 1:11), in which we are called to unite ourselves "as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." (Romans 12:1).

Our Gospel this Sunday turns to mission, as Jesus calls workers to the harvest (John 4:35) and many come to believe in Him (John 4:39). Let us witness to the centrality and vitality of the Eucharist by renewing our resolve to put Sunday Mass at the head of our week, and so to put Christ at the centre of our lives! Let us who have shared in Holy Communion devote ourselves to working together in mission; and may we who have found the living water invite others to share the wellspring.

Fr.Andrew

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. 2nd Collection this week for Clergy Assistance Fund.
- b. Altar Servers Rota for Easter Triduum is in the Sacristy. Check to see which ceremony you will be serving at.
- c. Altar Servers Lenten Formation will take place on Friday March 24th from 6pm to 6:45pm in church. All Altar Servers are requested to be present for this, as useful aspects will be addressed regarding serving, and their spiritual growth.
- d. Altar Servers Practice for Easter Triduum Ceremonies
Holy Thursday: Saturday April 1st at 7p.m and Wednesday April 5th at 6p.m
Good Friday: Saturday March 11th at 7p.m and Saturday March 18th at 7p.m
Easter Vigil: Saturday March 25th at 7p.m and Friday March 31st at 6p.m.
- e. BISHOP PHILIP INVITES YOU TO JOIN HIM at 7.30 pm next Thursday 16th March for his last online Lent Reflection. Lasting approx..40 minutes they cover the topics of faith, hope and charity. You can sign-up on the Diocesan website: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk> (See front page 'Latest News').

Reading Parishes Big Lent Walk for CAFOD.

Saturday 18th March at 10.30.

Start/Finish at Kings Meadow car park, RG1 8BN. The walk is to Sonning and back and will last approx. 3 hours. This will include refreshments and a picnic.

The aim is to have fun, make new friends and raise funds to help the world's poorest and marginalized people. Please come and make a difference.

For more information and any online donation that you may wish to make, please visit:

<https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/damian-porter>

Retrouvaille

Marriage Enrichment Weekend

9-11th June 2023

Verbum Dei Retreat centre

Isle of Wight
uk.verbumdei.org



ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Has a vacancy for a "Lunchtime Controller"
1-hour 30mins per day – Term time only.

For further information email:

sbm@englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk

or pick up an application form at the school.

A school reunion is being planned and will be held on Saturday 10th June 2023 From 6:30 to midnight. It will be for former pupils who attended the following Reading schools up to 1975; St Annes RC Primary, St James RC Primary, English Martyrs RC Primary, Hugh Faringdon SEC Modern and St Joseph's Convent, The venue will be St Annes School Hall, Washington Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 5AA. Entry will be by ticket only, priced at £15. This will include a buffet (so please notify us of any food allergies you may have). There will also be a bar. Some parking will be available at St Annes Church car park. For more information contact: Gabriele Scicluna - Tel 07778 340 444 or e-mail: gabrielescicluna@hotmail.co.uk or Ron Tyler - Tel 07845 162 497.

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



Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Tony Flaherty who died recently, and Michael Power whose funeral is here at English Martyrs on Tuesday 14th March.

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

We are delighted that this camp will be going 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)

LENT & EASTER 2023 AT ENGLISH MARTYRS

Day	Date	Time	Service
Ash Wednesday	22 nd February	6:30am 9:30 am, 7pm	Mass & Ashes
Fridays	24 th February weekly till 31 st March	9 am 10 am - 6 pm 7 pm	Stations of the Cross then 9:30 Mass Adoration & Holy Hour Stations of the Cross
Saturday	1 st April	9.45am	Lenten Penitential Service
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	after Mass until midnight 11.45pm	Mass including Washing of Feet Veneration at Place of Repose Night Prayer
Good Friday	7 th April	9:30 am 3 pm	Public Stations of the Cross in Church grounds Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday	8 th April	8:30 pm	Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday	9 th April	9 am 11:30 am 5 pm	Easter Masses



"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 March at 2.30pm. Please tell all your friends and if you are able to 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."

Café Théologique: From Black Power to Black Lives Matter: The Ongoing Trajectory of Black Liberation Theology

Monday 13th March, 7.30-9pm, Zerodegrees Bar, Bridge Street.

Café Théologique is delighted to welcome **Professor Anthony Reddie**, Director of the Oxford Centre for Religion and Culture at Regent's Park College, University of Oxford, to explore the ongoing issues of liberation and Black theology. Professor Reddie is editor of the academic journal *Black Theology* and is one of the recipients of the 2020 Lanfranc Award delivered by the Archbishop of Canterbury to recognise his 'exceptional and sustained contribution to Black theology in Britain and beyond'.

Café Théologique is hosted by the University of Reading Chaplaincy and is a space to explore contemporary issues from a theological perspective. All are welcome. Events are free to attend without booking. Guests are welcome to join us for food at the venue from 6pm.

This event will be in-person and online.
Zoom joining details: u.nu/cafetheo Meeting ID: 994 1078 8443 Passcode: 511541

Facebook Event link: <https://fb.me/e/3WrPMbbDb>

Catherine and Simon Harrington would like to thank everyone at English Martyrs for their support with our recent move to pastures new in Hull. We were overwhelmed by the love and kindness from everyone. The lovely picture of English Martyrs and the Baptism Font, presented to us, is now up in our front hall and we keep you all in our prayers

**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

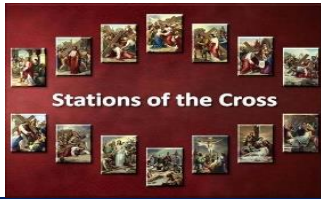
Schools: English Martyrs Catholic Primary
 Dee Road, Reading RG30 4BE
 Head: Mrs Doberska
 0118 937 5466
<https://www.englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk/home>

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

MASS TIMES Week commencing 12th MAR:
 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 Mass for Sunday)

Week commencing 12th MAR:
 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

EUCHARISTIC 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.



**FRIDAYS AT
9.00am and 7.00pm**

**ON FRIDAY 17th MARCH: -
7.00pm STATIONS WILL BE LED BY:
FILIPINO COMMUNITY.
ORGANISER: Sen Buhay.**

DURING LENT

There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for 30 minutes before every Mass.
Additionally on Saturday at 6.00pm and Sunday at 9.00am, 11.30am and 5.00pm Masses, the rosary will be said during this time.
On Fridays, there will be an additional Mass at 6.30am.

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 11th to Sunday 19th March 2023

Third Sunday of Lent (Yr. A)

Saturday 11 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Anna Sebastian RIP
Sunday 12 th	9.00am	Glenda Parnell
	11.30am	Kay Rodgers RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish
Monday 13 th	9.30am	Erica Bartley RIP
Tuesday 14 th	9.30am	Kathleen Brown RIP
	1.45pm	Requiem for Michael Power RIP
Wednesday 15 th	9.30am	Regson do Rego Thanksgiving
Thursday 16 th	9.30am	Rita Jacob RIP
Friday 17 th ** <i>Feast of St. Patrick</i>	6.30am	Martin Ward RIP
	9.30am	Vito Francis Araujo RIP
Saturday 18 th	10.00am	Eneas, Tom, Steven, Bridie and Evelyn Kelly RIP

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Saturday 18 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Peter Maria Lobo RIP
Sunday 19 th	9.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	João Rodrigues RIP
	5.00pm	Tommy Donohue RIP

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND: - A warm welcome to Islah & Ellah Bloomfield, Rory Finch and Raphael Dabronski who are receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this Saturday 11th March.

**** Coffee morning after 9.30am Mass on St Patricks Day**