

English Martyrs' Newsletter

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

7TH 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 31st DECEMBER:

Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm; 12.00am

Monday at 10.00am (New Year's day)

Tuesday to Friday at 9.30am

Saturday at 10.00am

Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)

Week commencing 31st 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 after 10am 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.

Jesus Humbly Manifests Himself to Us

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. Epiphany comes from the Greek word meaning "manifestation" and it commemorates the visit of the Magi to the Christ child. It is the feast of Jesus' physical manifestation to the Gentiles, to the world.

Jesus shows himself to us in many moments during the day and in a special way at the Mass, in the Eucharist.

What is our response to this manifestation?

The Magi are said to have brought three gifts with them: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. How can we follow in their footsteps?

We may not have gold, but we can offer to Jesus the things value highly in your life. What could these be? Our jobs? Money? What people think of us? The important question is: How might we give these to Jesus? How could we place God above the things we value in our lives?

Instead of frankincense, how could we grow in our worship of God? What might we take up? Could we give an hour of our time each week in worship and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament? Could we give of our time and talents as an act of worship?






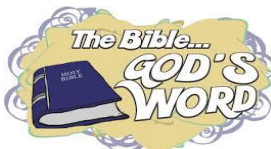

Myrrh was used in embalming a body ahead of burial. What could we let go of this year? Are there things that are holding us back from knowing God more?

As we embark on a New Year, let us choose to kneel before Jesus as the Magi did and give our lives out of love for him.

Fr. Gaston

To keep up to date with the news of the Diocese and the Bishop please follow us on: Facebook: @PortsmouthRC / LinkedIn: Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth / Twitter: @PortsmouthRC / Diocesan website: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/> If you have news that you want to share with the Diocese, please contact communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

PARISH NOTICES

	<p>Sunday Readings for: The Epiphany of the Lord</p> <p>First: Isaiah 60: 1-6. Psalm: 71(72) 1-2;7-8;10-13 Second: Ephesians 3: 2-3.5-6. Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12.</p>	<p>2nd Sunday in Ordinary time</p> <p>First: 1 Samuel 3:3-10.19. Psalm: 39(40):.2.4.7-10 Second: 1 Corinthians 6: 13-15.17-20. Gospel: John 1:35-42.</p>
<p>Every week, you can find helpful background information and guidance on the Sunday readings here: https://stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com/prego/</p>		
	<p>RCIA/Journey in Faith: Meetings resume on Tuesday 9th January at 7.30pm</p>	
	<p>Bookshop and Repository reopens this 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. Open for the sale of Prayer books, Rosary's, statues, cards and other religious items for both every day and special occasions. 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.</p>	
	<p>Senior Youth/Confirmation Group: Sessions resume next weekend – 14th January - after the Sunday 5pm Mass.</p>	
	<p>"Parish Afternoon Tea" 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. The event is being held in the Parish Hall on Thursday 18th January at 2.30pm. 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</p>	
	<p>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 meeting this week is on Wednesday 10th January – 10.30am in Room 2 Everybody is welcome to join.</p>	
 <p>Rest In Peace</p>	<p>Please pray for the repose of the soul of James Farragher RIP who died recently. His requiem will be at English Martyrs on Monday 8th January at 1.00pm. Please keep his family and loved ones in your prayers at this difficult time.</p>	

CAFOD School Volunteers needed.

Do you enjoy working with children and young people? Could you help to inspire and empower children and young people in your local Catholic schools by delivering an assembly or a workshop? Supported by CAFOD with training and all resources provided please consider the role of CAFOD school volunteer. For more information contact Jo Lewry jlewy@cafod.org.uk or phone 07710 094447

Group Coordinators Meeting: Following up from the mail sent to all group coordinators, we wish to reiterate and plead that the requested write-up on vision for 2024 which takes into consideration successes and challenges of 2023 could be sent to the Parish office by Monday January 8th. The Group Coordinators meeting will take place on Saturday January 13th after the 10am Mass.

