



# English Martyrs' Newsletter

**28<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 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. [safeguarding@englishmartyrsrdg.com](mailto:safeguarding@englishmartyrsrdg.com)

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 13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER.**

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 13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

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 6.00pm. From 5.00pm, Praise and Worship featuring music, scripture reading, guided reflection, a time of silence and concluding with Benediction.

**WITH GOD, THE IMPOSSIBLE BECOMES POSSIBLE**

The Rabbis during the time of Jesus often relied on the oral tradition and commentary of the law known as the Midrash. It is in the Midrash's commentary on the splitting of the Red Sea that we find the concept of "the eye of the needle."

In the Midrash's commentary on the splitting of the Red Sea, we find the phrase: "Open up for me an opening like the eye of a needle and in turn I will enlarge it to be an opening through which wagons can enter" (Song of Songs Rabbah 5:2). The people of God had left behind slavery and were embarking on a journey to the promises of God, but the sea blocked their way. They needed to take a step of faith as they stepped into the impossible.

The impossible is achievable with just a small step of faith in God. The step of faith can feel as small as a mustard seed or as narrow as the eye of a needle. The question is not one of the size of faith, but rather taking a first step of faith. If the Israelites had never taken that first step, they would never have left their old lives behind.

What is God asking of you this week? It may feel like what lies ahead of us is as impossible as a camel going through a needle. But with the smallest act of faith as we open our hearts to trusting Him, that is all that is needed.

With God, the impossible becomes possible.

Fr. Gaston



“What must I do to inherit eternal life?” Ask the Lord this question in prayer and this may lead you to consider following Christ more closely as a priest, deacon or in consecrated life.

For further information, talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke.  
vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869



## PARISH NOTICES



Sunday Readings  
for:

**28<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**29<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



First: Wisdom 7:7-11  
Psalm: 89(90) 12-17  
Second: Hebrews 4: 12-13  
Gospel: Mark 10: 17-30

First: Isaiah 53:10-11  
Psalm: 32(33) 4-5.18-20.22  
Second: Hebrews 4: 14-16  
Gospel: Mark 10: 35-45

For helpful notes on the Sunday readings each week: [www.wednesdayword.org](http://www.wednesdayword.org)



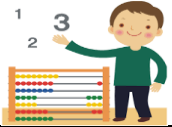
**RCIA/ JOURNEY IN FAITH**

This term, we welcome several new enquirers and their sponsors. They join previous participants who are continuing their journey with our catechists and Fr Samuel. Meetings are held in the Bethlehem Chapel on Tuesday evening from 7.30 – 9 pm each week. Last week, we began to explore the Apostles Creed together as well as looking at the Sunday scriptures to be read at Masses this weekend. If you are interested in joining, please 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 meetings are on Wednesday 16th October at 10.30am in Room 2 and Thursday 17th October at 11.00am via Zoom -- link from [cath\\_harrington@compuserve.com](mailto:cath_harrington@compuserve.com)



**ANNUAL MASS COUNT**

The Diocese requires us to count the number of people at Sunday Masses over a 4-week period from 21st September to 13th October



**"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 17th October 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 if you need a lift. We look forward to seeing you all again.



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:**

The first in-person session will take place on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 6pm in the Parish Hall. Parents are asked to remain in the Hall for the duration of the session.



**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:**

The Children's Liturgy will take place at the 9am and 11:30am Sunday Masses next Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> October. We continue to invite those who wish to support this important part of the Sunday Mass celebration for the Children, to give their details into the Parish Office. DBS checks will be done with the help of Gavin Knight, our Safeguarding Minister in charge of DBS applications.



REST IN PEACE

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF:**

Rosaleen Carr RIP, Her Requiem Mass will take place at English Martyrs on Tuesday 15th October at 11.15am  
Margaret Russell RIP Her body will be received into English Martyrs church on Wednesday 16th October at 4.00pm.  
Her Requiem will be at 11.00am on Thursday 17th October.

