

English Martyrs' Newsletter

31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

3rd NOVEMBER 2024

BAMENDA SUNDAY

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: CLOSED. Reopens Tuesday 12th November at 9.00am.

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. 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 3rd NOVEMBER.

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 3rd NOVEMBER

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 YOUR WHOLE HEART

This weekend, Jesus directs our attention fully toward God. He challenges us to choose to move toward Him in our lives; not partially but completely. We are called to love Him fully, with our heart, mind, and strength.

God asks us to love Him with everything we are and everything we have.

He desires our complete attention, devotion, and affection.

This weekend provides a wonderful opportunity for us to reflect on our own relationship with God and to determine if we truly love Him with all that we are.

Consider the following questions:

- What is most important in your life? Is that more important than God?
- Do you thank God for all the blessings He has brought into your life?
- Do you set aside time each day for God, or do you only make time for Him when it's convenient?
- How well do you know God's story of redemption as found in the scriptures?
- Do you pray often and spend time with Christ in the Blessed Sacrament?
- Do you find ways to be still before God and listen to His voice?

Any of these adjustments could help strengthen our relationship with God.









What could you do this week to deepen your connection with Him and love Him with all your heart, mind, and strength?

Fr. Gaston



PARISH NOTICES



Sunday Readings for:	30 th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	31 st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	First: Deuteronomy 6:2-6 Psalm: 17(18) 2-4.47-51 Second: Hebrews 7: 23-28 Gospel: Mark 12: 28-34	First: Kings 17:10-16 Psalm: 145(146) 7-10 Second: Hebrews 9: 24-28 Gospel: Mark 12: 38-44
<p>Your children may enjoy reading about the Sunday Readings in the Half Term edition of the Wednesday Word: https://1drv.ms/b/s!ArwCkP5GO1Tfg-B9I-ZnrF-tGbPtZw?e=gJbJ7C</p>		
	<p>RCIA/ JOURNEY IN FAITH. There was NO MEETING this week due to the half term holidays. We resume meetings on Tuesday 7th November at 7.30 pm in the Bethlehem Chapel.</p>	
	<p>NAME BADGE SUNDAY Another opportunity to meet and greet fellow parishioners by name and develop a better sense of community within the parish.</p>	
	<p>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 4th November at 7.30pm in Room 2: Wednesday 6th November at 10.30am in Room 2</p>	
	<p>MISSIO RED BOXES: It is time to empty the mission boxes again. Could all promoters or box holders hand their contributions either to the parish office (office hours only) or to me Michael Tomas empty101955@gmail.com by the 30th of November at the latest. The autumn magazines are available for collection in the Colonnade.; please take your free copy.</p>	
	<p>PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF: Maureen Harrow RIP - whose funeral will take place at English Martyrs Church on Monday 11th November <u>at an updated time of 1.00pm.</u> Patrick Ryan RIP - whose funeral will take place at Reading Crematorium on Tuesday 12th November at 12.00pm. Please keep their loved ones in your prayers at this difficult time.</p>	
	<p>TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK Many thanks for supporting the Tilehurst Drop-in Centre & Foodbank with your prayers and generous donations. Our Drop-in Centre and Foodbank is open every Wednesday, from 1-3pm at St. Joseph's RC Church. The Foodbank is also open every Friday from 5-6.30pm at the church. For those able to donate, this week TDICF is short of the following items: long-life milk, Weetabix, packet soup, marmite and ketchup. Many thanks for your donations. John Foley 07769251747</p>	
	<p>WEDDING Congratulations to Alexander Felix Hull and Claire Louise Smith-Pouliasis who were married in English Martyrs Church on Saturday 2nd November at 12:30pm. We pray for them and their families at this time and may God grant them a happy and fruitful married life.</p>	
<p>NEW DIP-IN SESSIONS ON ACCOMPANIMENT The Accompaniment team invites you to join some new standalone dip-in Sessions on Accompaniment via Zoom, beginning on Monday 4th November... Three standalone sessions will introduce some key principles of accompaniment. You can come to one or more sessions on Monday evenings from 7 - 8.15pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Monday 4th November:</i> The Lay Mission to Accompany Others • An introduction to aiding the growth in faith of another and the power of listening in this. Tickets here. • <i>Monday 18th November:</i> Know Your Own Journey to Accompany Others • Humility in serving others comes through knowing the mercy of God in our own lives. This is a reflective session on our response to God over time and the unique journey of each person. Tickets here. • <i>Monday 2nd December:</i> Good Conversations to Accompany Others • God is a God of relationships. We explore how listening conversations can help others to grow closer to Jesus Christ. Tickets here. <p>You can visit our webpage here or email lnahajski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for more information.</p>		

