



English Martyrs' Newsletter

4th SUNDAY OF EASTER – GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY
21st APRIL 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 MSP 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 21st APRIL.
Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm.
Monday to Friday at 9.30am
Saturday at 10.00am
Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)

Week commencing 21st APRIL.
Confessions will be celebrated as follows:
Sunday 30 mins before 9.00am & 11.30am and at 4.30pm.
Mon to Fri: 15 mins before Mass.
Saturday: After 10.00am Mass 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.

WHAT'S AT THE CENTRE OF YOUR LIFE?

Roman arches were not held together with cement or mortar, instead a keystone was used. This stone, when placed, locked all the other stones together in the arch giving it strength and stability. Without it, integrity was challenged, and the arch would crumble.

This Sunday, we hear St Peter declare that Jesus Christ is the key stone. Is he your keystone?

As our keystone, it is Jesus who gives us strength and stability. Just as the keystone sits at the centre of the arch with all other stones orientated towards it, Jesus should be the centre of our lives with all else (family, jobs, friends, money, hobbies) orientated towards him. The keystone was not an optional extra for the Roman arch builders and nor can Jesus be an optional extra for us.

How do you know if Jesus is the centre of our lives? Spend some time this week asking yourself some questions:

- What takes up most of your time during the week?
- What is your first thought when you wake up or last thought at night?
- How much time do you spend in prayer or reading scripture or in adoration?



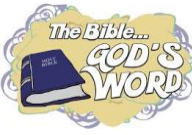






A keystone must be placed (sometimes forcibly) into the arch. We must make the daily choice to place Jesus at the centre of our lives. What change could you make this week to bring Jesus more into your life?

BIBLICAL THEME FOR OUR WEEK: By the Name of Jesus Christ

This is drawn from Peter's confession in our first reading. Peter declares that it is by the name of Jesus that healing came to a cripple. He adds that it is only by the name of Jesus that we can be saved. We can live this theme by bearing in mind that Jesus is by us, every moment, to save us. We may have to face dreadful situations this week, but all will be fine as we prayerfully invoke the name of Jesus. Through His holy name, we receive support to stand tall amidst trials.

Fr. Gaston

→ PARISH NOTICES ←

Sunday Readings for:	4 th Sunday of Easter	5 th Sunday of Easter
	First: Acts 4: 8-12 Psalm: 117(118) 1.8-9.21-23.26.28-29 Second: John 3:1-2 Gospel: John 10: 11-18.	First: Acts 9: 26-31 Psalm: 21(22) 26-28.30-32 Second: John 3:18-24 Gospel: John 15: 1-8.
	Parish Hospitality Meeting All those do who organize and or facilitate any hospitality activity in our Parish are invited to attend a parish hospitality meeting online on Wednesday 24th April from 6p.m to 7p.m. Please, contact Parish office email (office@englishmartyrsrdg.com) or the parish hospitality email (hospitality@englishmartyrsrdg.com) for the link to attend this meeting. The next meeting on a date yet to be scheduled will be in-person which will enable members to have on-site look around the kitchen and storage space.	
	Emmaus Groups – How to understand the Bible In these groups, we look at the readings for the flowing 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. Next scheduled meetings are: - Monday 22nd April at 7.30pm in Room 2 Wednesday 24th April at 10.30am in Room 2 Thursday 25th April via Zoom – link from cath_harrington@compuserve.com	
 REST IN PEACE	Please pray for the souls of: John Bolger RIP. His funeral will be on Monday 22nd April at 10.45am at Reading Crematorium (South Chapel). Helen Farley RIP. Her Funeral is at 12.15pm on Monday 22nd April at Henley Road (South Chapel) Edward Doran RIP. His Funeral will be at 11.00am on Thursday 25th April at Easthampstead Crematorium. Oliver Keily RIP: Ashes will be interred on Thursday at 11:30a.m at St Michael's Churchyard Daniel Delaney RIP. His Requiem will be 12.00pm on Monday 29th April 2024 João Da Luz RIP. Funeral details to be confirmed. Martin Campbell RIP. Funeral details to be confirmed. Jean Kathleen Thatcher RIP. Please keep their loved ones in your prayers.	
	Congratulations to; Coralie Annora Parish who is receiving the Sacrament of Baptism on Saturday 20th April.	
	Senior Youth/Confirmation Group: Sessions resume this weekend – 21 st April - after the Sunday 5pm Mass.	
	Elevate Junior Youth Group: Session this Friday from 6p.m to 7p.m in the parish hall. An opportunity for your child to interact with other junior youth and deepen their love of God.	
	Bookshop and Repository:.. A new Sunday Missal, including the texts for all Sunday services in the three year cycle in the new ESV translation, is now available to pre- order from Redemptorist Publications. If ordered before the end of May the price will be £19.95. After that the price will be £24.95. It can be ordered through the Parish Bookstall. Please register your interest by visiting the Bookstall, open after the 9am Sunday Mass to 11.10am, or by contacting Chris Coxwell at chris.coxwell@ntlworld.com or through the Parish Office. This book has a luxury leatherette cover, high quality paper and other extra features. There will be a one year version from advent 2024 to 2025 available from CTS Books later in the year.	
	Birthday Blessings for April: Next weekend after the homily at all Masses, there will be a special blessing for all those celebrating birthdays during April.	

