



English Martyrs' Newsletter

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1st DECEMBER 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_OMNtA

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: CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. All calls are monitored.
Email: office@englishmartyrsrdg.com

Schools: English Martyrs Catholic Primary
Dee Road, Reading RG30 4BE.
Head: Mrs C. Doberska
0118 937 5466
<https://www.englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk/home>

PARISH SAFEGUARDING MINISTERS/CONTACT DETAILS/ROLES

Yvonne Newman: safeguarding@englishmartyrsrdg.com (Safeguarding cases and concerns)
Gavin Knight: safeguarding2@englishmartyrsrdg.com (DBS applications/updating of DBS parish register)
Ernestina Amanfor: safeguarding3@englishmartyrsrdg.com (Safeguarding compliance in all parish activities)

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 1st DECEMBER.

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 (Baptism Mass)
Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)

WEEK COMMENCING 1st DECEMBER

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 TWOFOLD COMING OF CHRIST

We acknowledge not only the first coming of Christ but also a second, far more glorious one. In general, everything related to our Lord Jesus Christ has two aspects.


At His first coming, He was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. At His second coming, He will be clothed in light as in a garment. In His first coming, He endured the cross, despising the shame; in His second coming, He will arrive in glory, accompanied by an army of angels. Therefore, we look beyond the first coming and await the second. (Adapted from a teaching of St. Cyril of Jerusalem)

Additionally, Advent invites us to welcome Jesus into our hearts and lives each day. It is a time for preparation—not just for the Christmas celebrations, but also for preparing our hearts. Just as the manger was made ready to welcome Jesus, we, too, can make our lives places that welcome Him. The coming weeks present an opportunity to step away from our busy routines and reflect on how we can invite Jesus into our lives.

Will you decide to take time out of your schedule to spend with our Lord? Perhaps you could spend time in silent Adoration or encounter Him in the Sacred Scriptures to deepen your understanding of His love as you serve others. What can you do this Advent to prepare your heart to welcome Christ more fully?

Fr. Gaston

PARISH NOTICES

Sunday Readings for:	1 st SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year C)	2 nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
	First: Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm: 25(24):4-5b. 8-9. 10, 14. Second: Thessalonians 3: 12-4.2 Gospel: Luke 21: 25-28.34-36	First: Baruch 5.1-9 Psalm: 125(126)1-6 Second: Phillippians 1: 3-6.8-11 Gospel: Luke 3: 1-6

Wednesday Word (www.wednesdayword.org) has some helpful reflections for parishioners on the three Sunday readings each week and a special page for younger children and their families.



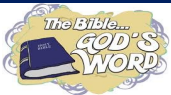
NAME BADGE SUNDAY Another opportunity to meet and greet fellow parishioners by name and develop a better sense of community within the parish.



PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS: As part of our First Friday devotion on 6th December, 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.



RCIA/ JOURNEY IN FAITH. This week, we began to explore the meaning of the season of Advent and the beginning of a new liturgical year which starts this Sunday. We talked about different customs for marking this this season of preparing to receive the Lord more deeply into our lives, such as the advent wreath and the Posada crib scenes. As usual, we looked at the Sunday readings with their focus on the end times and considered how we might respond to these images of a universe in chaos and judgement.



EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE.
 Our Parish Emmaus groups explore the Sunday readings together with fellow parishioners in an informal setting. Next meeting(s) is/are on Monday 2nd December at 7.30pm in Room 2 and Wednesday 4th December at 10.30am in Room 2.



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; selling Prayer books, Rosary's, statues, cards and other religious items for both every day and special occasions. A selection of Christmas cards and other seasonal items are now on sale. Also, pre ordered copies of the new missals are ready for collection and new orders can be taken from anyone who may want a copy.
 If you think you could you help to run the bookstall after any of the other Sunday Masses, please contact Chris Coxwell at chris.coxwell@ntlworld.com or the parish office.



PARISH SENIORS CHRISTMAS PARTY Saturday, December 14th at 2.00pm.
 All Parish Seniors are invited to attend, and the invitations will be available from Welcomers this weekend and should be returned by next weekend, 8th December.



POSADA 2024 It is the time of year again when the Posada (knitted crib) will be at English Martyrs for Advent. If you are interested in housing a small, knitted character of a king or shepherd or the entire crib, can you please supply the following details: Name, e-mail address, contact details, whether you want a king, shepherd or crib and what mass you attend in order to collect your choice. If you are interested, please e-mail or text: annpatton01@btinternet.com Tel: 07732 683312.



