

English Martyrs' Newsletter

33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

19th NOVEMBER 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

DONATE TO OUR PARISH:

Parish Bank Details: A/C Name: CDP Reading English Martyrs. Sort Code: 30 – 93 – 04. Account No. 00885666

You can also use Direct Debit (forms available in colonnade) and the Donate machine in the church.

MASS TIMES Week commencing 19th NOVEMBER:

Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm

Monday to Friday at 9.30am

Saturday at 12.00pm (See Parish Retreat).

Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)

Week commencing 19th NOVEMBER:

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: During Parish Retreat 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.

God has created us to do some Definite Service for Him+

The parable in the gospel gives us four clues of what is meant by a 'talent':

1. It is something given by God to those he knows and trusts.
2. The amount given depends on the person's own natural ability.
3. Risk is needed to see it bear fruit.
4. All fruit is for God's glory.

We need to ask ourselves; what has God given to us? Is what He gives us based on our own merit? And what are the risks we need to take to bring God glory?

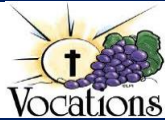
What if we see these 'talents' not as actual talents, gifts or natural abilities (as so often spoken about) but as opportunities. Opportunities given to us by God who knows and trusts us. Opportunities that require risk to see them bear fruit for the glory of God.

These opportunities may come in all shapes and sizes, from the people you meet to opportunities in your work and life. They may seem like a great thing or even an inconvenience. Every moment of our lives has the potential of being an opportunity from God and for his glory. A gift from God to those whom He trusts. A gift given to us so that we can use our own natural abilities to bring about growth that, ultimately, gives God glory. How different each moment of our lives may be!

God has created you to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to you which He has not committed to another. You have your mission. (St John Henry Newman).

The question is – shall we take advantage of each God given opportunity?

Fr. Gaston



“Well done, good and faithful servant....” How are you called to use your talents? If Christ may be inviting you to faithful service as a priest or consecrated religious, contact Cn. John Cooke. vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

→ **PARISH NOTICES** ←



Sunday Readings for: 33rd Ord in Year A

First: Proverbs 31: 10-13.19-20.30-31
 Psalm: 127(128). 1-5.
 Second: 1. Thessalonians 5: 1-6
 Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Christ the King Year A

First: Ezekiel 34: 11-12.15-17
 Psalm: 22(23): 1-6.
 Second: 1. Corinthians 15: 20-26.28
 Gospel: Matthew 25: 31-46

For Sunday readings in other European languages visit: www.virc.at/unit/virc/en/massreadings



RCIA/Journey in Faith

This week, group members continued to reflect on “What we do in the Mass”. We also considered the Church’s focus on the end times as we come towards the end of the year and why we pray for the dead with the help of a short film from Fr Stephen Wang: Death, Judgement and our longing for eternal life.

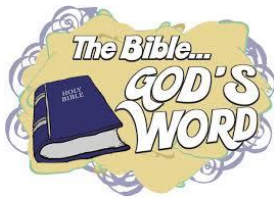
www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvoAt3h9miY&list=PLMrylaEDrsYa7Gk0Ld8i5_IqjB8L5owwT&index=60 . We also discussed this Sunday’s Gospel story of the three different men who were each given large amounts of money to take care of for their master.



Senior Youth Group/Confirmation for 2024: The Reading pastoral area will have a slot for confirmations next year 2024. All parishes in the pastoral area will be preparing candidates in view of this sacrament. In our parish, confirmation preparation takes place in the Senior Youth Group that meets after the 5p.m Mass every Sunday which lasts about an hour & thirty minutes. Please, bring your children whom you want to receive confirmation to this group. Worth noting the group is open to any young person (11-18years) who just wants to deepen their faith.



ELEVATE Junior Youth Group: Next Friday, November 24th from 6pm to 7pm for children aged 7 to 11



Emmaus Groups – How to understand the Bible.

In these groups, we look at the readings for the following weekend or some other part of the Bible to discuss it and try to understand the message God has for each of us – the Bible is the Word of God and He wants us to listen to it.

The meetings this week are:

Monday 20th November at 7.00pm via Zoom. Ask for link from rk1500@hotmail.co.uk

Wednesday 22nd November at 10.30am in Room 2. Everybody is welcome to join.



“Parish Afternoon Tea on Thurs 23rd November 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.”



“Parish Seniors Christmas Party

This year our Parish Seniors Christmas Party will take place at 2pm on Saturday 9th December, in the Parish Hall.

Invitations to the Party will be available at all the Masses on this and next weekend. Please collect your invitation, fill in your name and address, and return it to the Parish Office or any Welcomer by Sunday 3rd December.



Birthday Blessings for November: Next weekend, after the homily, there will be a birthday blessing at all Masses for those celebrating their birthdays during the month of November.



DONA MACHINE RELOCATED FROM HALL TO CHURCH

The Donation machine that was positioned in the Hall has now been moved into the Church so as to give more people access to it. You will find it in the left aisle (facing altar) in the area adjacent to where the Offertory gifts table is positioned. NOTE: This is the only machine currently in use.

