



English Martyrs' Newsletter

18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4th AUGUST 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 4th AUGUST

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 4th AUGUST

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

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

Have you ever had a conversation with someone where you thought you were talking about one thing, but they were talking about another?


We find Jesus in this situation as we enter into what is known as the 'bread of life discourse'. The people think that there is more bread to offer, Jesus wants to offer something more; himself. When Jesus mentions hunger the people think that he is talking of a physical hunger, but he is talking of something much deeper, a hunger that is in each of us; a hunger for belonging and meaning.

When Jesus says, "I am the bread of life" he is not using a word to mean physical life but "ζωήν" (zōé), a life lived to its fullness in relationship with God and strengthened by God. The acts of receiving the eucharistic body of Christ within the Mass and adoring the presence of Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament on the altar create a relationship that draws us into an ever-deepening understanding and love of and for Christ. As we receive the Eucharist, we are united more closely to Christ and "to all the faithful in one body – the Church" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1396). We are transformed to be more in his likeness for though we consume him, in reality we become consumed by him. This reception of holy communion opens the eyes to the truth of the who it is we worship, increasing our ability to adore Christ in the Eucharist and is the doorway through which we enter the life promised to us by Christ.

Renewed in Christ (2nd Reading): St Paul urges us to embrace the new life in Jesus Christ. He says, "you must give up the old way of life" that is, we must let go of all that is contrary to the Gospel. Hence, we become spiritually renewed in Christ. Is there a habit I am struggling to give up for Christ's sake? May the Holy Spirit enkindle in me the zeal to love and to live like Jesus Christ.

Fr Samuel


→ PARISH NOTICES ←

Sunday Readings for:	18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	First: Exodus 16:2-4.12-15 Psalm: 77(78) 3-4.23-25 Second: Ephesians 4: 17.20-24 Gospel: John 6: 24-35	First: Kings 19: 4-8 Psalm: 33(34) 2-9 Second: Ephesians 4: 30-5:2 Gospel: John 6: 41-51

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.
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	RCIA/ JOURNEY IN FAITH NO TUESDAY MEETINGS DURING AUGUST. Our reflections on the Sunday readings will be shared via WhatsApp and Zoom. A new Cycle of meetings will begin in September. Please contact one of our priests or email rcia@englishmartyrsrdg.com if you would like to know more.
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	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 7 th August at 10.30am in Room 2.
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	SPONSORED EVENT FOR PARISH ORGAN RESTORATION. PADDLE YOUR FEET, TO RESTORE OUR ORGAN This event will run from July 28th to 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 now available in the colonnade. Please spread the word about this sponsorship event to relatives and friends. The restoration of our cherished parish organ is our joint effort. You can make a donation by using a marked envelope OR use the Just Giving QR Code shown on the left.
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	The ORGAN RESTORATION FUND stands at £11,381.04
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	FOREIGN CURRENCY: The Parish will gladly take foreign currency from you when you get back from holiday. Notes and/or Coins accepted. ALL THE MONEY RAISED WILL GO TO THE ORGAN RESTORATION FUND. There is a collection box in the wall at the back of the church. Thank you!
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 REST IN PEACE	PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF: Albert 'John' Lewis. His funeral will take place at English Martyrs Church on Tuesday 6th August at 11.00am. Patricia Hammond RIP. Her funeral will take place on 9th August 2024 at 12.15pm at Henley Road (south) chapel. Please keep their loved ones in your prayers.
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	TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK Every Wednesday, from 1-3pm, at St. Joseph's RC Church. household products to take home. This week they are short of: Weetabix, jam, packet soup, tinned spam, long-life apple/orange juice and sugar, 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 07769 251747.
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BOOKSHOP AND REPOSITORY is open each Sunday morning after 9.00am Mass until approx. 11.10am. and can be found in Room 3 at the rear of the Parish Hall on the right. We are open for the sale of Prayer books, Rosary's, statues, cards and other religious items for both every day and special occasions. 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.



APF/ MISSIO

The Summer magazines are now available for collection from the table in the Collonade. If your red box was opened in the past by the late Paul Fanning please either contact me or hand the box to the office (office hours only). Similarly, if it is more than six months since your box was emptied please contact me. Mike Tomas, APF/ Mission Secretary, 07708032743



BAPTISM: Welcome to **Sebastian Page** who received the Sacrament of Baptism last Saturday 27th July 2024 and **Gabriela Acosta** who is receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this Saturday 3rd August 2024.



First Holy Communion Preparation

There is a limited number of available places on our First Holy Communion program. Your child must be in Year 3 (or above) as of September 2024. We will accept children of parents who are registered with and are practicing members of English Martyrs parish. To apply for a place please pick up an Enrolment Form from the Parish Office. Closing date for applications is 22nd August 2024. Late applications will not be accepted.



Going into Hospital:

If you or a loved one are taken into hospital, please let the Catholic Chaplaincy know. Hospital staff are not allowed to ask you. Ring the hospital on 0118 322 7105 to let them know that you or your loved one would like a visit from a priest.

MARCH FOR LIFE 7TH SEPTEMBER

The SPUC Reading Branch is hiring a coach to go to *March for Life* on the 7th September. No fixed cost but a suggested donation of £20 for those who can afford it. The coach will depart from St William of York Church with the ability to park in the car park. Please use the following form to sign up <https://forms.gle/TsnmVcKy5px1ApdI6>. Any further queries email Christopher Cahill at spucreading@gmail.com

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS TO ROME

This is an 8-day trek in Autumn 2025 and is a charity fundraising challenge organised by the charity Life. Life supports women in unexpected and crisis pregnancies and those experiencing pregnancy loss. Life is calling all those with "an adventurous spirit and a compassionate heart", to email emilytraynor@lifecharity.org.uk to receive more information.

ADORE SPIRITUAL MINI RETREAT

Saturday 31st August 10.00-1.00 "BEAR THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT – our transformed lives will help other people." Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker Maria Heath. Please register for the Zoom meeting in advance at bit.ly/ADOREAUG2024 More information at www.altonrenewal.com

CHURCH FIRE ESCAPE

A new door has now been fitted and the entrance/exit is back in use. Thank you Stephen Hogg for making this happen.

MESSAGE TO ALL GROUP LEADERS

The Parish Financial Year ends on 31st August 2024. If the parish owes you money please pass any receipts to the Parish Office for payment.

UNDERSTANDING THE MYSTERIES OF THE BIBLE

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

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!

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 3 rd to Sunday 11 th August 2024		
<i>18th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>		
Saturday 3 rd <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Caridade Sebastian Lobo RIP
Sunday 4 th	9.00am	Mary Barbara Green RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	People of the Parish
	5.00pm	John Josepha RIP
Monday 5 th	9.30am	Mary Walsh RIP
Tuesday 6 th	9.30am	Olavo Do Rego RIP
<i>Transfiguration of the Lord, feast</i>	11.00am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Requiem for Albert “John” Lewis RIP
Wednesday 7 th	9.30am	Tommie, William, Martin, Annie-Kate & Thomas Walsh RIP
Thursday 8 th <i>St Dominic, memorial</i>	9.30am	Maggie Walsh and Pete & Connor and families’ intentions
Friday 9 th <i>St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, feast</i>	9.30am	Mayobelle Misquita, Thanksgiving
Saturday 10 th <i>St Laurence, feast</i>	10.00am	Ann & John Commins, Intentions
<i>19th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>		
Saturday 10 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Alex Britto RIP
Sunday 11 th	9.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Boniface Rodrigues RIP
	5.00pm	Marilyn Golding RIP