

English Martyrs' Newsletter

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10th DECEMBER 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 Dona(te) machine in the church.

MASS TIMES Week commencing 10th DECEMBER:

Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm

Monday to Friday at 9.30am

Saturday at 09.45am (Penitential Service)

Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)

Week commencing 10th DECEMBER:

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 Penitential Service 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.

HOW AUTHENTIC AND CERTAIN IS OUR FAITH?

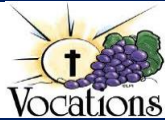
Our faith is not based on what we do but on the person of Jesus and what he has done. Our faith should lead us into a personal relationship with God, a relationship that is not stagnant but one that is vibrant and brings life to others around us. "Faith brings our hopes into reality and becomes the foundation needed to acquire the things we long for. It is all the evidence required to prove what is still unseen" (Hebrews 11.1).

Our faith is a response to God who speaks to our hearts. For us to hear the voice of God, we must first listen to God with humility and openness; allowing Him to reveal Himself within the depths of our hearts. It is our humble response to this which constitutes our faith. We can hear him speak to us through reading the scriptures, spending time in prayer and during the Mass.

How authentic and how certain is our faith? Is there faith in our heart? Is our trust in God and reliance on His providence solid to withstand the wind of doubt and anti-religion that is blowing strongly in our world today? Are we ready to grow by opening more to God's word in our life. This Advent, may we choose to grow in our faith as we prepare not just our homes but our hearts for the coming of Christ.

Lord, I desire to grow in faith. I desire to grow in my love and in my knowledge of You. May faith be alive in my life and may You find that faith as a precious gift which I offer to You. Jesus, I trust in You.

Fr. Gaston



“A voice is calling.” Is Christ calling you to let Him manifest His love in you as a priest or consecrated religious? Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke.
 vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

PARISH NOTICES

Sunday Readings for:



2nd Sunday of Advent Year B

First: Isaiah 40: 1-5. 9-11.
 Psalm: 84(85) 9-14.
 Second: 2. Peter 3: 8-14.
 Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8

3rd Sunday of Advent Year B

First: Isaiah 61: 1-2. 10-11.
 Psalm: Luke 1:46 – 50, 53-54
 Second: 1. Thessalonians 5: 16-24.
 Gospel: John 1:6-8. 19-28

Every week, you can find helpful background information and guidance on the Sunday readings here:
<https://stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com/prego/>



RCIA/Journey in Faith This week, we reflected on Mary’s Advent journey and on the meaning of Friday’s wonderful feast of her Immaculate Conception. We also talked together about Mark’s Gospel and the opening 8 verses which will be read this Sunday. We have each begun to read our way through the whole Gospel of Mark and enjoyed watching part of a filmed version which uses only the exact words of the Gospel. It is available on the following link. You might enjoy watching it with your family or friends.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=gospel+of+mark+movie&mid=8EBE186A67AF25403CDC8EBE186A67AF25403CDC&FORM=VIRE>

Sacraments of Christian Initiation: On Sunday at the 5p.m Mass, we shall celebrate the Sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, confirmation and First Holy Communion).



Advent Penitential Service/Confessions:

This will take place in our Parish on Saturday 16th December. We shall begin the Penitential Service at 9:45am, followed by individual confessions at 10am. Consequently, there will be no 10am Mass on Saturday December 16th.

Advent Confessions in Neighbouring Parishes this Week:

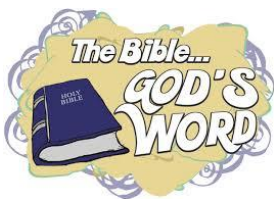
Tuesday December 12th at 6.30 p.m. St. Joseph’s, Tilehurst
 Friday December 15th at 7.00 p.m. Christ the King, Whitley
 Saturday December 16th at 10.00 a.m. Our Lady of Peace, Earley
 Saturday December 16th 5.00 – 6.00 p.m. and 7.00 – 7.30 p.m. St. James, Reading



Elevate Christmas Party: The Junior Youth Group (for children 7 to 11yrs) will be having their Christmas party on Friday December 15 at 6pm.



