

English Martyrs' Newsletter

28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

15th OCTOBER 2023

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

Retired Priest: Fr Richard Maniak

Secretary: Barbara Poole. Tel: 0118 957 2149

Parish Office: Open Tuesday to Thursday 9.00am to 3.00pm.

Schools: English Martyrs Catholic Primary

Dee Road, Reading RG30 4BE.

Head: Mrs C. Doberska

0118 937 5466

<https://www.englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk/home>

Telephone and e-mail always monitored.

Email: office@englishmartyrsrdg.com

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Yvonne Newman. Contact via parish office.

Blessed Hugh Faringdon

Fawley Road, Reading RG30 3EP

Head: Dr Simon Uttley

0118 957 4730

MASS TIMES Week commencing 15th OCTOBER:

Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm

Monday to Friday at 9.30am

Saturday at 10.00am.

Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)

Week commencing 15th OCTOBER:

Confessions will be celebrated as follows:

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

Monday to Friday: 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.

PUTTING ON THE CLOTHES OF LOYALTY AND LOVE

Many of us have been in a situation where we feel we are just not wearing the right clothes. Perhaps we have dressed too casually compared to those around us or we thought it was hotter than it actually was. The man in the Gospel finds himself in the wrong clothes but his embarrassment is even more severe than what we might have experienced when we found ourselves in a similar situation. This is because, as in many of Jesus' parables, the wedding clothes are more than just clothes.

It would have been an ancient custom for the host to provide garments for the guests invited to royal feasts. The man has committed more than a fashion faux pas, he has made a deliberate choice to not wear what had been freely given to him by the king.

God has promised us "garments of salvation" and "a robe of his righteousness" (Isaiah 61.10) to cover our sin and shame but we must choose to take this gift given to us freely and wear it. He makes his graces available to us through the Sacraments of the Church, but we must choose to live our lives through them. Do we choose the garment of salvation through reconciliation? Do we choose the graces given to us in the Eucharist?

When we believe that we can come to God by our own merit, we behave like the man in the gospel, by wearing nothing but rags whereas we have been offered something so much more noble, the free gift of life through Christ.

Fr. Gaston

PARISH NOTICES



RCIA/Journey in Faith

The group continues to meet in the Bethlehem Chapel on Tuesdays 7.30 – 9 pm. This week, we enjoyed watching an entertaining 5-minute introduction to the Old Testament. Here's the YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l400jhY2DF0>. Next week, Fr Gaston will demonstrate and explain the vestments worn at Mass and other liturgies, and we will begin to explore the Apostles Creed together.



First Holy Communion:

Next weekend, Holy Rosaries will be handed out to all the children on First Holy Communion formation. This will take place at the respective Masses which the children attend. Let us pray that our First Holy Communion Children will grow in their love for prayer and be keen to approach Jesus through His Blessed Mother, Mary.



Senior Youth Group:

Open to all young people aged 11-18 every Sunday (during term time) 6pm-7:15pm. Join other young people growing in their faith. This is also the platform through which our confirmation catechesis runs.



Funerals:

Please pray for the souls of Dennis Lines and Michael McAvoy whose funerals will take place this week. The body of Dennis Lines will be received into church on Tuesday at 4p.m and will spend the night in church in view of the funeral Mass on Wednesday 11a.m. The funeral of Michael McAvoy will take place on Wednesday 18th – reception of body at 5pm and funeral Mass at 5:30p.m.



The Ministries Fair:

- We are all invited to visit the Parish Hall after all of the weekend Masses and discover the different ministries that take place in our Parish. Please, stop by the different tables and have a chat with the group representatives. Ask questions and have a look at the different items on display. Perhaps, you may discover a ministry which you feel God is calling you to take up for the service of the Gospel message within our parish. Let the following words of St Peter inspire and encourage us: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10).



Eucharistic Ministers Meeting:

All Eucharistic Ministers are invited to attend the upcoming meeting on October 28th, 11am to 1:00pm in the Parish Hall. This will be an opportunity to know the other members of this ministry and also discuss relevant aspects.



Annual Baptism Mass:

All those who have had their children baptised in English Martyrs this year are invited to attend an Annual Baptism Mass this coming Saturday, 21st October starting at 10a.m. Please, bring the children in the dress they wore on their baptism day, if possible. There will be light refreshments in the hall after the Mass.