BED FOR THE NIGHT: Runs from Jan 6th to the end of March 2025. Current venues include: CIRDIC 3 nights, St Andrew's (by RBH) 1 night and Argyle Chapel 1 night.

What is required each night?

1/ A Hospitality Team from 7.00 to 10.00 pm to set up beds, socialise, provide, serve and clear away meals for guests. Street Pastors will be "on the door" and other agencies: St Mungo's, Health Team, will also provide support.

2/ Overnight team from 10.00pm to 7.00am to be present, respond to any needs, call for help from the permanent team if needed, and ensure any "rules" are adhered to.

3/ Breakfast team from 7.00 to 9.00 am to provide breakfast, clear up, put beds away, and ensure guests leave in time.

Training: Wednesday December 4th and Thursday December 5th at Argyle Chapel from 7.30 – 9.30 pm.

Volunteers can choose either of the sessions.

LEGION OF MARY PRAYER GROUP. We invite everyone interested in joining the English Martyrs Legion of Mary prayer group to a meeting on December 7th at 11 am. There will be subsequent meetings both in person and online. It would be wonderful to revive this prayer group, which was once active in our parish. If you would like to participate, please contact the Parish Office via email, and we will connect you with Rachel McEvoy, the facilitator.

CHRISTMAS SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN NEED OF EXTRA SUPPORT IN OUR PARISH


This Christmas, we want to support those in our parish who are in need. During the first three Sundays of Advent (December 1st, 8th, and 15th), please donate non-perishable food items to the collection box by the church door.

Starting the week of December 16th, these items will be available for anyone needing assistance. If you come to collect items, consider bringing anything you may also have to share. You may have an excess of what another person needs.

Thank you for your generosity, which reflects the lives of the exemplary early Christians in Acts 4:32!

DATE	EVENT	TIME
Saturday, December 7 th	Baptism Mass	10:00am
Friday, December 13 th	Elevate Christmas Party	6:00pm - 7:00pm
Saturday, December 14 th	Parish Seniors Christmas Party	2:00pm
Saturday, December 21 st	Advent Penitential Service and Confessions	10.15am

CHRISTMAS 2024 MASS TIMES		
DATE	EVENT	TIME
Tuesday 24 th	Nativity mass	5.00pm
	Vigil mass	7.00pm
	Carol service	11.15pm
	Midnight Mass	12.00am
Wednesday 25 th	First Mass of Christmas day	9.00am
	Second Mass of Christmas Day	11.30am
Thursday 26 th	St. Stephens Day	10.00am
Tuesday 31 st	New Year Eve	12.00am
Wednesday 1 st January 2025	New Years Day	10.00am



SPEND AN HOUR IN HIS PRESENCE
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Can you devote an hour every Friday or some Fridays?

If you can please email:
office@englishmartyrsrdg.com with your contact details.

We need to be certain that each hour is covered by at least two people, without which all-day exposition would not be possible.

<p>ADVENT RETREAT</p> <p>Fr. Chris Heaps of St. James Church and the Carmelite Community invite you to an Advent Retreat on Saturday, December 14, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. James Church, Forbury Road, Reading RG1 3FD. This will be an opportunity to reflect, share, and pray together as we journey through Advent.</p>	<p>PADDLE YOUR FEET FOR THE ORGAN FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN</p> <p>Many thanks to Ernestina Amanfor and Sandrine Hardy for organizing this campaign to raise funds for the restoration of our parish organ. The second collection over the last two weekends for this campaign raised an impressive total of £754.90.</p>
<p>SENIOR YOUTH GROUP</p> <p>Many parents have been asking when the Senior Youth Group will resume, as this group prepares candidates for the sacrament of confirmation. The facilitators of this group are currently completing their DBS checks. Once these are finalized, we will announce the resumption date. The meeting times will remain the same: after the 5 p.m. Mass on Sundays, until about 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>PRIESTS ADVENT VISITS TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND</p> <p>Our priests have been visiting our sick brethren at home. Please, continue to pray for those who cannot join us in church due to illness or other challenges. May they know the comforting love of God through the visit of our Priests and Extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist.</p>
<p>ANNUAL BAPTISM MASS</p> <p>This will take place on Saturday 7th December at 10am in our Church. It will be wonderful if the children who have been baptised in our church this year are brought to this Mass. There will be refreshments after the Mass in the Hall.</p>	<p>ADVENT ADORATION IN ENGLISH MARTYRS SCHOOL</p> <p>Our Priest will have advent adoration with the different year groups of our English Martyrs Primary School on Tuesday 3rd December at 9. Please, continue to pray for our school children, that they may grow in holy virtues.</p>

