



English Martyrs' Newsletter

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER – DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
7th 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 7th 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 7th 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: From 5.00 to 5.45pm
NO CONFESSIONS AFTER 10.00am MASS.



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.

Trusting In His Mercy

The mercy of God meets us where we are, and the mercy of God doesn't allow us to stay as we are.

In this Sunday's Gospel we encounter the disciples behind closed doors. They had seen so much through the ministry of Jesus and then so much in the passion of Christ. Amongst rumours of the resurrection, we now find them behind locked doors, hiding in fear.

How often have we seen God work in our lives or the lives of those we know? How often does it feel that the next moment we are left reeling? Wondering where God is we find ourselves behind closed doors, protecting ourselves. Hiding from hurt or through fear.

He came to the disciples; he met them where they were. It is in this moment, that Jesus comes to us. He doesn't wait for us to be sorted, to know the answers or to step out in faith. In his mercy he gives us what we need in the moment but then, just as he did to the disciples, he sends us out. Every encounter with Christ enables us to take the next step. He empowers us through the Holy Spirit and strengthens us with his presence.

Take a moment in your day to allow Jesus to come to you. Step away from the busyness, the worries and the doubts. Choose to trust in his presence and ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to trust in the mercy of God.



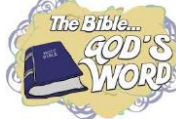







Biblical Theme: "Faith in Action"

Our theme "Faith in Action" is manifest in the lifestyle of the early Christian community as recounted in the First Reading. Having witnessed the resurrection, "the whole group of believers was united, heart and soul." By imitating Jesus who held nothing back but gave all of himself for our salvation. They put all their possessions at the service of the community for the good of all. May God help us to be aware of the needs of others and be willing to let go of what we have that may be of help to them.

Fr. Samuel

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:</p> 	<p>2nd Sunday of Easter</p>	<p>3rd Sunday of Easter</p>
	<p>First: Acts 4: 32-35 Psalm: 117(118) 2-4.45-18.22-24 Second: John 5:1-6 Gospel: John 20: 19-31.</p>	<p>First: Acts 3: 13-15.17-19. Psalm: 4:2-4. 7-9 Second: John 2:1-5 Gospel: Luke 24: 35-48.</p>
<p>Wednesday Word (www.wednesdayword.org) has some helpful reflections for parishioners on the three Sunday readings each week.</p>		
	<p>NAME BADGE SUNDAY: Another opportunity to meet and greet fellow parishioners by name and develop a better sense of community within the parish.</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. Everybody is welcome to join. Next scheduled meetings as follows: Monday 8th April at 7.30pm in Room 2; Wednesday 10th April at 10.30am in Room 2. Thursday 11th April at 11.00am via Zoom – link from cath_harrington@compuserve.com</p>	
 <p>REST IN PEACE</p>	<p>Please pray for the souls of: Maeve Nolan RIP. Her Requiem will be at 2.00pm on Monday 8th April 2024 Mildred Oates RIP. Her Requiem will be at 10.45am on Monday 15th April 2024 Daniel Delaney RIP. His Requiem will be at 12.00 pm on Wednesday 17th April. Caroline Hurst RIP. Funeral details to be confirmed. Please keep their loved ones in your prayers</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 April 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>Easter Break: Fr Samuel will be away from 11th to 18th of April.</p>	
	<p>Sponsored cycling for Parish Organ Restoration Posters for this event are in the colonnade. Those who cannot cycle but would like to make a donation for this sponsored cycling can collect a sponsorship form from the Colonnade/parish office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Organ Restoration Fund stands at £7,357.00</p>	
	<p>Bookshop and Repository:.. open each Sunday morning after 9.00am Mass selling Prayer books, Rosary's, statues, cards and other religious items for both every day and special occasions. Located at the rear of the Parish Hall in the room on the right. 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>Congratulations: to Joanna Lawrence and John Lawrence who are to be married on Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 2.00pm</p>	
	<p>Group Coordinators meeting: All Group Coordinators are reminded about the upcoming meeting on Saturday 13th April 2024 in the hall immediately after the 10am Mass.</p>	

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.

RED BOX PROMOTERS

Please can you arrange to collect red boxes by Saturday 20th April. Mike Tomas will be in touch to collect money from you after that date.

The Missio Spring Bulletins are in the Colonnade.
Please take your required number.

DIVINE MERCY HOUR: SUNDAY 7th APRIL 2024

Fr Richard will be leading a Divine Mercy Service at 3.00pm in Church.



Cianna's Smile

Our Sickle Cell support charity called Cianna's Smile offers information, support and advocacy for families affected by Sickle Cell, a hereditary life-threatening blood condition across Berkshire and the UK. We have an upcoming event we would like to invite more young people and their carers to attend.

On Monday 8th April at Beansheaf Community Centre Reading, Berkshire we are having a 3D printing workshop and cooking class for youths aged 8-16 years old. For their parents/carers there will be a massage treatment available to book in whilst they wait.

See Noticeboard in the colonnade for more details.

Lourdes Pilgrimages 2024

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE: 22 -26th July 2024

4 Nights £859 per person sharing » Direct flight from Gatwick Airport to Toulouse Airport and return » Private coach transfer on arrival to your hotel and return » 4 nights' accommodation in the Hotel La Solitude » Full board: breakfast, lunch and dinner » Airport taxes & charges, and UK government levy

PARISH PILGRIMAGE: 16th - 20th September 2024.

Costs will be approximately £650 per person (sharing) 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. Completed forms should be returned to Tangney Tours by post or email – noreen@tangney-tours.com



Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

VACANCIES AT CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH

Please follow the link for current vacancies throughout the Diocese:

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs>



PARISH TOILET FACILITIES

The Toilets are in need of modernisation and renovation.

Please have a look at some proposed plans in the Colonnade and in the Hall. They are just proposals at the moment (drawn up by one of our parishioners) and we would welcome any thoughts or feedback you may have about these plans, before we look at the next steps. Please let us have your comments/suggestions by Monday 8th April by emailing or telephoning the parish office.

email: office@englishmartyrsrdg.com OR Tel: 0118 957 2149

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

2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

Saturday 6 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 7 th	9.00am	Maria Vitoria Fernandes RIP
	11.30am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Kevin Commins RIP & Kathleen Gaughan RIP
	3pm – 4pm	Divine Mercy Hour
	5.00pm	Miguel Salvador Rodrigues RIP
Monday 8 th	9.30am	Baby Julian & Family, Thanksgiving
<i>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</i>	2.00pm	Requiem of Maeve Nolan RIP
Tuesday 9 th	9.30am	Maeve Nolan RIP
Wednesday 10 th	9.30am	John Knox RIP
Thursday 11 th <i>St Stanislaus, memorial</i>	9.30am	Martin Sheehan RIP
Friday 12 th	9.30am	Mr Theotonio Goes RIP
Saturday 13 th	10.00am	John McDonagh RIP
3rd Sunday of Easter		
Saturday 13 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Rena Pinto RIP
Sunday 14 th	9.00am	Thanksgiving, Dickson & Hannah Fernandes
	11.30am	Mary Fahy RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish



Reading Half Marathon: Will take place on Sunday 14th April. Roads will be closed as follows: Tilehurst Road from Russell St. to Liebenrood Rd. from 9.30am to 1.15pm: Liebenrood Rd. from 9.30am to 2.00pm. There will be no vehicular access to the car park for those attending the 11.30 Mass.