



English Martyrs' Newsletter

5th SUNDAY OF LENT

17th MARCH 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
Assistant Priest: Fr. Samuel Alabi 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
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) machines in the church.

MASS TIMES Week commencing 17th MARCH
Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm.
Monday to Thursday at 9.30am
Friday at 6.30am & 9.30am
Saturday at 9.45am (Penitential Service)
Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)

Week commencing 17th MARCH
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:



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: On 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.

Let go and let God.

In our lives there is a cycle, perhaps one that can go unnoticed until we see it. The cycle lives in every year as it journeys through each season. We see it in nature and in our own lives. Every time something begins, something else has ended.
"unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies..."

Most people do not like change. We may sometimes find ourselves holding on to things in the hope that they will continue on. This is especially true for anything that had brought us joy or when we are anxious of what is to come next. Due to fear of what the future may hold, we may try to hold on to the past. *"...it will not bear fruit."*

But the passing of one moment brings the promise of another. Winter gives way to spring. A job ends and a new opportunity begins. If we hold on to the past, we may fail to create room for what God wants to do in our lives now and in the future. If we focus so much on what has been, we can lose sight of what is in front of us.

Lent is a time for us to examine our lives and identify what we can give over to God so that we can step into the promise of the resurrection. We cannot take hold of the new gifts of God if we are still holding on to the past. Perhaps, you may want to consider what it is in your life that you need to let go of today? What might you need to leave behind? What needs to die so that something new can arise?

Biblical Theme for the Week: YIELD A RICH HARVEST

This theme is from our gospel passage in which Jesus reminds us that we are meant to bear much fruit. We could live this theme by making the conscious effort at every moment this week to be at our best, to put in our best in everything we do. This entails making huge sacrifices, in other words, dying to ourselves. Let every moment of my week be of benefit to another person, spiritually or otherwise.

Fr. Gaston



"He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him" The gift of a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life is discerned through prayer and grace. Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke. vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869.

→ PARISH NOTICES ←

Sunday Readings for:



5th Sunday of Lent

First: Jeremiah 31: 31-34
 Psalm: 50(51) 3-4.12-15
 Second: Hebrews 5: 7-9
 Gospel: John 12: 20 -30

Palm Sunday

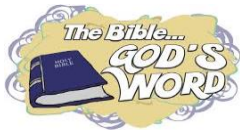
First: Isaiah 50: 4-7
 Psalm: 21(22) 8-9.17-24
 Second: Philippians 2: 6-11
 Gospel: Mark 14: 1 -15:47

Wednesday Word offers everyone an attractive way to spend precious time exploring the Sunday readings together. <https://www.wednesdayword.org/home/index.htm>



RCIA/ Journey in Faith

This week the JIF group members considered the gifts of the Holy Spirit received in the Sacrament of Confirmation and how these gifts prepare, and enable, us to become witnesses and disciples of Jesus - eager to share our faith with others in our daily lives. We also reflected together on John's Gospel account of the raising of Lazarus and what this event means to us. Thank you for praying for all of our three Elect, our candidates for Confirmation, their sponsors, and their catechists, especially at the scrutinies. The final scrutiny takes place this Sunday at the 9 am Mass.



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: Monday 18th March at 10.30pm in Room 2
 Wednesday 20th March at 7.00pm via Zoom – link from rk1500@hotmail.co.uk



LENTEN FOOD APPEAL

We will be collecting non-perishable food for DEECAAF at Weekend Masses during Lent. There will be a box in the Colonnade for your donations. Please give as generously as you can.



REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the souls of:

Jannah Massaquoi RIP. Her Memorial Mass will be on 23rd March 2024 at 12.30pm
 Oliver Kiely RIP. His Requiem will be on Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 11.00am
 Daniel Kirika Njenga RIP . His Requiem Mass will be on 19th March 2024 at 11.00am
 Martin Sheehan RIP. His body will be received into church on 3rd April at 4.00pm. His Requiem Mass will be at 12.45pm on Thursday 4th April
 Mildred Oates RIP. Her Requiem will be on Monday 15th April 2024 at 10.45am
 Please keep their loved ones in your prayers



Baptism

Welcome to Julian Xavier Martins-Jordan who is receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this Saturday 16th March 2024. Please keep him in your prayers.



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 21st March 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.



The Bookstall has a selection of cards and gifts for Mother's Day, St. Patricks Day and Easter including some colouring pictures for Holy Week and a small number of The Real Easter Egg. The eggs include a 24-page Easter story and activity book and a £200 book voucher competition. The bookstall is open every Sunday after the 9am mass until 11.10am.

If you could help after other Masses, please contact Chris Coxwell at chris.coxwell@ntlworld.com or the parish office.

English Martyrs Adult Ongoing Formation Group:

This ministry aims to help the faithful to grow in both human and Christian maturity, enriching the whole of life with the leaven of the Gospel. Our mission is to offer our parishioners an initiation into a Catholic way of life helping them to form a Christian conscience and to live their lives in the world as faithful disciples of Jesus. We aim to achieve this by;

1. Inviting and Enabling Ongoing Conversion to Jesus in Holiness of Life.
2. Promoting and Supporting Active participation in the Christian Community.
3. Calling and Preparing Adults to Act as Disciples in Mission to the World.

