



# English Martyrs' Newsletter

**22<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 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 MSP [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

**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 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER**

Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm  
Monday to Thursday at 9.30am  
Friday at 9.30am and 6.30pm (Mass for Peace)  
Saturday at 10.00am  
Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)

**WEEK COMMENCING 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER**

Confessions will be celebrated as follows:  
Sunday 30 mins before 9.00am & 11.30am & from 4.30pm  
Mon to Fri: 15 mins before Mass.  
Saturday: After 10.00am Mass and from 5.30pm



**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** On Friday from 10.00am to 5.00pm. Praise and Worship as usual until 5:45p.m, followed by silent adoration for 15 minutes. Then, Angelus at 6p.m followed by Rosary, benediction, reposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Mass for Peace at 6:30pm.

## THE HEART OF THE MATTER

In ancient Greek, the word "hypocrite" refers to an actor or someone who wears a mask. An actor may behave in a way that doesn't align with their true beliefs, portraying a different persona.

When choosing Israel's second king, King David, God, through the prophet Samuel, emphasized that He looks at a person's heart, not just outward appearances (1 Samuel 16:7). It's possible to exhibit outward godliness while having a heart that is distant from God.

We may love our neighbours, give to the poor, pray diligently, read scriptures regularly, and attend Mass daily. While engaging in these noble activities, we must constantly question our motives. We must always seek to purify our aspirations so that the state of our hearts truly aligns with that of Jesus, who had no gap between the sentiments of his heart and his words and actions.

In the responsorial psalm for this weekend, the psalmist (Psalm 15) emphasizes that only those who speak the truth from their hearts will be worthy to be admitted into the presence of God. This means that true worship and love for God must come from a genuine and sincere place within our hearts, without any ulterior motives. Those who approach God with pure and genuine intentions are the ones whose worship is pleasing and acceptable to God.

One way to assess our motives is to ask ourselves whether we would continue doing the things we do if no one noticed, solely to deepen our relationship with God, who loves us and cares for us without partiality.

Fr. Gaston

**→ PARISH NOTICES ←**

Sunday Readings for:	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>
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First: Deuteronomy 4:1-2.6-8  
 Psalm: 14(15) 2-5  
 Second: St, James 1: 17-18.21-22.27  
 Gospel: Mark 7: 1-8.14-15.21-23

First: Isaiah 35: 4-7  
 Psalm: 145(146) 7-10  
 Second: St, James 2: 1-5  
 Gospel: Mark 7: 31-37

Helpful comments on the Sunday Readings and guidance for praying the Sunday readings through the week are available on: <https://stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com>



**NAME BADGE SUNDAY** Another opportunity to meet and greet fellow parishioners by name and develop a better sense of community within the parish.



**RCIA/ JOURNEY IN FAITH** Journey in Faith meetings are for adults who are considering asking to be baptised, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church - or for anyone who would simply like to understand more about the Catholic faith and the person of Jesus Christ. This formation enables us to deepen our relationship with Christ and strengthen our commitment to serving the church. Meetings take place on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 - 9 pm, beginning on Tuesday 24th September, with a welcome and introduction evening. If you would like more information, contact the parish office, one of our priests or "Parish of English Martyrs Reading - RCIA" [rcia@englishmartyrsrdg.com](mailto:rcia@englishmartyrsrdg.com)



**EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE.**  
 Our Parish Emmaus groups explore the Sunday readings together with fellow parishioners in an informal setting.  
 Next week's meeting is on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30am in Room 2.



**SPONSORED EVENT FOR PARISH ORGAN RESTORATION.**  
**PADDLE YOUR FEET, TO RESTORE OUR ORGAN**  
 This event will run until September 8th, 2024. Participants can swim or paddle their feet to raise funds, whether in open water or at a gym. Even those who cannot swim can participate by paddling their feet in any body of water, even in a small bucket. Children of all ages are encouraged to take part, and parents can involve their little ones by having them paddle their feet in their baths. Sponsorship forms with more details are available in the colonnade.  
 You can make a donation by using a marked envelope OR use the Just Giving QR Code.



**The ORGAN RESTORATION FUND now stands at £21,881.04**



**TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK**  
 Every Wednesday, from 1-3pm, at St. Joseph's RC Church. household products to take home. Many thanks to all who have been supporting this outreach initiative. Your donations have always been received with gratitude, and we pray that the joy experienced by those who benefit from your generosity will bring you abundant blessings.



**PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS:** As part of our First Friday devotion on 6<sup>th</sup> September, let us say together the prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus at 8:30pm. This can be done individually or as a family using either the cards we distributed or the online version on our website homepage.



**PRAYER PETITIONS - LOURDES**  
 It's not long until our parish pilgrimage to Lourdes. If anyone would like to have any prayers/petitions taken to Lourdes and placed at the grotto, please leave these in the basket in front of the altar by Sunday 15th September.

**NEXT WEEKEND (14th/15th September):  
 THERE WILL BE A SECOND COLLECTION FOR HOME MISSIONS**

## WHAT WILL YOU DO FOR OUR PARISH?

Every individual's contribution is vital to the growth of our parish. Please take a moment to check our noticeboard and consider serving in one or two of the different ministries. Remember, we are all called to play a part in the growth of the Church. Everyone has a right to participate according to their gifts. Our talents/gifts are meant for the building of the Christian community (Ephesians 4:12).