ADVENT CONFESSIONS IN THE PASTORAL AREA	
<p>PARISHES</p> <p>St. John Bosco, Woodley Friday 13th 6.30 pm. ff</p> <p>St. Joseph's Tilehurst Wednesday 18th 7.00 pm.</p> <p>Our Lady of Peace and Blessed Dominic Barberi, Earley Saturday 21st 9.00 am. – 12.00 pm.</p> <p>English Martyrs, West Reading Saturday 21st 10.15 am. ff</p> <p>St James, Town Centre Saturdays of Advent 5.00 - 6.00 pm.</p> <p>Christ the King, Whitley to be confirmed.</p>	<p>SCHOOLS</p> <p>Blessed Hugh Farrington</p> <p>Wednesday 4th 11.30am. – 1.15pm.</p> <p>Thursday 5th 11.30am. – 1.15pm.</p> <p>Friday 6th 11.30am. – 1.15pm.</p> <p>English Martyrs</p> <p>Tuesday 10th 10.30am.</p> <p>St Paul's Friday 13th 1.30pm.</p>

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP) MEETING

The SVP of our Parish will hold their meeting this Tuesday 3rd December in Room 1 at 11:30a.m. We pray for this lay apostolate and the wonderful work they do to bring God's love in a concrete way to those in different kinds of need.

**MASS INTENTIONS:
Saturday 30th November to Sunday 8th December 2024**

First Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Saturday 30 th November <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Jim Pickering RIP
Sunday 1 st December	9.00am	Deceased members RIP of the families of Valentim & Filomena
<i>Live Streamed</i>	11.30am	Lillian Ford, Thanksgiving (Celebrating her 100th Birthday)
	5.00pm	People of the Parish
Monday 2 nd	9.30am	Special Intention
Tuesday 3 rd <i>St. Francis Xavier, memorial</i>	9.30am	Joseph Andrades, Hilda Andrades, Derek Andrades & Ursula Andrades RIP
Wednesday 4 th	9.30am	Mark Herbert RIP and all the Herbert Family
Thursday 5 th	9.30am	Chris Knollys RIP
Friday 6 th	9.30am	Deon Dony, in Thanksgiving
	6.30pm	John Roughneen RIP
Saturday 7 th <i>St. Ambrose, memorial</i>	10.00am	Mass for those Baptised in the last 12 months

Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday 7 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Jim Knox RIP
Sunday 8 th	9.00am	Deceased members RIP of the families of Valentim & Filomena
	11.30am	Our Lady of Mount Carmel
	5.00pm	Bella Barreto RIP

EVENT PLANNER FOR 2025

EVENT	DATE	TIME	EVENT	DATE	TIME
Group Coordinators	Saturday 25th January Saturday 17th May Saturday 27th September	10 – 1pm 10 – 1pm 10 – 1pm	First Holy Communion celebration	Saturday 13th September	10.00am
Catechists' Ongoing Formation	18th January	10.45– 12.45pm followed by lunch	Week of Accompanied Prayer (mini retreat in daily life)	October 5th-10th	Sunday 3pm – Friday 7 pm
Readers' Ongoing Formation	Saturday 29th March	10.45– 12.45pm followed by lunch	Opening Mass for Centenary Year	Saturday 18th October	10.00 am
Alpha Leadership Training Royal Albert Hall	5th-6th May	T.B.A	Bereavement Mass	Saturday 8th November	10.00 am
Eucharistic Ministers' Ongoing Formation	Saturday 7th June	10.45 – 12.45pm followed by lunch	Baptism Mass	Saturday 29th November	10.00 am
Parish Retreat	Saturday 21st June	9am – 7.30 pm	Marriage Mass	Saturday 6th December	10.00 am
First Holy Communion celebration	Saturday 28th June	9am & 11:30am	Parish Seniors Christmas Party	Saturday 13 th December	2.00 pm
Mass in the Park	Sunday 27th July	3-5pm	Advent Penitential Service & Confessions	Saturday 20 th December	10.15am