

English Martyrs' Newsletter

4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

28th JANUARY 2024

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 28th JANUARY

Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm.

Monday to Thursday at 9.30am

Friday at 9.30am & 6.30pm (Mass for peace)

Saturday at 10.00am

Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)

Week commencing 28th JANUARY

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 10am Mass and at 5.30pm:



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: every Friday from 10.00am to 6.00pm. (5.45pm on First Fridays – see below)

From 5.00pm, Praise and Worship featuring music, scripture reading, guided reflection, a time of silence and concluding with Benediction.

On the First Friday of every month: Rosary and Mass for Peace: On Friday 2nd February, we shall begin a first Friday Rosary and Mass for World Peace. We shall have Praise and Worship as usual up till 5:45p.m, followed by silent adoration for 15 minutes. Then, Angelus at 6p.m followed by Rosary (with Blessed Sacrament still exposed), benediction, reposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Mass for Peace at 6:30p.m.

More Friday Adorers Needed: We would be grateful if many more people sign up to cover the different hours while the blessed Sacrament is exposed. Ideally, we would like 2 people for each hour.

JESUS MANIFESTS DIVINE AUTHORITY

Jesus taught with authority; this amazed all those who listened to him. This was something people had not heard before. The prophets used to say, “the Lord says...”, the teachers of the law would say “Rabbi so-and-so say...”. Yet Jesus simply said, “I say to you...”. In fact, he would say something more, we hear him say time and time again through the Gospels “you have heard it said (*inserts the view/principle they held*) BUT I say to you (*insert the new teaching; the new principle – the Truth*).

The words that Jesus spoke during his time on earth, recorded in the Gospels, still have authority today – if we choose to allow them to have authority in our lives. Do we allow the words of Jesus to have authority in our lives or do we push them down, ignore them and trust in what we think instead?

One of Jesus’ promises which he made with authority was the promise to send the Holy Spirit. He told his disciples that it was good that he was to leave them so that ‘another helper’ could come, one that would be a comforter and a guide. One that would lead his followers into all truth. This authoritative promise of Jesus still holds good for us today. We receive the Holy Spirit at Baptism and are sealed with the Holy Spirit at confirmation. This promise is an invitation to a life of abundance lived through the power and promise of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray to be able to recognise Jesus’ authority and the truth of his promise?

Fr. Gaston



"Let each of you lead the life that the Lord has assigned, to which God has called you." Do you think the Lord is calling you to the consecrated life or priesthood? Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke. vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869.

PARISH NOTICES

<p>Sunday Readings for:</p>	4 th Sunday in Ordinary time	5 th Sunday in Ordinary time
	<p>First: Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm: 94(95) 1-2.6-9 Second: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 Gospel: Mark 1: 21-28</p>	<p>First: Job 7: 1-4. 6-7 Psalm: 146(147) 1-6 Second: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23 Gospel: Mark 1: 29-39</p>

Wednesday Word (www.wednesdayword.org) has some helpful reflections for parishioners on the three Sunday readings each week and a special page for younger children and their families.

RCIA/Journey in Faith: The beginning of Lent is fast approaching (Ash Wednesday is 14th February). Those in the group who have asked to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil (Saturday 30th March) are invited by Bishop Philip to the Rite of Election at Portsmouth Cathedral on Saturday 17th February. At that service, adult Candidates and Catechumens from across the diocese will be presented to the bishop and the diocesan community to be welcomed and prayed for as they enter the last stages of preparation to become full members of the Catholic Church. Our own Catechumens (preparing for Baptism) and Candidates (preparing for Confirmation and Reception into the Catholic Church) will be presented to our parish at the 9am Mass on Sundays 4th and 11th February for the rites of Acceptance and of Sending.

Vietnamese Community Mass: The Vietnamese community in Reading will have their monthly Mass in English Martyrs Church this Sunday 28th January, starting at 2p.m..

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 next week are on: Wednesday 31st January at 10.30am in Room 2
 Thursday 1st February via Zoom – link is cath_harrington@compuserve.com
 Everybody is welcome to join.

Birthday Blessings for January: Best wishes to all those born in the Month of January, who will be blessed at all the Masses this weekend. We pray for you and wish you all many more happy and fruitful years, filled with love and goodness

Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus: We will be saying the prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday 2nd February at 8:30pm as part of our first Friday devotion. We could say this prayer as individuals or as families using the cards we distributed or the online version on our website homepage. It would be a wonderful blessing for the whole Parish to say this prayer almost at the same time, so that we can form a prayer chain.

Resurrection Rock – An Easter Musical: On 20th April at 7:15p.m, our children of English Martyrs Primary School will be presenting an uplifting and inspiring musical event in our Church. They are hoping to use this thrilling musical event to help raise funds for the restoration of our Parish Organ. It would be wonderful if we all turn out to appreciate the talents of our children and show the support of the Parish towards our parish primary school. It will also be so encouraging for the children if we support their initiative to participate in the raising of funds for the restoration of the Parish Organ.