DIOCESAN LITURGY WEBSITE

There are great resources for our spiritual growth and fruitful participation in the Sunday liturgies and other Church celebrations in the Diocesan Liturgy Website. Beautiful reflections and commentaries on Sunday readings and lots of other enriching material. Access the website using the this link: www.liturgyproject.com



Posada 2023

It is the time of year again when the Posada will be here at English Martyrs for Advent. If you are interested in housing a small knitted character of a king or shepherd for Advent 2023, can you please give me the following details; Name, e-mail address, contact details, whether you want a king or shepherd and what mass you attend in order to pick your character up. If you are interested, please e-mail or text me on the following contact details: annpatton01@btinternet.com T:07732683312



It is with great regret that we must announce that the Food Bank collection point on behalf of *Dee Caf*, situated in the colonnade, will no longer be taking donations after this weekend. We would like to thank everyone who has made a donation to this very worthy cause, but in view of the amount of pilfering that is now taking place, leaving very few items for *Dee Caf*, there is no point in continuing with this venture at EM.

However, you can still donate items direct to *Dee Caf* at 12 Spey Road, Reading RG30 4DG.



PARISH ORGAN RESTORATION PROJECT

CURRENT TOTAL: £2,161.44

*Donate via Machine in Church or direct to
CDP Reading English Martyrs. Sort Code: 30 – 93 – 04. Account No. 00885666 Ref;
Organ Restoration Project*

SUGGESTED FUTURE FUNDRAISING SOCIAL EVENTS.

EVENT	ORGANISER(S)	DATE/TIME	VENUE
GOAN EVENING (Fundraising Dinner)	MEL AND JACK NORONHA	FEBRUARY 3RD 2023 AT 7P.M	PARISH HALL
Fundraising Walk	Needed	To be confirmed	Prospect Park
Fundraising Cycling	Fr Gaston	Early Summer 2024 (Precise date and time t.b.c)	To be confirmed
Barbecue with Cameroonian/African Music	Fr Gaston	Early Summer 2024 (Precise date and time t.b.c)	Parish
Cake Sale	Needed	To be confirmed	Parish hall

PARISH RETREAT IN PREPARATION FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS (Saturday 25th November 2023)

NO 10.00am MASS ON SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER AS THE FIRST RETREAT MASS WILL BEGIN AT 12NOON.

The parish retreat program is arranged such that we can come in two groups. The first group will begin with Mass at Noon, attend the talk that follows and participate in confessions, adoration, praise and worship and share their experience of the retreat talk with other parishioners over a cup of coffee or tea during the retreat break. This first slot will end at 4.00pm when the two hours silent meditation in Church ends.

Those who want to attend the second slot, which begins with the talk at 4.00pm (same talk presented in first slot) are encouraged to come earlier and spend some quiet time in front of the blessed sacrament. The same activities will follow the talk (adoration, praise and worship as well as confession until 5: 15pm when we shall have Benediction. The 6.00pm Mass could then be attended by those who come for the second slot of the retreat.

May the God Lord bless us as we look forward to the advent journey in preparation for the joyful celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas.

Organists wanted.

Are you a parishioner who can play the Organ and can offer your service to the Parish?

Are you a parishioner who can play the Keyboard and is willing to undergo training to play the Organ for our Parish? Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

ADVENT TALK ON THE PROPHET ISAIAH

In preparation for the beginning of Advent Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and Scripture scholar, will be giving a talk on the Prophet Isaiah at 7 pm on Wednesday 29th November in the parish hall at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. The talk is free, is in person, and will also be live streamed on www.whatgoodnews.org. No booking necessary. A recording of the talk will be made available subsequently on the same website.

Bookshop and Repository

Open each Sunday morning after 9.00am Mass until approx. 11.10am. and can be found in Room 3 at the rear of the Parish Hall on the right. We are open for the sale of Prayer books, Rosary's, statues, cards and other religious items for both every day and special occasions. We now have a selection of Christmas cards and other Christmas items for sale. If you can help with the bookstall after any of the other Sunday Masses, please contact Chris Coxwell at chris.coxwell@ntlworld.com or the parish office.

Defibrillator

We now have an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) in the colonnade. It is designed for the treatment of a patient who has suffered a sudden cardiac arrest, and who is unresponsive, not breathing, and has no pulse. Obviously, an AED should preferably be used by a healthcare professional, or someone trained in its use. However, if such a person is not available in an emergency it can be used by anyone, as it will speak instructions loud and clear in English when the device lid is opened.

Thank you, Peter MacDonald, for making his happen

BLESSING OF THE GRAVES

Sunday 19th November

Purley Burial Ground	12.30pm
Pangbourne Hill Cy	1.00pm
St Mary's Purley	1.20pm
St Michael's Graveyard	2.00pm

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.