**NB: The Church will be closed after the reception until 9am on Thursday 17th.**

Norman Hayde RIP. His funeral will take place at English Martyrs Church on Tuesday 22nd October at 11.30am  
Rosa Farah RIP. Her Funeral will take place at English Martyrs on 25<sup>th</sup> October at 12.00pm  
Mark Herbert RIP. His funeral will take place at English Martyrs on 29<sup>th</sup> October  
Chris Knollys RIP – His funeral will take place at English Martyrs on 30<sup>th</sup> October.  
Please keep their loved ones in your prayers at this difficult time.



**BAPTISM**

WELCOME to Jude Kevin Bakermault who receives the Sacrament of Baptism this Saturday 12th October 2024 here at English Martyrs Church.

**THANK YOU FROM CAFOD**

Thank you for giving to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal this Harvest season. Your donation in our parish collection or online and your prayers are helping young people like Daniel in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with support like training, so they can carve their way to a better future. We are standing in solidarity with those facing incredible hardships, as part of one global family. Learn more at [cafod.org.uk/harvest](http://cafod.org.uk/harvest)

**CAMPAIGN AGAINST ASSISTED SUICIDE**

The Labour government has announced plans to bring forward a bill. The first reading will take place on 16 October, with a vote expected in December. SPUC is asking for everyone to help campaign against this bill by contacting your local MP and asking them to vote against assisted suicide. A help guide can be found on the SPUC website: <https://www.spuc.org.uk/assisted-suicideuk>

As part of the campaign SPUC has organised for Dr Dominic Whitehouse, a palliative care consultant working in a hospice, to speak at three key SPUC meetings. The Reading meeting will take place Tuesday 29 October 2024 at 7.30pm - 9pm at the Novotel Reading Centre, RG1 1DP.

To Register please go to <https://www.spuc.org.uk/assisted-suicide-lectures> or contact SPUC at [spucreading@gmail.com](mailto:spucreading@gmail.com).

**COME TO OUR TALK:**

'THE MARONITE CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND': SUNDAY 20th OCTOBER 2024, 3-5PM.

St Thomas More Catholic Church in Bournemouth will host a public talk titled 'The Maronite Christians in the Holy Land' on Sunday, 20 October 2024, from 3pm to 5pm UK time. The event will explore the rich history of Maronite Christianity, including the Aramaic language, liturgies, and the current practices of Maronites in the Holy Land. It will also feature a presentation on the Aramaic Centre in the Galilee.

Organised by Ordinariate Catholics in collaboration with Maronites in the Holy Land, the talk will feature expert contributors both in person and via live video link. Tickets are £7 per person or £10 per family, with advanced booking required. For more details and booking, visit the event's official page TICKETSOURCE and search for 'Maronites': [TicketSource - Discover Great Events & Things To Do Near You](#)

**ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL FOUNDATION GOVERNORS**

Are you looking for a way to live out your faith and serve your local community at the same time? If so, becoming a foundation governor could be just the thing for you.

We currently have two Foundation Governor vacancies at English Martyrs Catholic Primary School. Foundation Governors play an important part in maintaining and developing the Catholic character of a school.

The main role of a governing body is to operate at a strategic level, ensuring that the Catholic vision and character of the school is upheld, holding the head teacher and leadership team to account and overseeing the financial performance of the school. Governors also set the budget, manage the school's admissions criteria and are involved in the recruitment of senior leadership.

See Noticeboard in the Colonnade for more information.

**TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK**

TDICF is open every Wednesday, from 1-3pm, at St. Joseph's RC Church, for families in need. For those able to donate, this week the TDICF is short of the following items: packet soup, marmite, long life apple/orange juice, long life milk, coffee, hot chocolate, tea, sugar, biscuits and honey. Many thanks for your donations. John Foley 07769251747.

