

English Martyrs' Newsletter

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

19th MARCH 2023

Lætare Sunday / Mothering Sunday

MOTHERHOOD AS A PATH TO SAINTHOOD

Saints throughout the ages have lived lives of heroic virtue in every imaginable context, as martyrs, missionaries, and mystics; doctors, lawyers, and teachers; workers, cloistered contemplatives, and itinerant beggars. There are also plenty of canonized saints who were married, at least for some part of their life, and many of them were mothers and fathers.

The married Saints lived the ordinary realities that most Catholic parents spend years of their lives immersed in: diaper changing, night-time wakings, juggling schedules, and attempting to form children in the faith, while still contributing to put food on the table or pay bills in some cases.

It is important to highlight the fact that the Catholic mother of small children has to believe that she is called to sanctity in the here and now of her labour for her children and household. She has to believe that the daily tasks she performs in her home can be as much for the glory of God as those of a priest or missionary.

Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, wrote: *"Women's bodies, heavy with children, dragged down by children, are a weight like a cross to be carried about. From morning until night, they are preoccupied with cares, but it is care for others, for the duties God has given them . . . The point I want to make is that a woman can achieve the highest spirituality and union with God through her house and children."*

No one will know if a mother does the dishes with her heart raised to God in gratitude, or if she patiently reads to her child who wants to hear the same story over and over again, or if she deals gently with the rebellious teenager. No one will know if she responds with sweetness or bitterness to the inevitable disruptions and perturbations of family life that are decided in a split second's movement of the heart, but she will know, and she makes her choice, and it is upon these innumerable hidden habits and choices that her growth in holiness hangs.

May God bless all mothers and all those who have not been able to have a child of their own, but who still show motherly care to any other child. May all of their heart's desires be granted and may joy fill their hearts as we recognize their efforts today, Mothering Sunday.

By Allison Ciraulo (2023) Church Life Journal, Notre Dame

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Altar Servers Rota for Easter Triduum is in the Sacristy. Check to see which ceremony you are serving at.
- b. 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.
- c. Altar Servers Practice for Easter Triduum Ceremonies.
Holy Thursday: Saturday April 1st at 7p.m and Wednesday April 5th at 6pm
Good Friday: Saturday March 11th at 7p.m and Saturday March 18th at 7pm
Easter Vigil: Saturday March 25th at 7p.m and Friday March 31st at 6pm.
- d. This year's Chrism Mass will be on Tuesday 4th April 2023 at 11am in the Cathedral.
- e. You are encouraged to arrive at Mass 30 minutes early in order to pray the rosary before the Blessed Sacrament.

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

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 time. 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).

To find out more please email

dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

The SVP urgently need volunteer drivers (male or female) for Food Centre deliveries in the Reading area.

Can you spare a few hours a week for a very worthwhile cause? A car, estate or small van would be needed. Membership of the SVP is not necessary. For more details please contact Jack Ewins, President SVP Portsmouth Central Council. Mob 07734 499190. Email jackewins9@gmail.com

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 <i>weekly till</i> 31 st March	9 am	Stations of the Cross then 9:30 Mass
		10 am - 6 pm	Adoration & Holy Hour
		7 pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday	1 st April	9.45am	Lenten Penitential Service
Palm Sunday	2 nd April	6pm Sat	Palm Blessing & Procession
		9 am	before all Masses
		11:30 am 5 pm	from the back of the hall.
Maundy Thursday	6 th April	7:30 pm	Mass including Washing of Feet
		after Mass until midnight 11.45pm	Veneration at Place of Repose Night Prayer
Good Friday	7 th April	9:30 am	Public Stations of the Cross in Church grounds
		3 pm	Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday	8 th April	8:30 pm	Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday	9 th April	9 am	Easter Masses
		11:30 am 5 pm	



"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 there."

LENT TALKS AT ST JOSEPH'S, TILEHURST

Lent Talks after 10 am Mass (around 10.45 am) in the large hall on Saturdays.

Fourth topic on 25th March: "Why is the Eucharist so boring for many? Why don't we value our catholic celebration and worship?"

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES,

Monday 17th July to Friday 21st July.

Travel as a pilgrim or as a youth helper, serving our pilgrims and helping to make our pilgrimage a success.

For more information please email:

lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

SJOG Homes for Ukraine is an [official provider of this government scheme](#). It is a matching, training and support pathway for guests from Ukraine and hosts in the UK willing to provide much-needed support.

Our programme is run collaboratively by Saint John of God Hospitaller Services (SJOG) and [Caritas Social Action Network \(CSAN\)](#) and some of our team have come to the UK as part of the Scheme and bring first-hand experience of the process.

At SJOG Homes for Ukraine, we provide online training for hosts and guests, transfer from the Polish-Ukrainian border, a welcome box for Ukrainian guests upon arrival, a multilingual team to support the needs of both parties, and thoroughly developed resources for both hosts and guests to help navigate the process. Additionally, we ensure support from local communities to make the experience as seamless and fulfilling as possible.

I am writing to let you know that we will be holding a webinar for UK residents interested in hosting a Ukrainian guest or family under the Homes for Ukraine scheme on **Wednesday, March 29, at 7 pm**.

You can find more details about the event here: <https://fb.me/e/N9EtGqhe>

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

Online talk on the Holy Eucharist: Wednesday 22nd March at 7 pm

Fr Adrian Graffy, a parish priest and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, will speak about the Eucharist. Fr Adrian, a noted Biblical Scholar, will examine the New Testament material and trace the understanding of the Eucharist through the centuries, including the latest teaching of Pope Francis.

The talk will assist parishes as they prepare to reintroduce Holy Communion under both Kinds. It will be particularly relevant to Special Ministers, to Catechists and to parents of Holy Communion children. You can follow the live streamed talk at 7 pm on 22nd March or watch the recording - both at www.whatgoodnews.org (where there are also many other interesting topics recorded.).

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 19th 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 19th MAR:

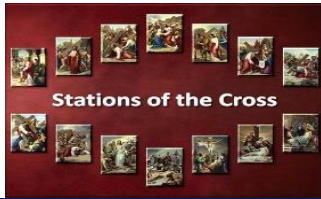
Confessions will be celebrated as follows:

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

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.



**FRIDAYS AT
9.00am and 7.00pm**

**ON FRIDAY 24th MARCH: -
7.00pm STATIONS WILL BE LED BY:
ELEVATE YOUTH GROUP.
ORGANISER: SHARON ANTHONY.**

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 18th to Sunday 26th March 2023

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Yr. A)

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
Monday 20 th	9.30am	Anne Tudor RIP
Tuesday 21 st	9.30am	Patrick Madden RIP
Wednesday 22 nd	9.30am	Derek Taplin RIP
Thursday 23 rd	9.30am	Kay Krauze RIP
Friday 24 th	6.30am	Anne-Marie Roberts RIP
	9.30am	Maria Piedad Fernandes RIP
Saturday 25 th	10.00am	Holy Souls in the Intentions of the Petitioner RIP

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Saturday 25 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Caridade Sebastian Lobo RIP
Sunday 26 th	9.00am	Reginald Cecil Powys Lybbe RIP
	11.30am	Harry Mullin RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND: - A warm welcome to Raphael Dabronski Finch who is receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this Saturday 18th March 2023.

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.