Gold Bracelet/Bangle – Found in the church during March. Please contact the Parish Office if you think this is yours.



Our parish has decided to support with prayers and donations the Tilehurst Drop-in Centre & Foodbank. TDICF provides a warm space with food and a listening ear for needy members of the community, every Wednesday, from 1-3pm, at St. Joseph's RC Church. The needy will be provided fresh food, long-life food and household products to take home. Your donations would be much appreciated. This week, TDICF is short of baked beans, tinned corned beef / luncheon meat, packet soup, cereal, apple/orange juice, tea, coffee, sugar and shaving foam, so would greatly appreciate receiving these items. A collection bin is situated in the church foyer. Many thanks for your generosity. Any questions, please contact: John Foley 07769 251747.



Have you brought in dishes from home to parish events over the last month or so? We have accumulated quite a collection in the kitchen - which we need to have collected. If any are yours, please call in after Mass to get them. Due to limited storage space these dishes will be 'allocated' to the parish or disposed of, if not claimed.



Driver/First Aider Needed for Sponsored Cycling: As we advance towards the scheduled dates) for the sponsored cycling to support restoration of our parish organ (25 May and 1 June 2024, we wish to announce that we are in need of a driver who will accompany the cyclists and offer lift to those who cannot complete the trip. Preferably, we would love to have a driver who has got some first aid knowledge. Please, kindly indicate your willingness to take up this role to the parish office.



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

A formation day is being held at St Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX On Saturday, 4th May 2024 from 9.30am to 2.30pm. The day starts with Mass at 9.30am, followed by talks, reflections, and refreshments. This is an important opportunity for Eucharistic Ministers to spend a little time learning more about their ministry of the Eucharist. You may like to make enquiries with other Eucharistic Ministers in the parish, who you think may be attending; Car sharing may be an option for you. Parishioners who are soon to be trained as new Eucharistic Ministers are warmly welcome to attend also. Please RSVP to liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



The latest issue of our Caritas Portsmouth newsletter is here – and there are articles on the Let's End Poverty Movement, our new parish biodiversity review tool and the Church Beyond Walls Workshop. We are also introducing our Caritas Ambassador and Caritas Community Rep volunteering roles. To download a copy go to: (<https://mailchi.mp/3bb303fb8b15/caritas-portsmouth-news>)



Volunteer Drivers: The SVP urgently need volunteer drivers (male or female) for Food Centre deliveries in the Reading area. Can you spare a few hours a week for a very worthwhile cause? A car, estate or small van would be needed. Membership of the SVP is not necessary. For more details please contact Jack Ewins, President SVP Portsmouth Central Council; Mob 07734 499190. Email jackewins9@gmail.com