**Next Sunday is World Mission Sunday**

Next Sunday, the Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Missio, his charity for world mission, through a special collection. This day of prayer, solidarity and giving unites catholic worldwide to share the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world.

If you would like to donate a gift or set up a Direct Debit visit;

[www.missio.org.uk](http://www.missio.org.uk)

Please Gift Aid if possible.

Please note that there will also be a **SECOND COLLECTION** at all Masses next weekend.

**BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON CATHOLIC SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM CENTRE**

Exam Invigilators (required asap) Casual Contract £12.38 per hour

Please see Noticeboard in Colonnade for more details

**VIETNAMESE MASS**

This will take place in our Church on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.

**THE BLESSING OF THE GRAVES**

The Blessing of the Graves at Henley Road Cemetery will take place on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 2.30pm.

**NEW LECTIONARY**

The Diocesan Liturgy team is offering two online sessions about the new lectionary which will be introduced in Advent. Each session, led by Fr Anthony Fyk, will be identical (so you need only attend one) and will cover what the lectionary is, its revisions and what they mean for us, as well as an opportunity for Questions and Answers.

If you wish to pose a question, please submit this in writing in advance to [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

The sessions are on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November from 7 to 8 pm and to sign up the links are:

5<sup>th</sup> November

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/73b39420-bf79-429e-be62-c0e4495866b6@0f107169-67e0-4eaf-8428-9e9f05e974ab>

19<sup>th</sup> November

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/7c70c8e9-c61e-4f43-8187-21aed22e9b61@0f107169-67e0-4eaf-8428-9e9f05e974ab>

**SOME EVENTS EARLY NEXT YEAR – SAVE THE DATE**

Saturday 18th - January - Catechists Day

Saturday 25th January - Group Coordinators Mtg

Weekend 1st/2nd February – Ministry Fair

**UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF THE BIBLE**

The Third Session will take place on Thursday

October 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in the Hall.

**AFRO-CARIBBEAN DINNER - UPDATE** The total raised at this very popular event was £2,166 An Amazing amount raised through a lot of hard work by many. Thank you all for your support! We hope that parishioners from other nationalities will consider organizing similar events to share their cultural heritage with the parish.

**ORGAN REFURBISHMENT TOTAL RAISED TO DATE:**

**£23,707.07**

**PADDLE YOUR FEET SPONSORSHIP.....** Monies raised over the summer should be passed to the Parish Office by the end of October please. Many thanks.

**MASS INTENTIONS:  
Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

**28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	João Da Luz RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Private Intention
	5.00pm	Martin Joseph Sheehan RIP (1st Anniversary)
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Michael Redmond RIP
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Private Intention
<i>St Teresa of Avila memorial</i>	11.15am	Requiem of Rosaleen Carr RIP
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Gay & Tom McKernan Intention
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> <i>St Ignatius of Antioch, memorial</i>	9.30am	Private Intention
	11.00am	Requiem of Margaret Russell RIP
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> <i>St Luke, Evangelist, feast</i>	9.30am	Margaret Govern Intention
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Royd Mendes, Thanksgiving

**29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Michael Sarjent RIP
	11.30am	Nora O'Dowd RIP
	5.00pm	Rosie Burbage RIP

**SAVE THE DATE**

Thursday, October 31, 2024	Night of lights - Elevate	5:30 pm
Saturday, November 09, 2024	Bereavement mass	10:00 am
Sunday, November 24, 2024	Youth talent show - Elevate	1.00 to 4.00pm
Saturday, December 07, 2024	Baptism mass	10:00 am
Saturday, December 07, 2024	Christmas dinner	7:15pm
Friday, December 13, 2024	Elevate Christmas Party	6:00pm - 7:00pm
Saturday, December 14, 2024	Parish Seniors Christmas Party	2:00 pm
Saturday, December 21, 2024	Advent Penitential Service and Confessions	10.00 am
Tuesday, December 31, 2024	New Year's Eve Mass. Refreshments after.	12:00 am