

English Martyrs' Newsletter

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

5th MARCH 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.

THE CORE OF LENT: ASKING WHERE OUR HEARTS ARE DIRECTED

We are now embarking on our Lenten journey, which opens with the words of the Prophet Joel. They point out the path we are to follow. We hear an invitation that arises from the heart of God, who with open arms and longing eyes pleads with us: "return to me with all your heart" (Joel 2:12). Return to me.

Lent is a journey of return to God. "How many times, in our activity or indifference, have we told him: Lord, I will come to you later, just wait a little... I can't come today, but tomorrow I will begin to pray and do something for others." We do this, time and time again. Right now, however, God is speaking to our hearts. In this life, we will always have things to do and excuses to offer, but right now, brothers and sisters, right now is the time to return to God. This is the core of Lent: asking where our hearts are directed.

Return to me, he says, with all your heart. Lent is a journey that involves our whole life, our entire being. It is a time to reconsider the path we are taking, to find the route that leads us home and to rediscover our profound relationship with God, on whom everything depends. Lent is not just about the little sacrifices we make, but about discerning where our hearts are directed. This is the core of lent: asking who our hearts are directed.

Let us ask: where is my life's navigation system taking me -toward God or toward myself? Do I live to please the Lord, or to be noticed, praised, put at the head of line...? Do I have a "wobbly" heart, which takes a step forward and then one backwards? Do I love the Lord a bit and the world a bit, or is my heart steadfast in God? Am I content with my hypocrisies, or do I work to free my heart from the duplicity and falsehood that tie it down?

Pope Francis.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BISHOP PHILIP INVITES YOU TO JOIN HIM FOR A LENT REFLECTION At 7.30 pm next Thursday 9th March. You can sign-up on the Diocesan website: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk>

DIOCESAN LITURGY PROJECT

The Liturgy Project is a project of The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth which is available for all of us. It exists to help us encounter Christ through the liturgy of the Holy Mass. It is a place to look up the readings for the Mass, read reflections to help you gain further insight and find answers to questions. The Liturgy Project hopes to serve you as a liturgical resource and respond to the needs as it empowers us to fully participate in the liturgy where they are. **Want to know more? Check out** <https://www.theliturgyproject.com/>

THIRD LENT TALK AT ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, TILEHURST on Saturday 11th March, around 10:45am after 10am Mass. Topic: "The battle belongs to the Lord, but you are the soldier: Don't get spiritually depressed". Come and be nourished.

LITURGY COMMITTEE meeting in preparation for Easter:

This will be held on Tuesday 7th March in the Hall at 7p.m. Involves all coordinators of groups that have any role to play at the Holy Week ceremonies and the SLT.

YEAR 8 STUDENTS OF BLESSED HUGH FARRINGDON SCHOOL will attend Mass on Thursday 9th March and will do Readings, bidding prayers and offertory.

ALTAR SERVERS PRACTICE for Good Friday next Saturday 11th March after 6p.m Mass. This involves only those who will serve at the Good Friday liturgy.

TEA/COFFEE after 9am and 11:30am Masses

Join us in the Hall after Mass to chat briefly with other parishioners over a cup of Tea/coffee.

To keep up to date with the news of the Diocese and the Bishop please follow us on: Facebook: @PortsmouthRC / LinkedIn: Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth / Twitter: @PortsmouthRC / Diocesan website: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/> If you have news that you want to share with the Diocese, please contact communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Reading Parishes Big Lent Walk for CAFOD.

Saturday 18th March at 10.30.

**Start/Finish at Kings Meadow car park, RG1 8BN.
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 you may wish to make, please visit:
<https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/damian-porter>.**

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 at the second collection this 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.

Retrouvaille

**Marriage Enrichment Weekend
9-11th June 2023
Verbum Dei Retreat centre**

[Isle of Wight
uk.verbumdei.org](http://IsleofWight.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.**

Volunteer Drivers Wanted in your area



Choosing to volunteer with Sue Ryder helps us support people through the most difficult times of their lives. Whether that's a terminal illness, the loss of a loved one or a neurological condition - with your support we can be there when it matters.

As a Volunteer Driver with Sue Ryder, you'll be helping provide incredible care to people with life-limiting illness and their families and carers. By providing reliable, safe transportation to and from the Sue Ryder care centres you will enable people to access our services such as day therapy and outpatient's visits.

No experience is necessary, and we are looking for both men and women drivers(over 21 only)..

You will need to have a fully insured vehicle with a valid MOT, and a current, clean driving licence.

If you would like to make new friends in a caring and dedicated team, develop your skills and experience in the healthcare sector and make a real difference to people's lives please contact me by;

E-mail: Amanda.dean@suerydercare.org.uk or Tel: 07812 746755

COME AND SEE 'THE LETTER'



Or watch at home: www.theletterfilm.org/watch/

**Sat 11 March,
3pm in the hall**

A wonderful film about four people who meet Pope Francis. They get new hope about the climate crisis – and so can we!

Tea and coffee provided

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 buffet (so please notify us of any allergies to certain foods 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 Email: gabrielescicluna@hotmail.co.uk
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).

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

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:

Third topic on 11th March: "The battle belongs to the Lord, but you are the soldier. Don't get spiritually depressed". 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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michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk

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 7 pm	Mass & Ashes
Fridays	24 th February weekly till	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 till Midnight TBC	Mass including Washing of Feet 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

<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 5th 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 5th MAR:

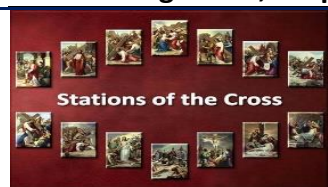
Confessions will be celebrated as follows:

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 10th MARCH: -
7.00pm STATIONS WILL BE LED BY:
NIGHT PRAYER GROUP.
ORGANISER: Mel Noronha**

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 4th to Sunday 12th March 2023

Second Sunday of Lent (Yr. A)

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)
Monday 6 th	9.30am	Holy Souls in the Intentions of the Petitioner RIP
Tuesday 7 th	9.30am	Jim Pickering RIP
Wednesday 8 th	9.30am	Anne Tudor RIP
Thursday 9 th	9.30am	Matthew Joseph Thanksgiving
Friday 10 th	6.30am	Private Intention
	9.30am	Michael Heneghan RIP
Saturday 11 th	10.00am	Andzej Pogorzelski RIP

Third Sunday of Lent

Saturday 11 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Anna Sebastian RIP
Sunday 12 th	9.00am	Glenda Parnell RIP
	11.30am	Kay Rodgers RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND: - A warm welcome to Kasper Muszynski who is receiving the Sacrament of Baptism on Saturday 4th March.

Next weekend: Second Collection on behalf of the Clergy Assistance Fund.