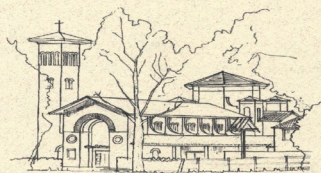


English Martyrs' Newsletter



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 12TH JANUARY 2025

**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

Asst 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

All calls are monitored. Email: office@englishmartyrsrdg.com

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 Amanfo: safeguarding3@englishmartyrsrdg.com (Safeguarding compliance in all parish activities)

SCHOOLS:

English Martyrs Catholic Primary
Dee Road, Reading RG30 4BE.

Head: Mrs C. Doberska : 0118 937 5466

<https://www.englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk/home>

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.



Blessed Hugh Faringdon

Fawley Road, Reading RG30 3EP.

Head: Dr Simon Uttley 0118 957 4730

<https://www.hughfaringdon.org/>

MASS TIMES WEEK COMMENCING 12TH

JANUARY

Sunday 12th at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm

Monday 13th to Friday 17th at 9.30am

Saturday 18th at 10.00am

Saturday 18th at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)

CONFESSIONS WEEK COMMENCING 12TH JANUARY

Sunday 30 mins before 9.00am & 11.30am & from 4.30pm

Monday to Friday 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.

WATER AND THE SPIRIT

That Jesus should come and be baptised by John is surely cause for amazement; the eternal and unfathomable fountainhead that gives life to all men being immersed in the shallow waters of this transient world! Jesus, who fills all creation, leaving no place devoid of his presence, who is incomprehensible to the angels and hidden from the sight of man, came to be baptised because it was his will.

"This is my beloved Son".

Though hungry himself, he feeds thousands; though weary, he refreshes those who labour. He has no place to lay his head, yet he holds all creation in his hand. By his suffering he heals all sufferings; by receiving a blow on the cheek he gives the world its liberty; by being pierced in the side he heals the wound in Adam's side.

"This is my beloved Son".

The Father of immortality sent his immortal Son and Word into the world, to come to us men and cleanse us with water and the Spirit. To give us a new birth that would make our bodies and souls immortal, he breathed into us the spirit of life and armed us with incorruptibility. Whoever goes down into these waters of rebirth with faith renounces the devil and pledges himself to Christ. He repudiates the enemy and confesses that Christ is God, throws off his servitude and becomes an adopted son. He comes up from baptism resplendent as the sun and radiating purity and, above all, he comes as a son of God and a co-heir with Christ.

From a discourse by pseudo-Hippolytus


The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) enlightens us that at Baptism, "the person baptized is configured to Christ. Baptism seals the Christian with the indelible spiritual mark (character) of his belonging to Christ. (CCC 1272) On this feast of the Baptism of the Lord, may the Holy Spirit renew in us the commitment we made at our baptism, helping us to carry out the mandate of our Lord, " go therefore and make disciples of all nations. (Matthew 28:16-20)

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


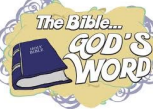








"You are my beloved Son; with you, I am well pleased." God takes great pleasure in those who respond to His call. Do you hear His voice? He may be calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life. Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke. vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

PARISH NOTICES

Sunday Readings for:	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	2 nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	First: Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11 Psalm: 104(103):1b-4. 24-25.27-28 Second: Titus 2: 11-14.3:4-7 Gospel: Luke 3: 15-16.21-22	First: Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm: 96(95):1-3. 7-10 Second: Corinthians 12:4-11 Gospel: John 2: 1-11

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 At our first meeting of the new term week this year, we watched, and discussed, a video from Bishop Robert Barron reflecting on the meaning of the sacrament of Baptism. We also reflected on the readings for this Sunday - the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. On Sunday morning, at the 9 am Mass, the participants who are seeking to be baptised at the Easter Vigil, will be invited to be accepted as Catechumens (those formally seeking Baptism) in a simple rite at the beginning of Mass. All members of the parish community will then be invited to encourage and support them on this stage of their Journey in Faith with our prayers, friendship, and good example. (You can find the video we watched on YouTube on www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUwM2tcyfa8)
	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 13 th at 7.30pm in Room 2 and Wednesday 15 th January 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. If you think you could 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.
	SENIOR YOUTH/CONFIRMATION GROUP: Restarts this Sunday, 12 th January, after the 5.00pm Mass; finishing at approx. 7.15pm. Sign up forms are available in the colonnade and when completed, can be given in to the office.
	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 23rd January 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.
	CHILDREN'S LITURGY Resumes this Sunday, 12 th January at all the Sunday Masses. Those at the 9am and 11:30am Masses will continue fortnightly thereafter. The 5pm Mass will be weekly, subject to availability of DBS checked Adults. If you would be interested in joining the team of Children's Liturgy Catechists, then please get in touch with the Parish Coordinator, Ernestina Amanfo, at childrensliturgy@englishmartyrsrdg.com
	VOLUNTEER DRIVERS REQUIRED The SVP urgently need volunteer drivers (male or female) for Food Centre deliveries in the Reading area. If you have a small car, estate or a small van and can spare a few hours a week for a very worthwhile cause, please contact Jack Ewins on 07734 499190 (Mobile) or email jackewins9@gmail.com . Membership of the SVP is not necessary.
	GROUP MEETINGS Parish Catechists' Ongoing Formation on January 18 th and Group Coordinators on January 25 th . Both begin with Mass at 10.00am and continue after in the hall.