<p>ONE MONTH TO STOP ASSISTED SUICIDE! The most vulnerable in our society are at risk. MPs will vote on whether to introduce an extreme assisted suicide law on 29th November. To protect the vulnerable from this radical law change, contact your MP and ask them to vote NO. Take action now - it only takes 30 seconds to contact your MP using this link: www.righttolife.org.uk/mpcontactnow</p>
<p>DON O'SULLIVAN RIP Please pray for the repose of the soul of Don O'Sullivan who died on 28th October. Don's Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, 14th November at 12.30 pm at St Luke's RC Church, Englefield Road, Theale, RG7 5AS, followed by cremation at West Berkshire Crematorium at 2 pm. <i>All are welcome.</i></p>

CHRISTMAS MEAL



See Noticeboard for Menu Choices.
Or pick up a flyer in the Colonnade

For additional information please contact Mel & Jack Noronha on
mobile +44(0)7886538108 or
Email Noronhamel@hotmail.com

Dear Parishioners, please join us on

**December 7th at 7:15 PM
in the church hall**

for a Christmas dinner to kick off the festive season. This will be a wonderful opportunity to relax and reflect on our parish's accomplishments in 2024. Tickets are now available.

Priced at £26.50 for Adults and £15.00 under 12's.

To avoid disappointment, please use the **QR code** below to book your tickets as seating is limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Our Bank details are: Account Name: CDP Reading English Martyrs.
Sort Code: 30 93 04 Account No: 00885666
Ref: Christmas Meal



LAST DATE FOR BOOKINGS IS

15th November 2024



ON BAMENDA SUNDAY THIS WEEKEND, we celebrate our Diocesan link with the Archdiocese of Bamenda, Cameroon, now in its 50th year. Please pray for a peaceful resolution to the political crisis in Bamenda and for the priests generously sent here from the Archdiocese to serve in the Diocese of Portsmouth:

Fr Gaston Afah Forbah (English Martyrs, Reading and Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation); *Fr Emmanuel Rinda*, (Corpus Christi & St Joseph's, Portsmouth); *Fr Elijah Fru Nde*, (Christ the King & St Colman Bitterne and Hedge End & West End); *Fr Anthony Njinga* (Immaculate Conception, Portsmouth); *Fr Benedict Ndikum* (Assistant Priest in Winchester).

We remember them and their families in our prayers this Bamenda Sunday.

The second collection this weekend is the main source of annual income for the various joint projects our Bamenda Funds will support. Please be as generous as you can in these very challenging times. ANY contribution of ANY size is most welcome and can make a real difference.

Donations can also be made securely at: [Donate - Bamenda and Portsmouth](#). If you can set up a standing order, this would really help the Bamenda Committee to assess how many project applications we can afford to support. Please download a form from the same Donate page. Many thanks for your support.

READING CAMEROONIAN COMMUNITY MASS

Cameroonians who live in Reading and surrounding towns will be having a thanksgiving Mass this Sunday November 3rd at 1:00p.m in our Church.

A MANIFESTO FOR HOPE: Monday 18th November, 7.30 – 9.00pm, Zero Degrees Bar, Bridge Street. Reading.