Please pray for the soul of:

Sallieu Kamara RIP - His Requiem will take place here at English Martyrs at 12.00pm on 1st February. Please keep his family and loved ones in your prayers.



Enrolment into the Guild of St Stephen: All of our Altar Servers will be enrolled into the Guild of St Stephen on Saturday, 24th February at the 10a.m Mass. Those who are due to receive medals will also receive them at this Mass. There will be refreshments in the hall after the Mass. This is a joyful occasion, and we pray that the families of the Altar Servers could come to pray and celebrate with them.



Wedding: Congratulations to Sean Biggins and Bernadette Mathias who got married in Church this weekend, Saturday 27th January. We pray that they may live a happy and fruitful marriage life.



GOAN EVENING AND DINNER NEXT SATURDAY 3RD FEBRUARY.
ALL THOSE WHO PURCHASED TICKETS, PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING THEM WITH YOU ON THE NIGHT.

Being Human in a Time of AI
Wednesday 31st January 2024. 18:30-20:00
Van Emden Lecture Theatre, Edith Morley Building, Whiteknights Campus or join online.

Booking essential at: <https://r1.dotdigital-pages.com/p/4R68-DT3>

The Annual Chaplaincy public in-conversation event this year explores Artificial Intelligence and the impact upon our everyday lives. How will AI change us? What will it mean for the creative industries? How might it benefit us and how could it be misused?

Join three key figures in the British world of AI. Bishop Steven Croft is a founding member of the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation who speaks on AI issues in the House of Lords. Prof Etienne Roesch of the University of Reading is a researcher in machine learning, neuroscience, and cyber psychology. Charles Radclyffe is a tech entrepreneur and advisor on AI ethics and robotics.

For more information contact events@reading.ac.uk

First Meeting to Begin Implementing the Mission Plan at Pastoral Area Level: Representatives from Parishes in the Reading Pastoral Area will be meeting in our Parish on February 6th to reflect on how our Reading Pastoral Area can begin implementing the 10-year Mission plan of the Diocese of Portsmouth. This meeting will begin with Holy Mass at 7pm, followed by discussion in the Hall. We are all invited to join in the Mass to pray for God's guidance as we implement the Mission Plan in our pastoral area.

Life In the Spirit Seminar:

An introduction to a life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit. For full details visit our web site:

<https://englishmartyrsrdg.com/liss/>

Tackling long-standing and controversial questions in medical care.

Register for our 2024 Symposium 'What does it mean to be Human? Medical Ethics and Social Care Today' taking place at The Arc, Winchester on Saturday 16 March. The day programme will consider multiple issues in clinical medicine, from collective responsibility in healthcare to challenges in patient-physician relationships and feature keynote addresses and panel discussion.

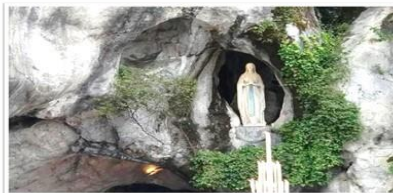
To find out more: [Click Here.](#)

Fr Samuel Alabi: Begins work in our Parish on Thursday 1st February. We look forward with joy to Fr Samuel's arrival and pray for him as he looks forward to taking up his new assignment.

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 27th Jan to Sunday 4th February 2024

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 27th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Eugene Herbert RIP
Sunday 28th	9.00am	Lindamira Stephens RIP
	11.30am <i>Livestreamed</i>	AnnaRita Fernandes RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish
Monday 29th	9.30am	Jose Vincente Gonçalo Lourenco RIP
Tuesday 30th	9.30am	Francina Taolé RIP
Wednesday 31st <i>St. John Bosco memorial</i>	9.30am	Tommy Mullon RIP
Thursday 1st February	9.30am	In Thanksgiving
	12.00pm	Requiem of Sallieu Kamara RIP
Friday 2nd <i>The Presentation of the Lord, Feast</i>	9.30am	Louie Fearn
	6.30pm	Chris Knollys Intention
Saturday 3rd	10.00am	Gracy Antony, Thanksgiving
<i>5th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>		
Saturday 3rd <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 4th	9.00am	Rosita de Paez & Moises Paez RIP
	11.30am	Chiara Perera, Thanksgiving
	5.00pm	Mary Barbara Green RIP



In 2026 our church will be 100 years old and whilst there will be a programme of events to celebrate nearer the time, it was thought that a pilgrimage to Lourdes would be an appropriate way to start our celebrations and pray for the parish and its successful centenary.

We are planning to visit LOURDES from 16th - 20th September 2024. Cost will be approximately £650 per person which includes transport from English Martyrs to the airport, flights, baggage allowance, transfers as well as full board at the Croix de Bretons Hotel.

We will have an opening Mass in the St Frai Chapel, Mass at the Grotto, opportunities for private prayer, reconciliation and to experience the new Geste De L'eau (the baths). In the meantime, booking forms are available from the parish office or from Judith on judithcrimmins@yahoo.co.uk.

Completed forms should be returned to Tangney Tours by post or email – noreen@tangney-tours.com