



English Martyrs' Newsletter

11th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

16th JUNE 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

TO 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), the Dona(te) machines in the church or by scanning the QR code on the right..



MASS TIMES WEEK COMMENCING 16th JUNE
Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm.
Monday to Friday at 9.30am
Saturday at 9.30am & 11.30am (First Communion Masses)
THERE WILL BE NO 10.00am MASS on Saturday
Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)

WEEK COMMENCING 16th JUNE
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 5.30pm ONLY. No confessions Saturday morning.



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.

HAVE FAITH

Most of us may have been told at one point or another in our lives to “have faith”. Perhaps we find ourselves comparing our faith with another, thinking ours is too small or weak, but what does Jesus say about faith?



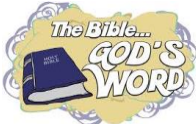





In this Sunday’s Gospel we hear Jesus telling his disciples “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed...” We may not know what a mustard seed looks like. But his original hearers would have understood. This was a phrase within their culture used to represent anything that was small and almost unnoticeable. Jesus does not ask us to have strong faith, or big faith, or courageous faith. He asks us to have faith and it is our actions that show our faith.

We show faith when we choose to pray while we are not sure of how change will come about. Or when we choose to sit before Jesus in adoration even though we may ‘feel’ little.

Bishop Egan has spoken of 6 Holy Habits ((1) Sunday Mass; (2) daily prayer; (3) Friday penance and works of charity; (4) fortnightly visit to the Blessed Sacrament; (5) monthly Confession; and (6) to join a small support-group), each of which helps us deepen our faith. We should not wait until our faith feels stronger to take one of the Holy habits. We can make that choice to take on a holy habit trusting that while endeavouring to practice it, our faith will be strengthened. Will you choose to start with one of the Holy habits today?

Fr. Gaston

→ PARISH NOTICES ←

Sunday Readings for:	11th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME	12th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME
	First: Ezekiel 17:22-24 Psalm: 91(92) 2-3.13-16 Second: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 Gospel: Mark 4: 26-34	First: Job 38:1.8-11 Psalm: 106(107) 23-31 Second: 2 Corinthians 5:14-17 Gospel: Mark 4: 35-41
For more information and suggestions for praying with the Sunday readings through the week: https://stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com/prego/		
	RCIA/ JOURNEY IN FAITH As usual, we explored the readings for this week's Sunday Mass together. We also meditated on John 1 :35- 42 when Jesus asks 2 curious disciples "What are you looking for? ", then invites them to come and spend time with Him to get to know Him.	
	EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE. Our Parish Emmaus groups explore the Sunday readings together with fellow parishioners in an informal setting. If you cannot join one of the existing parish groups, why not get together with a few friends or family members and do the same thing? No need for expert knowledge, there are many resources available to help us get to know the Scriptures better. Next week's meetings are on Monday 17th June at 7.30pm in Room 2, Wednesday 19th June at 10.30am in Room 2 and Saturday 22 nd June at 4.30pm in Room 1.	
	FIRST HOLY COMMUNION The First Holy Communion Masses will take place on Saturday, June 22nd, at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. The final practice in preparation for this celebration will take place on Friday, June 21st, at 6pm. We request Parents to ensure that they bring their children for this practice. THERE WILL BE NO 10am MASS OR MORNING CONFESSIONS ON SATURDAY 22ND.	
	PARKING NOTICE: We have posted a new parking notice on the tree in the circular garden in our front parking area. This notice serves as a reminder to respect the designated disabled parking spots and to refrain from double parking in front of them. We believe that this measure will address the difficulties that some disabled parking users have faced when needing to make an emergency exit from our parking lot.	
	PARISH AFTERNOON TEA here 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. This month the event is being held in the Parish Hall on Thursday 27th June 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	
	TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK Every Wednesday, from 1-3pm, at St. Joseph's RC Church. household products to take home. This week, TDICF is short of long-life milk (whole, semi-skimmed), pot noodles, marmite, honey, peanut butter, small bags of sugar and shaving foam, so would greatly appreciate receiving any of these items. A collection bin is situated in the church foyer. Many thanks for your generosity. Any questions, please contact: John Foley 07769251747.	
 REST IN PEACE	PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF: James McMahan RIP - His funeral took place on Friday 14th June at Reading Crematorium Brian Roche RIP - His body will be received into church at 4.30pm on Wednesday 19th June and his Requiem will be at 7.00pm on the same day. Please also keep their loved ones in your prayers.	
SUMMER YOUTH CAMP 2024 The Summer Youth Camp organised by the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph, will take place from 19th to 23rd August. This is for young people aged 11 to 18. There will be many enriching activities to promote the integral growth of young people. It will also be a time of fun and interaction with young people from other parishes. Book your place at www.FanningTheFlame.co.uk . There are limited spaces.		

SPECIAL RETIRING COLLECTION: DAY FOR LIFE - SUNDAY 16th JUNE

This year's theme is "The Lord is my Shepherd – Compassion and Hope at the End of Life", which allows us to reflect on end-of-life care in the midst of national debates on assisted suicide.