Saturday 27th April 7.00pm Kolbe Center and Family Life international present a talk "Creation and Evolution, Fact or Fiction": Location: Our Lady of Peace & Bl Dominic Barberi Church, Earley. Please join us for two captivating presentations. The first, led by Hugh Owen, delves into the timeless teachings of the Catholic Church regarding genesis as elucidated by the Councils, Fathers, and Doctors of the Church. The second talk led by Greg Clovis unveils the latest cutting-edge scientific discoveries questioning the evolution Hypothesis. Suitable for all ages, regardless of prior knowledge on the subject, these talks promise to be profoundly enlightening. Tea and coffee will be served. See poster for more details.

Sacrament of Confirmation: Some of our Senior Youth Group members will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Portsmouth Cathedral on Sunday May 5 at 3p.m. Please, pray for them. In view of this celebration, some of the senior youth will receive baptism and first holy Communion at the 5p.m Mass next Sunday 28 April. Also, the Senior Youth to be confirmed are invited to attend a mini-retreat on the Saturday 4th May beginning with the 10a.m Mass, followed by adoration and confessions. The handing of certificates of confirmation will take place at the 5p.m Mass on May 12. This will be followed by celebration in the hall.

GOOD COUNCIL NETWORK

"On Saturday 27th April, which is the 56th anniversary of abortion becoming legal in Britain, please pray and fast for the end of abortion in this Country. Normally we would ask you to fast from all food except bread and water for the day, but as it is still the Easter Season, you might choose instead to fast from a particular food or luxury, e.g. chocolate, alcohol, cigarettes, TV. 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"

Clergy Day: Fr Gaston and Fr Samuel will be away on Tuesday 23rd April for a Clergy Training Day in Southampton. Fr Richard will celebrate the 9:30a.m Mass.

Second Collection this weekend for the Clergy Training Fund.

Each year we make an appeal to support the Clergy Training Fund in response to the ever-increasing costs of training priests and deacons to serve in our Diocese. There is no state funding for seminaries or for the formation of permanent deacons and so the money required to provide each student with accommodation, living costs and tuition for a number of years needs to be found from the generous support of people who contribute to this fund. The Clergy Training Fund is also used to finance the on-going formation of diocesan clergy, whether it be for professional studies or to support the educational costs for those on sabbatical. Give As You Live Donation Page: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/clergy-training-fund-second-collection-2024>

You can also donate using the Dona Machine in the colonnade or online using the Bank Details above and using the specific reference: Clergy Training Fund.

Special Welcome to Deacon Ambrose Chou: Our parish community gladly welcomes Deacon Ambrose Chou who will speak to us at all of our weekend Masses, as we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday. We shall pray for more vocations this weekend and carryout a donation to support the clergy training fund. It will therefore be very encouraging to meet another seminarian who is soon to be ordained Priest for our Diocese. Please, continue to pray for more vocations and especially for those in training to become priest.

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 20th to Sunday 28th April 2024

4th Sunday of Easter: Good Shepherd Sunday

Saturday 20 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Ebenezer Quartey RIP
Sunday 21 st	9.00am	Martina Downey RIP
	11.30am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Eddie Rodgers RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish
Monday 22 nd	9.30am	Johnny Patton RIP
Tuesday 23 rd St. George, Patron Saint of England	9.30am	Louie Fearn RIP
Wednesday 24 th	9.30am	Michael Rodden RIP
Thursday 25 th St. Mark, Evangelist. Feast	9.30am	Martin Conway RIP
Friday 26 th	9.30am	John Smyth RIP
Saturday 27 th	10.00am	Mick Burke RIP
<i>5th Sunday of Easter</i>		
Saturday 27 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 28 th	9.00am	Gertrudes Fernandes & Santan Do Rego RIP
	11.30am	Jim Rafter & Deceased members of the Kelly Family RIP
	5.00pm	Martin Sheehan RIP