



English Martyrs' Newsletter

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8TH 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_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 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 8th DECEMBER.

Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm
Monday at 9.30am and 7.00pm
Tuesday to Friday at 9.30am
Saturday at 10.00am
Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)

WEEK COMMENCING 8th 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



EUCHARISTIC 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.

PEACE BEYOND UNDERSTANDING

“Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” (John 14:27)

This is the promise that Jesus offers each of us at every moment of our lives. There is a peace available that transcends our circumstances—a peace that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7). It is the same peace that Christ experienced even in the Garden of Gethsemane, and it is a peace that is available to us in our moments of trial.

Jesus possessed this peace for three reasons:

1. He knew what he needed.
2. He had what he needed.
3. He recognized that he had what he needed.

Do we truly understand what we need? Amid our busyness and struggles, what do we long for? Are we asking God to meet our needs, or are we seeking His presence in the midst of those needs?

God promises to fulfil our greatest needs if only we ask. He assures us that we will never be separated from His love (Romans 8:31-39). But do we truly know that God is always with us, or do we seek to fulfil our inner needs with external things? This Advent season is an opportunity for us to pause and realize that what we truly need is not temporary possessions but the presence of God Himself.

Let us recognize that this gift is made evident to us through the incarnation of Christ. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas, may we embrace the sure promises that find their "yes and Amen" in Him (2 Corinthians 1:20).

Fr. Gaston

To keep up to date with the news of the Diocese and the Bishop please follow us on: Facebook: @PortsmouthRC / LinkedIn: Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth / Twitter: @PortsmouthRC / Diocesan website: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/> If you have news that you want to share with the Diocese, please contact communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



PARISH NOTICES



Sunday Readings for:

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year C)

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year C)



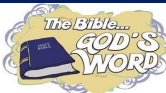
First: Baruch 5.1-9
Psalm: 125(126)1-6
Second: Phillipians 1: 3-6.8-11
Gospel: Luke 3: 1-6

First: Zephania 3.14-18a
Psalm: 12(13):2-6
Second: Phillipians 4: 4-7
Gospel: Luke 3: 10-18

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.



RCIA/ JOURNEY IN FAITH. The group continued to explore the season of Advent and this week's Sunday readings through the figure of John the Baptist. We considered the story of his own miraculous birth and the importance of his adult ministry as a prophetic preacher who called the people of Israel to prepare for the imminent coming of the promised Messiah by changing their way of life. We then looked ahead to the meaning of Monday's feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary and reflected on her vital role in the story of our salvation.



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 Wednesday 11th December at 10.30am in Room 2.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

The next in-person session will take place on **THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER AT 6.00pm IN THE CHURCH.** Parents, please note change of date which is due to Elevate Christmas party on Friday 13th.



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, if you pre ordered a copy of the new missal, it is 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 everyone who has received an invitation please make sure it is returned by Sunday 8th December as we need to know how many we are catering for on the day.



POSADA 2024 It is the time of year again when the Posada (knitted crib) will be visiting the homes of English Martyrs parishioners. If you would like to have a small, knitted character of a king or shepherd or the entire crib, visit your home, please supply the following details: Name, e-mail address, contact details, whether you want a king, shepherd or the entire 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.



OLD LECTONARIES

A Parish in Kent is collecting old Lectionaries to send to Nigeria. If you wish to donate old lectionaries you can hand them in at the bookstall on Sunday Mornings OR leave them in the Colonnade OR hand in at the Parish Office (currently closed).



COUNTERS NEEDED

Are you willing to count the collection monies every 6 weeks. You will be on a rota. Please contact the Parish Office if you are able to do this. New Rota starts in January 2025.



JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP:

This will be held on Friday 13th December at 6.00pm. All our junior youth and those children in First Holy Communion are invited to join this event.



VIETNAMESE MASS

The next Mass for our Vietnamese brethren will take place on Sunday 15th December at 2.00pm.



ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE AND CONFESSION IN EM SCHOOL

This will take place on Tuesday 10th December at 10:30a.m. Let us keep our primary school children in our prayer as they make their advent journey.

ADVENT SERVICE – BLESSED HUGH FARRINGDON SCHOOL

This will take place on Wednesday 11th December starting at 6.00pm.

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!

CHRISTMAS DINNER REFUNDS

As we did not sell enough tickets for this event to go ahead - (planned for 7th December) - If you are due a refund then please contact the Parish Office with your bank details, and we will arrange to reimburse you.

STUDENTS' MASS FOR READING UNIVERSITY

Sunday, 15th December at 5.00pm at Our Lady of Peace Church, followed by a pre-Christmas gathering. All students are warmly invited! Please contact Fr Stan the Catholic University Chaplain to register your interest via s.gibzinski@reading.ac.uk. Let us come together to celebrate the joy of the season as a Reading student community!

