

English Martyrs' Newsletter

31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5th 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 machines in colonnade and parish hall.

MASS TIMES Week commencing 5th NOVEMBER:

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 5th 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: 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.

CONSISTENCY IN WORDS AND ACTIONS

It would perhaps be easy to think that this Sunday's Gospel reading does not apply to us, Jesus was talking about the church leaders of the day. It could be easy to think it's for 'them' (whoever they are) and not me, deciding that others need to heed the message more than us. But what if we allow this reading to cause us to check our own lives and motives behind what we do?

Could the same be said of us as Jesus said of the scribes and Pharisees? Do we 'practise what we preach'? Or do we say one thing and then do another?

At the end of this reading there is a call to humility. For it takes humility to look at our own lives in the search of pride. And it requires humility to bring these areas of our lives to God for healing and forgiveness.

As we begin the approach to Advent, we could take some time to ask ourselves:

- Are there times that I put a burden on others? Perhaps through my own actions or my expectations for them.
- Do I choose to help others when I see them in need? Or do I ignore the need in the hope someone else does it?
- What are my motives behind what I do? Am I hoping to be recognised by others?
- Do I wish to be noticed by others around me and feel annoyed when I believe I am not recognised?

Fr. Gaston

SCAM Alert!

Beware of scammers: Please, do not respond to any email that is purported to come from Fr Gaston, asking you for any discussion or vouchers. Fr Gaston will only send an email to Parishioners using his diocesan email address: gforbah@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Please, DO NOT REPLY to any mail sent from a different address to you as coming from Fr Gaston.

PARISH NOTICES



Sunday Readings: 31st Year A

First: Malachi: 1:14–2:2, 8-10
 Psalm: 130/131
 Second: Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13
 Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12

32nd Year A

First: Wisdom 6. 12-16
 Psalm: 62(63).2-8
 Second: Thessalonians 4: 13-18
 Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

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



RCIA/Journey in Faith

This week, the Journey in Faith group shared a meal together and next Tuesday, 7th November, from 7.30 - 9 pm, they will be watching the film of Bishop Robert Barron's talk on The Mystery of the Mass, given at the Liverpool Eucharistic Congress in 2018. Parishioners are warmly invited to join them to watch the 60-minute film in the hall and to join in the discussion with them afterwards. A great opportunity to share your faith with members of this lovely group who are preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation into our parish community.



Senior Youth Group:

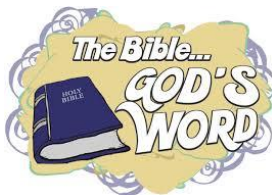
Sessions resume this weekend after the Sunday 5p.m Mass. This group is open all young people between 11-18 years. Sessions will continue every Sunday during term time. Join other young people growing in faith. This is also the platform through which our confirmation catechesis runs.



Children's Liturgy
Of the Word

More Volunteers are needed

for Children's Liturgy, especially for the 11:30a.m Mass and the 9a.m Mass. All Volunteers will need to do DBS check with the Diocese of Portsmouth, and this entails filling the DBS check form available on the notice board by the office door. Then, return the forms with some identity verification documents. Please, contact the parish office if you are happy to help.



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 next meetings are:

Monday 6th November – 7.00pm via Zoom: link from rk1500@hotmail.co.uk

Wednesday 8th November – 10.30am in Room 2. Everybody is welcome to join.



The Mystery of the Mass: Source and Summit of the Christian Life

Tuesday 7th November in English Martyrs Parish Hall 7.30 – 9.00 pm

Bishop Barron gave this inspiring talk at the Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool in 2018. He talks us through each part of the Mass, offering enriching explanations to deepen our personal understanding and appreciation of the Holy Mass.

All are welcome to enjoy the film and discussion. Refreshments available.



FUNDRAISING FOR PARISH ORGAN RESTORATION PROJECT

A huge thank you to everyone for the very positive start of our fundraising campaign for the restoration of our cherished Parish Organ.

We have so far collected £617.44 in cash, £120.00 Contactless and cheques for £1,000 and £300 giving a running total of £2,037.44.

The following list shows some earmarked fundraising events, some of which already have organizers and some still in need of volunteers.

LIST OF SUGGESTED 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 to be confirmed)	To be confirmed
Barbecue with Cameroonian/African Music	Fr Gaston	Early Summer 2024 (Precise date and time to be confirmed)	Parish
Cake Sale	Needed	To be confirmed	Parish



MISSION NEEDS YOU!