10 principles for transforming the lives of children & young people

Steve Chalke MBE will speak about his book, *A Manifesto for Hope*, which sets out ten tried-and-tested practical principles for how to develop joined-up, cost-effective, community-empowering work, gleaned from the hard-won experience that has sat at the heart of Steve Chalke's mission over the past four decades... Steve demonstrates the stark choice facing us: keep pouring money into a faltering system, or reform and invest to improve people's lives. We need a new social covenant that empowers local charities, grassroots movements and faith groups - creating a more imaginative, more collaborative and less bureaucratic approach to community development - if we are going to transform the life chances of countless young people and families.

Café Théologique is hosted by the University of Reading Chaplaincy and is a space to explore contemporary issues from a theological perspective.

All are welcome. Events are free to attend without booking.

Guests are welcome to join us for food at the venue from 6pm.

This event will be in-person and online. Zoom joining details: u.nu/cafetheo Meeting ID: 994 1078 8443 Passcode: 511541. Facebook Event

link: <https://fb.me/e/4IMwnEiLg>

PADDLE YOUR FEET FOR THE ORGAN

Next weekend, we shall announce the closure of this fundraising campaign and share photos of any participants who took part in it. This will be followed by a second collection the following weekend 16/17th November which will formally close this campaign for this year 2024.

BEREAVEMENT MASS

This will take place next Saturday, November 9th at 10a.m. We are inviting family members of All who have died this year in our parish to attend this Mass. The names of our loved ones will be read out and a candle will be lit for their intention by family members.

BLESSING OF GRAVES

There will be blessing of Graves at the Henley Road Cemetery on Sunday November 10th at 2:30pm

CENTENARY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The committee has met three times. The following decisions have been taken: Centenary year to run from 18th October 2025 to 20th September 2026
Activities will revolve around four pillars: spiritual, human, intellectual and pastoral (outreach)
A 5th volume of parish history will be written
Check parish email and website for full details of the spiritual activities decided

MASS INTENTIONS:
Saturday 2nd to Sunday 10th November 2024

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 2 nd <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Deceased members of the McCormack & Maitland families RIP
Sunday 3 rd	9.00am	Joao Da Luz RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	People of the Parish
	5.00pm	All deceased members of the Rabuano Family RIP
Monday 4 th <i>St Charles Borromeo, memorial</i>	9.30am	Deceased members of the Rebello Family RIP
Tuesday 5 th	9.30am	William & Martin Walsh RIP
Wednesday 6 th	9.30am	Annie Kate Walsh & Thomas Walsh RIP
Thursday 7 th	9.30am	Agnelo Ernesto De Araujo, Thanksgiving
Friday 8 th	9.30am	Harry Mullin RIP
Saturday 9 th <i>Dedication of the Lateran Basilica feast</i>	10.00am Recently Bereaved	Deceased members and family of Reading Catenians RIP



32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Remembrance Sunday



Saturday 9 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Peter Mario Lobo RIP
Sunday 10 th	9.00am	Mary & Alex D'Souza RIP
	11.30am	Kathleen Carolan RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 9 th	Bereavement mass	10:00 am
Sunday, November 24 th	Youth talent show - Elevate	1.00 to 4.00pm
Saturday, December 7 th	Baptism mass	10:00 am
Saturday, December 7 th	Christmas dinner	7:15pm
Friday, December 13 th	Elevate Christmas Party	6:00pm - 7:00pm
Saturday, December 14 th	Parish Seniors Christmas Party	2:00 pm
Saturday, December 21 st	Advent Penitential Service and Confessions	10.00 am
Tuesday, December 24 th	Nativity Mass	5.00pm
	Christmas Vigil Mass	7.00pm
	Christmas Carols	11.00pm
	Midnight Mass	12.00am
Wednesday, December 25 th	Christmas Day Mass	9.00am
	Christmas Day Mass	11.30am
Tuesday, December 31, 2024	New Year's Eve Mass. Refreshments after.	12:00 am