Meetings are online via MS Teams on Monday 7 - 8.30pm. Joining link is on church website. CALENDAR – English Martyrs Reading We are currently doing a study of praying with Psalms. All are welcome.

Holy Week Next weekend, we shall begin Holy Week ceremonies with Palm Sunday Celebration. Palms will be provided here in church and all Masses will begin in the Hall with blessing of Palms. There will be procession from the hall through the colonnade into the Church.

There will be a retiring Collection this weekend for Easter Flowers.

There will be a 2nd Collection on Good Friday for Holy Places.

Confessions in the Reading Pastoral Area during Lent. March 2024

Tuesday 19th	Christ the King School, 1.45 p.m.	Saturday 23rd	Our Lady of Peace, 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.
Tuesday 19th	St. John Bosco, 6.45 – 8.15 p.m.	Saturday 23rd	St. James, 5–6 pm & 7pm.
Thursday 21st	Christ the King, 6.45 p.m.	Monday 25th	St. Joseph's School, 1.30 pm.
Saturday 23rd	English Martyrs, 9.45 a.m.		

FUNDRAISING IDEAS FOR PARISH ORGAN RESTORATION PROJECT

Organ Restoration Fund stands at £7,007.00

Music Concerts:

20th April at 7:15p.m: Resurrection Rock: An Easter Musical (by EM School children)

29th June at 7:15p.m: Organs for the Organ (by Tamesis Chamber Choir)

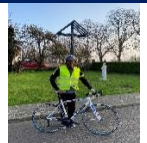


Fundraising cycling

25th May to Christ the King Whitley

(could include young parishioners who must be accompanied by an adult)

1st June to Abingdon (50miles round trip)



GIFT AID FORMS

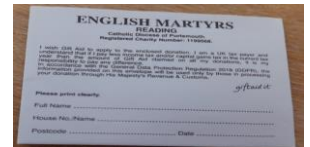
THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO WERE ABLE TO SUPPORT US.

We had 55 New Gift Aid Forms. We had 5 New Direct Debits

It is never too late to sign up – Green Gift Aid Forms are available in the Colonnade.

If you are not sure, then please ask a Welcomer.

To recover Gift Aid, we do need to be able to identify the donor. We cannot do this if you put cash in a basket. Blank envelopes are available in the colonnade. If you can, please use these for your offering. *We fully understand that not everyone is a taxpayer or able to Gift Aid their Offering.*



The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday Retreat at Aylesford Priory, Aylesford, Kent on Saturday 6th April 2024 from 10 am to 4:30 pm. The retreat will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Call millie on 07957 594646 for more information. Coaches from Ealing Broadway and Victoria

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Reflection on Saturday 13 April 2024 from 1 pm to 4:30 pm at St Mary's R C Church, 157 Aldershot Road, Guildford GU2. The Reflection will include the Holy Rosary, teachings on the Message of Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome. Please call millie on 07957 594646 for more information

Marriage Care Volunteers Needed!

Marriage Care is a Catholic organisation specialising in relationship support. We are looking for Marriage Preparation Course Facilitators to prepare couples for the Sacrament of Marriage (full training is provided for this role), Qualified Relationship Counsellors to support couples in distress and Trustees to provide governance and strategic direction for the organisation. For more information please visit: www.marriagecare.org.uk or email:

volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk



Altar Servers: Please sign up for Easter Services. Forms are in the Sacristy.



The Vietnamese Community in Reading will celebrate Holy Mass in their Language on Sunday 24th March at 2p.m in our Church.

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 16th to Sunday 24th March 2024

5th Sunday of Lent

Saturday 16 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Simone Gallogley RIP
Sunday 17 th	9.00am	Peter, Laurencia & Paul Ndikum RIP
	11.30am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Deceased members of the Carolan Family RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish
Monday 18 th	9.30am	Joseph Guy Hachey RIP
Tuesday 19 th	9.30am	Patrick Hard RIP
	11.00am	Memorial Mass for Daniel Kirika Njenga RIP
Wednesday 20 th	9.30am	Anne Tudor RIP
	11.00am	Requiem for Oliver Kiely RIP
Thursday 21 st	9.30am	Tommy Donohue RIP
Friday 22 nd	6.30am <i>(Lent Only)</i>	Kevin McKeever RIP
	9.00am	Stations of the Cross
	9.30am	Harry Mullin RIP
	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 23 rd	9.45am	Lenten Penitential Service
	12.30pm	Memorial for Jenneh Massaquoi
<i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</i>		
Saturday 23 rd <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Rita Agnes Perera & Darmapala Weerasakara RIP
Sunday 24 th	9.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Eugene Carolan RIP
	5.00pm	Martin Sheehan RIP

SPRING FAYRE IN AID OF LIFE AND THE CHILDRENS SOCIETY

SATURDAY 23RD MARCH: 11.00am to 1.00pm

In the Parish Centre: Admission Free

Stalls selling gifts, cards, toiletries, jewellery, houseplants, toys, handicrafts, cushions,
resin, artistry, cakes and more....

There will be a Raffle and Tombola. Tea and coffee will be served from 10.30am

All Welcome