You can also donate using Online Giving Donate to Reading English Martyrs Parish | Give as you Live Donate or via the Parish Bank Account (see above for details). Thank you.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Isaac Raymond Junior Matete who is receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this Saturday 15th June and John Joseph McDonagh who is receiving the Sacrament of Baptism on Thursday 20th June.



SPONSORED CYCLE RIDES

THANK YOU to all who have supported the two sponsored Cycle rides. To date, we have collected almost £2,000. In addition, there will be Gift Aid to boost this figure.

The good news is there is still time to support us

The online Sponsorship is still Open (See QR Code opposite)

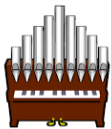
Or you can use bank transfer (see above for our bank details)

or cash in the envelopes available in the colonnade

(Please gift aid if you are a UK Taxpayer)

SUPPORTING THE PARISH ORGAN RESTORATION PROJECT

The ORGAN RESTORATION FUND stands at £10,252.18 (with gift aid and money still coming in)



CHOIR CONCERT: ORGANS FOR THE ORGAN

Tamesis Chamber Choir will be performing their summer concert at English Martyrs Church on Saturday 29th June at 7:30pm. The concert will be in aid of the organ restoration fund and is aptly titled "Organs for the Organ". Each piece of music will have a reference to an organ of some kind - whether that be of the musical instrument variety or a part of the body! The programme includes music from a variety of genres, so there will be something for everyone to enjoy. There will be refreshments in the hall after the concert.

Tickets cost £12 (£5 for children and students in full-time education) and are available from Tamesis' website, after all Masses on 22nd/23rd June or on the door.

<https://tamesischamberchoir.com/eventer/summer-concert/edate/2024-06-29>

PARISH CENTENARY COMMITTEE

The Committee responsible for planning the centenary celebration of the dedication of English Martyrs Church will hold its first meeting on Tuesday, June 18th, at 6 p.m. We continue to pray for our parish as we approach this important celebration, which we hope will last for a full year and include many events to promote growth in all aspects of parish life.

CATHOLIC MEN ASSOCIATION, UK BRANCH:

The Catholic Men's Association (CMA) UK Branch will visit our parish. This association is a lay apostolate founded in Cameroon and has since spread worldwide. In preparation for the dedication of the third batch of members on July 13th, the members of the CMA UK branch will have a full day of recollection at our parish on Saturday, June 22nd. They will also lead the singing at the 9 a.m. Mass on Sunday and greet parishioners in the hall afterwards.

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dee Road, Tilehurst, Reading. RG30 4BE



SUMMER FAIR

Saturday 29th June 2024

12 noon - 3.00pm

Burgers
Teas, coffees and soft drinks
Candyfloss
Stalls, Crafts, Facepainting
Tombola
Games + Activities
English Martyrs School Choir
and more...

Please contact
admin@englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk
if you would like to have a stall

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 15th to Sunday 23rd June 2024

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 15 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Stanley Austin RIP
Sunday 16 th	9.00am	Lindamira Stephens & deceased members of the Stephens Family RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Nancy Cordery RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish
Monday 17 th	9.30am	João Falcao RIP
Tuesday 18 th	9.30am	Private Intention
Wednesday 19 th	9.30am	Kamile Pundziute & Jason Oliver, Thanksgiving.
	7.00pm	Requiem of 'Bernard' Bryan Roche RIP
Thursday 20 th	9.30am	Baptista Roque Dias RIP
Friday 21 st <i>St Aloyius Gonzaga, memorial</i>	9.30am	Caroline Hurst RIP
Saturday 22 nd <i>Ss John Fisher, and Thomas More, Martyrs Feast</i>	9.30am)	First Holy Communion Masses
	11.30am)	

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 22 nd (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Margaret Wilson RIP
Sunday 23 rd	9.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	For the D'Cruz family, Intentions
	5.00pm	Kathleen Carolan RIP

50% CAP ON ADMISSIONS TO FAITH SCHOOLS

The Government has opened a consultation on lifting the cap that for the last 14 years has limited the number of Catholic children that can be admitted into any new Catholic school. Please open the link and respond to the consultation (only name and email address are required). Responses are crucial if Catholic families throughout the country are not to continue to be deprived of a Catholic education.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/lifting-the-faith-schools-cap/>

PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY:

Please remember to keep Fr. Samuel Alabi MSP in your prayers on Friday, June 21st, as he celebrates his ordination anniversary. We are grateful for Fr. Samuel's inspirational ministry in our Parish and wish him God's abundant blessings. We continue to pray for Fr Richard Maniak, whose anniversary of ordination was on Friday, May 24th

SUE RYDER, DUCHESS OF KENT HOSPICE

The Polish 'Blessing of Bread' on Easter Saturday raised £234.67 which was donated to SUE RYDER. Sue Ryder said "Thank you so much for your kind donations. Your support helps us to continue our care, ensuring people's final days are filled with cherished memories and love. Thank you, so much for thinking of us during these difficult times"