DATE	EVENT	TIME
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
Tuesday 24 th December	Nativity Mass Vigil Mass Carol Service Midnight Mass	5.00pm 7.00pm 11.15pm 12.00am
Wednesday 25 th December	First Mass of Christmas Day Second Mass of Christmas Day	9.00am 11.30am
Thursday 26 th December	St. Stephens Day Altar Servers Mass	10.00am
Tuesday 31 st December	New Years Eve Midnight Mass	12.00am
Wednesday 1 st January 2025	New Years Day Mass	10.00am



THE ARCHDIOCESE of BIRMINGHAM

Parish of Our Lady & St Anne, Caversham

Parish Pilgrimage to Rome

The Jubilee Year of Hope

Monday, 24th Nov. to Friday, 28th Nov. 2025

Pilgrimage booked with Tangney Tours, UK

Provisional Itinerary

Monday 24th November

Fly to Rome.

Upon arrival meet with courier and transfer to Hotel Emmaus for 4 nights stay on half board basis – evening meal will be taken at a local restaurant. Celebrate Mass locally.

Tuesday 25th, Wednesday 26th & Thursday 27th November

A full programme will be organized for you including:

Early morning Mass at St Peter's Basilica, attendance at Papal Audience, a half day guided tour of the City with coach – this would usually be used to visit St Paul's Outside the Walls Basilica, then on to St John Lateran and from there the group would walk to St. Mary Major and return to the hotel on foot or by taxi if required.

We can apply for the group to Process through the Holy Doors.

Walking tours will also be undertaken with your courier.

Friday 28th November

Transfer to Rome for return flight to the UK.

Costs: Payable to Tangney Tours

£1150 for double/twin room and £1276 for single room. Some triples available. Covers return flights, transfers in Rome, half board accommodation, tour guide. Personal Insurance is included; £20 reduction if you have your own cover. Not included are lunches, tips and donations to the Churches.

Costs: Payable to St. Anne's Church

£60 (max) to cover transfer to and from UK airport.

Places are limited so to reserve a place please email Kevin (khfrnutt@gmail.com)

As soon as possible indicating room preference. We will then forward the tour company booking form for you to complete and send to Tangney Tours with your deposit.

ADVENT RETREAT 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.

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP

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.

PRIESTS ADVENT VISITS TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

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.

ADVENT CONFESSIONS IN THE PASTORAL AREA

PARISHES

St. John Bosco, Woodley Friday 13th 6.30 pm. ff
St. Joseph's Tilehurst Wednesday 18th 7.00 pm.
Our Lady of Peace and Blessed Dominic Barberi, Earley Saturday 21st 9.00 am. – 12.00 pm.
English Martyrs, West Reading Saturday 21st 10.15 am. ff
St James, Town Centre Saturdays of Advent 5.00 - 6.00 pm.
Christ the King, Whitley to be confirmed.

SCHOOLS

Blessed Hugh Farringdon

Wednesday 4th 11.30am. – 1.15pm.

Thursday 5th 11.30am. – 1.15pm.

Friday 6th 11.30am. – 1.15pm.

English Martyrs

Tuesday 10th 10.30am.

St Paul's Friday 13th 1.30pm.

**MASS INTENTIONS:
Saturday 7th to Sunday 15th December 2024**

Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Saturday 7 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Jim Knox RIP
Sunday 8 th	9.00am	People of the Parish
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	11.30am
		Our Lady of Mount Carmel
	5.00pm	Bella Barreto RIP
Monday 9 th <i>The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	9.30am	Chris Knollys RIP (From Blessed Hugh Farrington Catholic School)
	7.00pm	Thanksgiving for the Priests of our Parish
Tuesday 10 th	9.30am	Jim Knox RIP (6th Anniversary)
Wednesday 11 th	9.30am	Mark Herbert RIP
Thursday 12 th	9.30am	Mark Herbert RIP
Friday 13 th <i>St. Lucy, memorial</i>	9.30am	João Da Luz RIP
Saturday 14 th <i>St. John of the Cross, memorial</i>	10.00am	Allan Marrast RIP

Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday 14 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Filomena Araujo Thanksgiving
Sunday 15 th	9.00am	For the Good Health and Intentions of the Do Rego family
	11.30am	Chris O'Dowd RIP
	5.00pm	Caroline Burrett RIP



BED FOR THE NIGHT: Runs from January 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.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

So that we can have our church looking its best for Christmas, there will be a second collection at all Masses next weekend for Christmas Flowers.