Missio and Mill Hill Missionaries: Volunteer required for our Parish. Our local secretaries are the 'engine room' of the work of Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Each parish benefits from having a dedicated volunteer to take care of the Red Boxes. Missio is proud to be the Pope's own charity for overseas mission. Missio helps God's love to be shared by supporting local missionaries to work alongside global communities that are poor or in need, regardless of background or belief, and works in partnership with the Mill Hill Missionaries, Britain's own missionary society. Local secretaries look after the Red Box members in their parish, ensuring that boxes are emptied and organising distribution of the free quarterly magazine, *Mission Today*. The Red Box can be found in 200,000 homes across England and Wales and plays a vital role in the universal mission of the Church. Remember you are not alone! Our volunteers have the full support of the Missio team who will support you at every stage and answer all queries. More information at www.missio.org.uk

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.

Visiting the Sick:

Please, pray for our sick parishioners who cannot join us for our Church activities and are receiving Holy Communion from Eucharistic Ministers. Between 25th of October and 24th of November, Fr Gaston will be visiting these parishioners, accompanied by Eucharistic Ministers.

BLESSING OF THE GRAVES

Sunday 5th November

Mayes Lane Cemetery 3.00pm

Sunday 12th November

Henley Road Cemetery 2.30pm

Sunday 19th November

Purley Burial Ground 12.30pm

Pangbourne Hill Cemetery 1.00pm

St Mary's Purley 1.20pm

St Michael's Graveyard 2.00pm

Tuesday 14th November at 6.30pm at Our Lady of Peace & Bl Dominic Barberi. Talk by Fr Stan Gibzinski on "St John Newman on Last Things". Reality of eternal life in full sense in our life is seen in Newman's life and writings. A glimpse into man's final destiny gives light to our life on earth. Man is made for perfect happiness which is only fulfilled through a personal and lasting union with the Triune God. Life on earth is a preparation for this definitive encounter. Please spread the word and encourage everyone to attend this talk.

Click on link below to view latest Vocations Prayer Newsletter.

[Vocation Newsletter November \(portsmouthvocations.org\)](http://portsmouthvocations.org)

Also available on our website: www.englishmartyrsrdg.com

Foreign Missions

The Second Collection on the weekend of 21st/22nd October raised a fantastic £677.87 (collection and online giving). Thank you for your generosity.

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 4th to Sunday 12th November 2023

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 4 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Deceased members of the McCormack and Martland families RIP
Sunday 5 th	9.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Mary Gouge RIP
	5.00pm	Pasqualina & Gino Rabuano RIP
Monday 6 th	9.30am	Teresa Brennan RIP
Tuesday 7 th	9.30am	Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
Wednesday 8 th	9.30am	Harry Mullin RIP
Thursday 9 th <i>Dedication of Lateran Basilica</i>	9.30am	Annie Kate Walsh & Thomas Walsh RIP
Friday 10 th	9.30am	Mary & Alex D'Souza RIP
Saturday 11 th	10.00am	Patrick McGullion RIP

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 11 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 12 th	9.00am	John Caro Tucker Bangura RIP
	11.30am	Matthew Fahy RIP
	5.00pm	Rabuano Family RIP

BAMENDA SUNDAY

This weekend gives us the opportunity to thank God for the link that has existed between the diocese of Portsmouth and the Archdiocese of Bamenda, since 1974. It has been a link of mutual support, with priests leaving Portsmouth to Bamenda and now Bamenda to Portsmouth for pastoral work (5 priests from Bamenda currently serving in Portsmouth). "In 2024, we shall be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the link, with Archbishop Andrew leading a delegation to Portsmouth for a week in July, visas permitting. Please be as generous as you can this Bamenda Sunday to boost our funds for projects in our Golden Jubilee Year! Every contribution, whatever its size, can help to make a big difference in Bamenda. You can donate in church on Bamenda Sunday or securely via our Donate button on our website ([access here](#)). Standing order and new gift aid forms are also available on our website. Most importantly, please remember to pray for the intentions of our brothers and sisters in Bamenda; and for the restoration of peace and justice in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon. Many thanks!" *(Excerpt from message of Acting Chair of the Portsmouth Bamenda Committee, Mary Lee).*

Parish Retreat in
Preparation for

Advent & Christmas

Saturday 25th November, 12pm – 6.00pm

Theme: *Prepare the way for the Lord (Isaiah 40:3)*

- 12.00pm | Mass
- 12.30pm | Talk, Adoration, Praise and Worship and Sacrament of Reconciliation
- 2.00pm | Lunch break (with ongoing adoration)
- 4.00pm | Talk, Adoration, Praise and Worship and Sacrament of Reconciliation
- 5.15pm | Benediction
- 6.00pm | Evening Mass



Join us for the day, or part of the day, as we prepare our hearts for Advent and Christmas. The day will include times for quiet meditation and prayer, reflections and praise and worship before the Blessed Sacrament. We are pleased to have Father Anthony Chiatu of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Portswold, joining us for the retreat. He will be delivering the talks and will be available throughout the day for Sacrament of Reconciliation. Refreshments will be available during the lunch break but please bring your own lunch.

English Martyrs Church, Liebenrood Road, Reading, RG30 2EB