On Friday 12th January, the eve of the 27th anniversary of the founding of The Good Counsel Network, please pray and fast for the end of abortion in this Country. Through God's grace we have seen thousands of Mothers in our counselling centre continue their pregnancies in very difficult circumstances. Please help us to help save lives with your prayers, fasting and support. www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

CAN YOU GIFT AID YOUR OFFERING TO THE PARISH?

Donating through Gift Aid means the parish can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give. It will not cost you any extra.

The Parish needs to be able to identify your payments.

- With Direct Debits or Standing Orders this is easy. **BUT** you do need to complete a GIFT AID FORM (green forms in the colonnade)
- If you make your offering with cash then we ask that you use the white envelopes provided in the colonnade.

You **must** be a UK Taxpayer.

You will need to tell us if you stop paying Tax.

EXISTING GIFT AIDERS

Our Charitable Name and Charity No. changed at the beginning of 2023.

WE NEED A NEW GIFT AID FORM FROM YOU.

Thank you if you have completed this already.

Please complete a green form (Colonnade) and give it back to us.

Without a new form we cannot claim Gift Aid on your offerings.

Gift Aid forms are also available from our website

<https://englishmartyrsrdg.com/give-financially/>

In the 2021/22 Tax Year we claimed about £16,000 back from HMRC

English Martyrs presents:

Goan evening and dinner

in aid of the organ restoration fund

at 7.15pm

on Saturday 3 February

Delicious food!
Fun quiz!
Learn about Goa!

Adults £14

Children (5 - 12): £6 (under-fives free)

Family (2 adults + 2 children 5 - 12): £35

Tickets available from the Parish Office



Bring your own drinks

Last few tickets remaining.

Payment will secure.

For a programme of events on the evening and a menu, visit:

<https://englishmartyrsrdg.com/dates-for-your-diary/> and follow the link.



PARISH ORGAN RESTORATION PROJECT

TOTAL DONATED TO DATE:

£3,596.00

Donate via DONA Machine or direct to CDP Reading English Martyrs.

Sort Code: 30 - 93 - 04.

Account No. 00885666

Ref: Organ Restoration Project

Life In the Spirit Seminar



The Seminars are designed as an introduction to a life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit. They provide an opportunity for you to find out more about that life, and to be helped in taking the first steps of a new relationship with Our Lord.

Join us for the six Wednesdays, 7.00pm - 8.30pm, at English Martyrs Church.

Wednesday 17th January | God's Love and Salvation

Wednesday 24th January | The New Life

Wednesday 31st January | Receiving God's Gift

Wednesday 7th February | Praying for Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Wednesday 14th February | Ash Wednesday (no seminar on this day)

Wednesday 21st February | Growth

Wednesday 28th February | Transformation in Christ

www.englishmartyrsrdg.com/LISS

English Martyrs Church, Liebenrood Road, RG30 2EB

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 6th to Sunday 14th Jan 2024

The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday 6 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 7 th	9.00am	Domingos Rodrigues RIP
	11.30am	Angela Devanney RIP
	<i>Livestreamed</i>	
	5.00pm	Michael Linehan RIP
Monday 8 th <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	9.30am	Frank Fletcher RIP
	1.00pm	Requiem of James Farragher RIP
Tuesday 9 th	9.30am	Frank Fletcher RIP
Wednesday 10 th	9.30am	Anne O'Connor RIP
Thursday 11 th	9.30am	Frank Fletcher RIP
Friday 12 th	9.30am	Teresa Lang Intentions
Saturday 13 th <i>Our Lady on Saturday</i>	10.00am	John McAvoy RIP

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 13 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Jose Pascual RIP
Sunday 14 th	9.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Mary McGuire Intention
	5.00pm	Frank Fletcher 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).

An information evening will be held on **MONDAY 22ND JANUARY 2024 AT 7.30PM** at English Martyrs Church, Liebenrood Road.

In the meantime, booking forms are available from the parish office or from Judith on judithcrimmins@yahoo.co.uk