Welcome Area Project: Many thanks to those of you who took time to look at the sketch of the suggested plan for the extension of the Colonnade as part of our Welcome Area Project. The team will look at our feedback and move to the next stage, which will be liaising with the Diocesan Architect. As promised, we will be presenting to you the plan for upgrading the toilets, which is also part of this welcome area project.



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 11th December - 7.00pm via Zoom: link from rk1500@hotmail.co.uk

Wednesday 13th December – 10.30am in Room 2

Thursday 14th December – 11.00am via Zoom: link from cath_harrington@compuserve.com

Everybody is welcome to join.



2024 Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Please, if you collected the booking forms and would like to join the Parish Pilgrimage, kindly return the booking forms to the Parish Office as soon as possible. This will help Tangney who are facilitating the arrangements to book the flights and get us the cheapest possible price. Thanks.



Vietnamese Mass: The Vietnamese community in Reading will have a Mass in our Parish church on Sunday December 17th at 2p.m.



WORD OF GRATITUDE: CAFOD has acknowledged the support that English Martyrs Parish generously offered this year. The following is an excerpt of the thank you mail sent by Michelle Oakford, Head of Supporter Relations for CAFOD: *“Thank you to all parishioners at English Martyrs for your generous support for CAFOD this year and for your latest donation of £1,546.11 which we received on 22 November 2023. Thank you so much for being there for our global family.”*

Filipino Night Mass

At English Martyrs
16th December 2023 @
7.30pm

For more information, contact:
Christina Tagaan – 07863
970564
Christy – 07477 335135

Couples for Christ

Blessed Hugh Faringdon School

Year 7's present
ADVENT CAROL SERVICE
6pm Wednesday 13th Dec
at English Martyrs Church.

Followed by Christmas
Snacks including non-
alcoholic wine.
ALL WELCOME!

There will be a **retiring collection** this weekend for

Christmas Flowers.

You can also donate in the
'flowers' box at the back of the
Church or on our contactless
machine in the
Church/Colonnade.

PARISH ORGAN RESTORATION PROJECT CURRENT TOTAL:

£2,361.44

Donate via DONA Machine or
direct to

CDP Reading English Martyrs.

Sort Code: 30 – 93 – 04.

Account No. 00885666

Ref; Organ Restoration Project



CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

In room 1, after morning
Mass on
FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER

Items for Sale, Cakes and a
Raffle
ALL WELCOME

FUNDRAISING FOR ENGLISH MARTYRS PARISH ORGAN RESTORATION

EVENING OF FOOD FROM GOA

Saturday 3rd February 2024
at 7pm.

See Poster in Colonnade

You can book tickets via the
Parish Office

Please try and support this
event

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 9th to Sunday 17th Dec 2023

2nd Sunday in Advent

Saturday 9 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Kevin & Lucy McSharry RIP
Sunday 10 th	9.00am	Lindamira Stephens RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Chako Rajan RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish
Monday 11 th	9.30am	Martin Sheehan RIP
Tuesday 12 th	9.30am	Mary Gallagher RIP
Wednesday 13 th <i>St Lucy, feast</i>	9.30am	Martin Sheehan RIP
Thursday 14 th <i>St John of the Cross, memorial</i>	9.30am	Filomena Araujo, Thanksgiving.
Friday 15 th	9.30am	Caroline Burrett RIP
Saturday 16 th	09.45am	Advent Penitential Service

3rd Sunday in Advent

Saturday 16 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 17 th	9.00am	Martina Tavares RIP & Felicidad Fernandes RIP
	11.30am	Tom & John O'Malley RIP
	5.00pm	Christopher O'Dowd RIP



Winter Night Shelter for rough sleepers 'B4N' 2024

Monday 8th January until end of March 2024

For more information, please contact:
Louise Cross – Faith Christian Group 07810
795180 admin@b4n.org.uk

English Martyrs parish office: 0118 957 2149
office@englishmartyrsrdg.com



Invitation

You are invited to an interfaith
Christmas Lunch
hosted by
The Pakistani Community Centre
On 14th December 2023
At 12 Noon

Venue: The Pakistani Community Centre,
London Road, Reading RG1 3PA

For further information, please call Dr. Ejaz
Mobile # 07958524746

P.S. Parking at St. Bartholomew Road & at
Palmer Park Stadium