

# English Martyrs' Newsletter

6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH, 64, LIEBENROOD ROAD, READING, RG30 2EB:

Registered Charity No. 1199568

Parish website: [www.englishmartyrsrdg.com](http://www.englishmartyrsrdg.com)

Livestream link on You Tube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCulqb5ncxASpguMmd\\_0MNtA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCulqb5ncxASpguMmd_0MNtA)

Parish Priest: Fr. Gaston Forbah [gforbah@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:gforbah@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Assistant Priest: Fr. Samuel Alabi [salabi@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:salabi@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](mailto: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 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday at 9.30am

ASH Wednesday at 9.30am and 7.00pm

Saturday at 10.00am

Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)

## Week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

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)

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

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

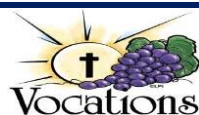
## JESUS STRETCHES OUT HIS HANDS

The life of someone with leprosy in the time of Jesus was not one to be wished for. Even those merely suspected of having this disease were excluded from community. In fact, it wasn't enough that the sufferer was not allowed near other people or be touched by anyone. Everywhere they went, they had to announce to the world around them that they were unclean and so warned people to keep away from them. It is into such isolation and darkness that Jesus reaches out.

It is into your isolation and areas that you wish to ignore that Jesus, in compassion, reaches out. He doesn't reach out to condemn us but to meet us in love. And just as the person with leprosy did not stay the same, when we allow Jesus' embrace to come to us, we do not remain the same. As we approach Lent, what areas of our lives have we ignored? Areas where we feel humiliation or hurt, abandonment or isolation? These are the areas that Jesus is waiting, in his love, to come in to.

And what about the people that we come in contact within our lives? Where can we, moved by the compassion of Christ, reach out to them to show the love of God? Are there people you know who feel isolated and alone? People that feel abandoned and forgotten. Or people who have wandered from the church. Can we reach out to them this lent and bring them back into the embrace of Jesus?

Fr. Gaston



"Do everything for the glory of God." Your vocation is your sanctification in this life to lead you to sainthood in the next. Your vocation is to give glory to God through your very being. Is He choosing you to be a priest or consecrated religious? Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke. [vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or call 01329 318 869. [Vocation Newsletter February \(portsmouthvocations.org\)](http://Vocation Newsletter February (portsmouthvocations.org))

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](mailto:communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



# PARISH NOTICES



Sunday Readings for:



## 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time

First: Leviticus 13: 1-2.44-46  
Psalm: 31(32) 1-2.5.11  
Second: 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1  
Gospel: Mark 1: 40-45

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

First: Genesis 9: 8-15  
Psalm: 24(25) 4-9  
Second: 1 Peter 3:18-22  
Gospel: Mark 1: 12-15

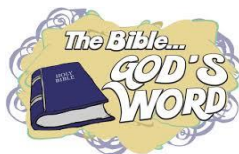
### Lenten Scriptures

Commentary on every Scripture reading from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday by Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, is available on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org).  
Click on 'Scripture Readings' and 'Lent Readings'



### RCIA/Journey in Faith

The group took a half term break this week before our Catechumens and Candidates begin a more intense period of preparation to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion at Easter.  
Next Saturday, 17th February, they will join other Catechumens and Candidates from across the diocese at Portsmouth Cathedral where they will be welcomed by Bishop Philip and have their names inscribed in the Book of the Elect. They will be "sent" with our parish Community's prayers from the 9 am Mass this Sunday (11th February). All parishioners are invited to commit to pray for them by signing our own parish Book of the Elect.



### 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. Everybody is welcome to join.  
The meetings next week are on:  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am in Room 2  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 11.00am via Zoom link: [cath\\_harrington@compuserve.com](mailto:cath_harrington@compuserve.com)



### 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.



### "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 22<sup>nd</sup> February 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.