Weekly Parish Email:

Any parishioner who is not yet receiving the weekly parish email please send your email address to the Parish Office. This will also be an opportunity for those who have not yet registered with our Parish Office to do so. We follow strict data protection policy upheld by the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth.



"Parish Afternoon Tea on Thurs 19th October at 2.30pm

There will be another Parish Afternoon Tea for any parishioners who would like to come and join us for a relaxed afternoon with tea, cake and a chat. Please spread the word, and you can bring a friend with you to the Tea if you wish. We can offer transport to anyone who needs it. Please let Stephen Hogg know on 07891 773379. We look forward to seeing you all again."



Rest In Peace

Dennis Lines whose funeral is at 11.00am on Wednesday 18th October. His body will be received into the church at 4.00pm on Tuesday 17th October 2023.

Michael McEvoy whose funeral is on Wednesday 18th October. His body will be received into Church at 5.00pm for a 5.30pm Requiem and removed at 10.15am on Thursday 19th October.

Please keep their families and loved ones in your prayers.

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.

Volunteers needed.

Health & Safety in English Martyrs
We are a large and busy Parish with many activities held in different parts of the buildings and grounds.

Can you help with Health & Safety?

Experience useful but not essential.
We would like to set up a small team.

Have you read the final Ten-Year Mission Plan *You Will Be My Witnesses*?

You Will Be My Witnesses has resulted from two years of research and consultation across the Diocese and beyond. The Plan identifies three main objectives for the Diocese for the next decade which include: to be a Christ-centred Church; to be a missionary community; to be prudent stewards of Christ's Church.

You Will Be My Witnesses is a blueprint for the whole Diocese and details the collective effort required to create a Diocese in better shape, internally healed and renewed, with new faces, young families, more vocations and a harvest from ecclesial movements. Please download your own copy [here](#).

link to this weeks enews [e-News - Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth](#), (portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) You can sign up to receive this regularly if you wish.

There will be a **Second Collection** next weekend for Foreign Missions of the Church.

Welcome to: Elian Crowley Berger; Joe Krish Niroshan Sajith and Dan Darsh Lakhit Sajith, who are each receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend at English Martyrs.

Congratulations to Alex Czop who is making his First Holy Communion at 11.30am Mass this weekend.

The Diocese has requested that we have an additional Mass count at all Masses this weekend.

Jesus - "I am the light of the world"

NIGHT OF LIGHT

Vigil All Saints Celebration



Tuesday 31st October 5.30-7.30pm

English Martyrs Catholic Church

Family Celebration with

Mass + Rosary + Kids Games + Hot Dogs +

Sweets + Sparklers

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 14th to Sunday 22nd October 2023

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 14th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Eileen Drake RIP
Sunday 15th October	9.00am	Martin Rooney RIP and the entire Rooney family and loved ones.
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Thanksgiving for the kidney transplant operation between father and son, Michael & Sam Clarke.
	5.00pm	People of the Parish
Monday 16th	9.30am	Antonio Sebastiao Palha RIP
Tuesday 17th <i>St Ignatius of Antioch, memorial</i>	9.30am	Hughie Kiernan RIP
Wednesday 18th	9.30am	Derek Taplin RIP
<i>St. Luke, Evangelist Feast</i>	11.00am	Requiem Mass for Dennis Lines RIP
	5.30pm	Requiem Mass for Michael McEvoy RIP
Thursday 19th	9.30am	Royd Mendez, Thanksgiving
Friday 20th	9.30am	Archbishop J H King RIP
Saturday 21st	10.00am	Angelo Rinaldi RIP
<i>29th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>		
Saturday 21st <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Baby Elizabeth Coffey RIP and her parents and entire Coffey & Delaney Families
Sunday 22nd	9.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Teresa Brennan RIP
	5.00pm	Norah O'Dowd RIP



Fr Andrew sent us this photograph and message.

“It shows the complete set of the Liturgical Year (the blue volumes on the left of the middle shelf), which were gifted to me by English Martyrs, and which have now arrived at St Colman’s. I have put them in pride of place in the new shelves I have built in the parish priest’s office and look forward to consulting the work for my edification and to assist with preparing homilies..... thanks to the people of English Martyrs for this very useful gift and for the kind and generous collection they raised for me”.