WORD ON FIRE UK BIBLE CONFERENCE | FEBRUARY 2025

Join Bishop Robert Barron and thousands of other Catholics from across the UK for *Evangelisation & Culture: The Bible*. Come to London this February to gain a deeper appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures and their relevance to the Church's mission today.
 Date: Friday 21st - Saturday 22nd February 2025. Location: Excel Centre, East London
 Speakers Include: Bishop Robert Barron, N.T. Wright, Professor Tracey Rowland and more.
 For more information and to register, please visit: wordonfire.org/the-bible-event

PARISH OFFICE REOPENS ON TUESDAY 14TH JANUARY 9.00am to 3.00pm

ORGAN RESTORATION FUND CURRENTLY STANDS AT £24,892.30

BED FOR THE NIGHT 2025 The Reading Churches' Winter Night Shelter scheme began this week. The hosts for Friday night/ Saturday morning sessions, based at CIRDIC in Berkeley Avenue, are all drawn from English Martyrs and a couple of other Reading Catholic parishes. The guests, who would otherwise be sleeping rough this winter, will be offered a hot meal, friendship, professional advice, a warm, safe, place to sleep and a magnificent breakfast for the next 12 weeks. This week, we are expecting a smaller number of guests because Reading Borough Council offers extra support to many rough sleepers during severe weather such as we have had this week. Nevertheless, we will host around 10 people for the first time on Friday 10th January. Please pray that all goes well for our guests, and for our wonderful parishioners who are generously supporting this work in many different ways.

PAX CHRISTI PEACE SUNDAY - JANUARY 19TH

Pax Christi is the Catholic Movement for Peace in England and Wales. The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Our vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Christianity, we work with all who share our values to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice". Envelopes for donations will be given out this Sunday 12th and should be returned to the Parish office week commencing 20th January.

A YEAR OF HOPE: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development 2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD's Simon Giarchi will be hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishop's Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD's Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD's Head of Africa) and more for a lively start to the Jubilee. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse. Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-midday, online. All welcome. Register here for free: www.cafod.org.uk/jubilee

APF/MISSIO

A total of £1247 was collected from the Red Boxes in 2024; many thanks to all box holders and promoters and all those who contribute to Missio by various other means. If it is more than six months since your box was last opened, please hand it in to the parish office or contact Mike Tomas on 07708 032743.

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	Week of Accompanied Prayer (mini retreat in daily life)	October 5th-10th	Sunday 3pm – Friday 7 pm
Catechists' Ongoing Formation	18th January	10.00 – 12.45pm followed by lunch	Opening Mass for Centenary Year	Saturday 18th October	10.00 am
Readers' Ongoing Formation	Saturday 29th March	10.45– 12.45pm followed by lunch	Bereavement Mass	Saturday 8th November	10.00 am
Alpha Leadership Training Royal Albert Hall	5th-6th May	T.B.A	Baptism Mass	Saturday 29th November	10.00 am
Eucharistic Ministers' Ongoing Formation	Saturday 7th June	10.45 – 12.45pm followed by lunch	Marriage Mass	Saturday 6th December	10.00 am
Parish Retreat	Saturday 21st June	9am – 7.30 pm	Parish Seniors Christmas Party	Saturday 13 th December	2.00 pm
First Holy Communion celebration	Saturday 28th June	9am & 11:30am	Advent Penitential Service & Confessions	Saturday 20 th December	10.15am
Mass in the Park	Sunday 27th July	3-5pm	Christmas Mass times	Wednesday 24 th – Friday 26 th December	As for 2024
First Holy Communion celebration	Saturday 13th September	10.00am	New Year's Eve	Wednesday 31 st December	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/Rosary – 11:15, songs of praise/adoration – 11:30 – 11:40, silent adoration – 11:40-11:50.
			New Year's Day	Thursday 1 st January 2026	Midnight Mass – 12.00am. Refreshments/Music – after midnight Mass till 2am.



Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Martin Brennan and all the faithful departed.

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.

**MASS INTENTIONS:
Saturday 11th to Sunday 19th January 2025**

The Baptism of the Lord

Saturday 11 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Chris Moran RIP (25 th Anniversary)
Sunday 12 th	9.00am	Jose Vincente Gonsalo Lourenco RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Gaspar Cardoza, in Thanksgiving
	5.00pm	People of the Parish
Monday 13 th	9.30am	Mark Herbert RIP
Tuesday 14 th	9.30am	Johnny Roughneen RIP
	11.00am	Requiem for Martin Brennan RIP
Wednesday 15 th	9.30am	Chris Knollys & Mark Herbert RIP
Thursday 16 th	9.30am	Johnny Roughneen RIP
Friday 17 th <i>St. Anthony of Egypt, memorial</i>	9.30am	Mary Conroy RIP
Saturday 18 th	10.00am	Bridie O’Gorman RIP

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 18 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Rodney Perera & Angelica Perera, Thanksgiving
Sunday 19 th	9.00am	Mark Herbert RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Ayim Family Intentions
	5.00pm	People of the Parish

**FOUNDATION GOVERNOR IN THE CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH**

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.

English Martyrs Catholic Primary School, Dee Road, Reading have vacancies, and we would love you to join our Governing Board and be the voice for our children.

For more information and details of how to apply, please see the advert on the notice board in the colonnade.