REST IN PEACE

### Please pray for the souls of:

Jennah Massaquoi who died recently.  
Jim Dempsey whose Requiem is on Thursday 15th February at 11.30am.  
Bartholomew Leneghan whose Requiem is on Wednesday 28th February at 12.00pm.  
Please also keep their loved ones in your prayers



### 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.



### First Holy Communion (FHC):

The in-person session of FHC preparation for the Month of February will take place next Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6p.m in church. The main event for this session will be celebration of a "slow Mass". This refers to the celebration of Mass with explanatory commentaries. This is meant to help the candidates for FHC appreciate better, what the Holy Mass is and how to participate fully at Mass.



### Senior Youth Group:

Is having two weeks off and will resume meetings after half term.

**Ash Wednesday: Our Lenten Journey begins:** Wednesday this week is Ash Wednesday, which begins our Lenten Journey. Lent is indeed a special season of the Church year during which we try to unite ourselves more with the suffering and death of Jesus. We try to demonstrate trust in God by intensifying our practice of *PRAYER* in imitation of Jesus. We also try to mortify our bodies by *FASTING* after the example of Jesus in order to deepen our intimacy with God who is most pure and strengthen our ability to discipline our senses. Finally, following Jesus' example, we try to be selfless and so care for the needs of others by sharing what we have and our very selves in *ALMS-GIVING*.

**Two Masses on Ash Wednesday:** We shall have two Masses on Ash Wednesday, one at 9:30a.m and the other at 7p.m. It will be great if we could begin our Lenten journey with Holy Mass.

**Ashes:** The Church has long used ashes as an outward sign of grief, a mark of humility, mourning, penance and morality. The Old Testament is filled with stories describing the use of ashes in such a manner. In the Book of Job, Job repented before God: "Therefore, I disown what I have said, and repent in dust and ashes" (42:6). Also (Dn. 9:3; Jon 3:6; 1Mc. 3:47). This rite of distributing ashes on the Wednesday that begins Lent was recommended for universal use by Pope Urban II at the Synod of Benevento in 1091.

So, when we go to Mass on Ash Wednesday and receive the blessed ashes on our forehead, we are repeating a solemn, pious act that Catholics have been undergoing for more than a thousand years.

**Palms:** Given that we still had some ashes in stock, we did not collect the blessed palms this year to produce ashes. However, the blessed palms of last year and this year will be useful for production of ashes for next year.

**Early Morning Masses in Lent:** It is customary in our Parish for us to have an early morning Mass once a week during Lent. As has been the case in the past years, this Mass will be on Fridays of Lent and will start at 6:30a.m. There will be tea/coffee in the Colonnade after each of these early morning Masses.

**Stations of the Cross:** We shall have stations of the cross on Fridays of Lent, both in the Morning at 9a.m and in the evening at 7p.m. The Stations of the cross on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March will, however, start at 6p.m. and will lead up to the celebration of the First Friday Mass for World Peace at 6:30p.m.

### **The Union of Catholic Mothers**

Corpus Christi, Wokingham Foundation  
invites you to  
A DAY OF RECOLLECTION  
From 10:00 am on Saturday 2nd March  
2024  
*Full details on our Parish Noticeboard*

### **Life In the Spirit Seminar:**

An introduction to a life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**AS IT IS ASH WEDNESDAY THERE WILL BE NO MEETING ON  
14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY.**

For details of other meeting dates visit our web site:  
<https://englishmartyrsrdg.com/liss/>

### **MISSIO**



We are pleased to advise that Mike Tomas is our new Local Secretary for Missio. If you handed your RED BOX in the Parish Office before Christmas, then you can collect it now. If you would like to have a RED BOX in your home then please contact the Parish Office.

### **ORGAN REFURBISHMENT FUND**

**MONEY RAISED  
SO FAR  
£ 6,161.44**

Our GOAN MEAL last Saturday raised a fantastic £1,959.