### DIOCESAN FORMATION DAY FOR READERS – SAVE THE DATE

Fr Anthony Fyk, Director of Liturgy Formation, is running a formation day for readers on Saturday 19th October from 10.30 am to 2 pm. This will take place at St Bede's Church/Hall in Basingstoke.

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Please register to attend by emailing:  
[liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**ENGLISH MARTYRS PARISH  
ORGAN RESTORATION FUND  
AFRO CARIBBEAN BBQ DINNER**

**ON 14TH SEPTEMBER 2024  
AT 7.15 PM**

VENUE: ENGLISH MARTYRS PARISH HALL  
Tickets: Adult £14, Child: £6  
Family £35 (2 Adults 2 Children)  
Under 5s Free

For tickets please contact:  
Saffie Tel: 07886 082217  
TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AFTER  
ALL MASSES ON SUNDAY  
*COME & EXPERIENCE AUTHENTIC AFRO-CARIBBEAN FOOD*

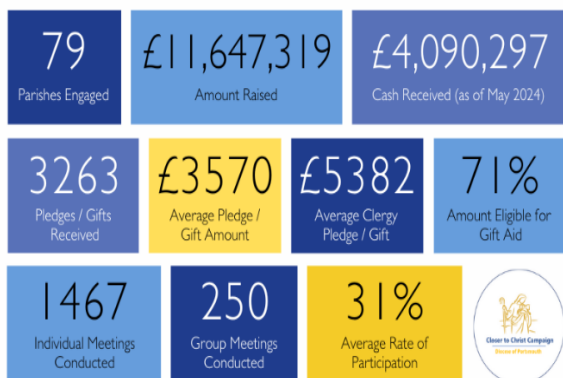
### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION

Many thanks to the parents who have registered their children and submitted their registration forms. We are asking parents of children who did not receive baptism in English Martyrs church, to kindly submit the baptism certificates soonest if they have not yet done so.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** Children's Liturgy will resume at 5 p.m. mass on Sunday, September 8th. We are pleading for more volunteers to assist with children's liturgy not only at the 5:00 PM mass but also at the 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM masses. Please kindly mail the Parish Office ([office@englishmartyrsrdg.com](mailto:office@englishmartyrsrdg.com)) if you are interested.

**GCSE RESULTS.** We want to say congratulations to all our students who passed their GCSE and courage to those who did not make it successfully this year.

**START OF NEW SCHOOL YEAR:** We pray for all staff, parents/guardians and children looking forward to the start of the new school year this week.



### CLOSER TO CHRIST CAMPAIGN

Many thanks to everyone in our parish who has faithfully continued to fulfil their pledge for the Closer to Christ Campaign. As we are aware, this campaign was launched three years ago to assist with training seminarians for the priesthood, caring for clergy in ministry, and supporting clergy in retirement. Our Parish will receive 31% of the overall amount, which will be paid in following our pledges. May God continue to replenish your resources as you support the ministry of the church.

## UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF THE BIBLE

A Quick Journey Through the Bible in 8 Thursday evenings: Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> & Nov 7<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>

**7.30 – 9.00pm in the parish hall**

Many Catholics want to read the Bible because they know it is God’s Word but get put off because it seems so long and complicated! If that’s you, then *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* is for you! This eight-week study programme, which we last held in the parish several years ago, will help you get the “big picture” by showing how fourteen narrative books of the Bible tell the complete story from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church.

By means of video presentations followed by small discussion groups - and with the support of a study-guide - *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* will show you how to read the Bible so that you can actually understand it and help you discover the story of salvation history and understand how you fit into God’s plan. The study material also includes a unique colour-coded *Bible Timeline*®Chart, which outlines twelve key time periods of the Bible and arranges the main people, places, and events of Scripture in chronological order.

Although the course doesn’t begin until October, to help us with our planning (and to make sure we order enough support materials) we need to have a good idea of how many people are likely to be taking part by early September. We hope to have a member of the team at the back of the church after all Sunday Masses throughout August to answer questions and take the names of anyone who’s interested. So, look out for them after Mass!

<b>MASS INTENTIONS:</b>		
<b>Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August to Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b>		
<b><i>22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></b>		
<b>Saturday 31<sup>st</sup></b> <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Deceased members of the McCormack &amp; Martland families RIP</b>
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Hugh Faringdon Burnett RIP</b>
	<b>11.30am</b> <i>Live Streamed</i>	<b>Mary Dollon RIP</b>
	<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mr Errol Rodrigues RIP</b>
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup></b> <i>ST GREGORY THE GREAT, Pope, feast</i>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Get Well Wishes for ‘nice man’ Intention.</b>
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Derek Taplin RIP</b>
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Techla Walsh RIP</b>
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Gerald MacMahon Intention</b>
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Lee Armstrong RIP</b>
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Pauline Kirby (née McGullion) RIP</b>
<b><i>23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></b>		
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup></b> <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Deceased members of the Nanayakkara Family RIP</b>
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Maldini Fernandes Birthday Thanksgiving.</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Kathleen Carolan RIP</b>
	<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>