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 18th to Sunday 26th November 2023

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 18 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Rosario Barreto RIP
Sunday 19 th	9.00am	Maria Piedade do Rego & Esteve Arajo RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	People of the Parish
	5.00pm	Patrick Grimley RIP & the Grimley Family Intention
Monday 20 th	9.30am	Agnes & Mick Kelly RIP
Tuesday 21 st	9.30am	Mary Mansell RIP
Wednesday 22 nd	9.30am	John & Jim Knox RIP
Thursday 23 rd	9.30am	Mary O'Donghue RIP
Friday 24 th	9.30am	Mick Burke RIP
Saturday 25 th	12.00pm	Nailah Nunes Thanksgiving

Christ the King

Saturday 25 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 26 th	9.00am	Linda Heneghan Intention
	11.30am	Saluzinho Fernandes RIP
	5.00pm	Maureen Dineen Thanksgiving

Congratulations to Kamila Zutautaitė who is receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion this Sunday 19th November at 5.00pm Mass.

Welcome to Noah Thomas Wallace who was Baptised here at English Martyrs last Saturday.

Congratulations to the Semesi Family. Kai is receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Kaelan Ace & Kenan Ares are welcomed to the church by Baptism at 9am Mass on Sunday 19th November

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

<p>Saturday November 25th 12-6pm</p>	<p>Parish Retreat Day in Preparation for Advent and Christmas <i>“Prepare the way for the Lord” (Isaiah 40.3)</i></p>
<p>Saturday December 2nd 7-7.45pm</p>	<p>Saturdays in Advent <i>The 30 minutes Before Christ</i> A streamed Nativity Play with Jonathan Roumie (of The Chosen) as the narrator. Explore the hardships the Holy Family endured as they prepared for Christ - hardships we can still relate to today</p>
<p>Saturday December 9th 7-7.45pm</p>	<p>Saturdays in Advent <i>Preparing for Jesus’ coming at home</i> A video reflecting on the beauty of our Nativity cribs that we have in our homes (This evening includes an opportunity to bring your Christmas Cribs/nativity scenes to be blessed by Father Gaston)</p>
<p>Saturday December 2nd 7-7.45pm</p>	<p>Saturdays in Advent <i>Come before the Lord in Adoration</i> Take some time in the busyness of Advent to come before our Lord in Adoration</p>
<p>Saturday December 16th 9:45a.m</p>	<p>Advent Penitential Service and Confessions.</p>
<p>Saturday 23rd/ Sunday 24th</p>	<p>Usual weekend Masses – Saturday 6.00pm and Sunday 9.00am and 11: 30am</p>
<p><i>Christmas ceremonies</i></p>	
<p>December 24th 5pm</p>	<p>Nativity Mass for children and their families</p>
<p>December 24th 7pm</p>	<p>Christmas Eve Mass</p>
<p>December 24th 11.15pm</p>	<p>Carols</p>
<p>December 25th Midnight</p>	<p>Midnight Mass</p>
<p>December 25th 9am</p>	<p>First Christmas Day Mass</p>
<p>December 25th 11.30am</p>	<p>Second Christmas Day Mass</p>
<p><i>Please note: there will be no evening Mass on Christmas Day</i></p>	
<p>December 26th 10am</p>	<p>Altar Servers’ Feast Day Mass Feast Day of St Stephen</p>
<p>December 31st 11pm</p>	<p>Welcoming in the New Year Come and spend some time before the Lord in Adoration</p>
<p>December 31st Midnight</p>	<p>Midnight Mass</p>



Winter Night Shelter for rough sleepers 'B4N' 2024

After a few years break due to the pandemic we are now re-starting the Churches Winter Night Shelter which will run from Monday 8th January 2024 until the end of March 2024. The need continues and this gives us a great opportunity to all work together as one Church to serve those afflicted by homelessness. We can demonstrate the love, grace, and mercy of Jesus in a real and practical way.

Unlike previous years when we moved around Churches, we will run the Shelter from one central Reading location (to be confirmed) and are asking volunteers to join us.

Some Churches plan to take care of an entire evening for one month, two or even three. Others are asking their volunteers to offer to help at times when they are available with: Welcoming and Hosting, Cooking, Overnight stays, and hosting and cooking breakfast. Any involvement is great and welcome - particularly Monday and Tuesday nights.

Training sessions:

- Adults Level 1 Safeguarding:

Weds 22, Thurs 23 and Mon 27th November – Matt Farrow from RBC at St Laurence Church 7.30-9.30pm.

(If volunteers hold Safeguarding level 1 they do not need to attend - just show their certificate)

- Required training: Boundaries, Ethos and questions and answers:

Tues 5, Weds 6 and Thurs 7th December at Argyle Community Church 7.30-9.30pm. (Thursday 7th December Curtis from CGL will be attending and providing Naloxone training.)

Volunteers only need to attend one of each training session.

For more information please contact:

Louise Cross – Faith Christian Group 07810 795180 admin@b4n.org.uk

Or: English Martyrs Parish Office 0118 957 2149 office@englishmartyrsrdg.com