A Vote of Thanks to Mel and Jack Noronha: We had an amazing fund-raising meal last Saturday, February 3rd, organized by Mel and Jack Noronha. Thanks to their hard work and the kind support of many parishioners who played different roles, the evening was splendid. The meal served, all Goan, was delicious and the activities accompanying the meal were all spot on. We are grateful to all who bought tickets and supported the meal with food and in any other way. May God bless Mel and Jack for coming up with this initiative and for spearheading the organization. We look forward to more of such joyful social events in our parish.

**NEXT FUNDRAISING EVENT is 'Resurrection Rock' – An Easter Musical on 20th April**

## CAFOD Lent Appeal

The Lent Family Fast Day is Friday 23rd February. For those of you wishing to use the CAFOD envelopes to donate to the Family Fast day appeal, these will be distributed at the Masses on the weekend of 17th and 18th February. You will also be able to donate online at <http://cafod.org.uk/> Your donations will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. You can see examples of this help on the poster in the colonnade. Please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families.

## Reading Parishes Big Lent Walk for CAFOD on 9<sup>th</sup> March

For those who feel they are not quite up to walking an average of 5 km per day over Lent but want to do something less challenging and still under the aegis of the Big Lent Walk, a one-off community walk of about 10km is being organised for Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March. The catholic parishes of Reading are coming together to make a heritage walk through Caversham and Reading to most of our historical churches, with a slice of history at each one. You and your families and friends will be warmly welcomed to join the walk on the day, gathering at St Anne's in Caversham at 10.15 a.m., proceeding via St James, Reading Abbey, St William of York, Our Lady of Peace and ending at Christ the King with a picnic lunch. For further information on the schedule, route and how to be a fundraiser please visit English Martyrs website and click on <https://englishmartyrsrdg.com/cafod-2/> or see the notice board in the colonnade.

## CAFOD Big Lent Walk

By signing up for CAFOD's Big Lent Walk you will challenge yourself to walk 200km over 40 days, raising funds to help fight global poverty. You can sign up as an individual, parish or school by [clicking this link](#). More information is available on the poster in the colonnade.

One of our Parishioners Paula has already signed up for the Walk. Here is the link to sponsor her. Thank you.

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/the-big-lent-walk1609>

**AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO LENTEN FASTING & ABSTINENCE**  
PRESENTED BY JONATHAN TEJADA FOR THE FOCUS BLOG

**WHEN FASTING AND ABSTINENCE**

- ASH WEDNESDAY
- GOOD FRIDAY
- FRIDAYS IN LENT

**WHO**

- CATHOLICS 14+** ARE OBLIGED TO PRACTICE ABSTINENCE
- CATHOLICS 18-59** ARE OBLIGED TO FAST

**THOSE OUTSIDE THE AGE LIMITS**  
and those whose state in life (e.g. pregnant women, manual laborers, those who are ill) may be excused from the requirements of fasting and abstinence, but are encouraged to take up some other form of penance or acts of charity or piety.

We are planning to visit LOURDES from 16th - 20th September 2024. Costs 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.

Booking forms are available from the parish office or from Judith on [judithcrimmins@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:judithcrimmins@yahoo.co.uk).

Completed forms should be returned to Tangney Tours by post or email – [noreen@tangney-tours.com](mailto:noreen@tangney-tours.com)

## MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Helen Coffey RIP
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Helena Lourenco & Vito Francisco Araujo RIP
	11.30am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Gerald MacDonald RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Frank Jennings RIP
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Eileen Ryan RIP
<b>BEGINNING OF THE SEASON OF LENT</b>		
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> <i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i>	9.30am	Frank Fletcher RIP
	7.00pm	Nazario De Andrade RIP
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Ethelreda Davis RIP
	11.30am	Requiem of James 'Jim' Dempsey
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	6.30am (Lent Only)	In Thanksgiving, for the Parish & Clergy for prayers and kindness, from Angela Wills.
	9.30am	Pam Greaves RIP
	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Marlena & Monika Michaluk RIP
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>		
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Romaldina Fernandes RIP
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Private Intention
	5.00pm	Thanksgiving, Buhay Family