

English Martyrs' Newsletter



2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
19TH 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 19th

JANUARY

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)

CONFESSIONS WEEK COMMENCING 19th 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.

A LIFE OF SERVICE OPENS US UP TO EXTRAORDINARY BLESSINGS

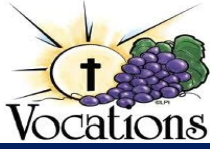
This Sunday's Gospel takes us to a wedding. For most of the guests, the event felt quite ordinary, with one peculiar detail: the best wine was served at the end rather than at the beginning.

However, for some, this was no ordinary wedding. These individuals had witnessed something miraculous - the transformation of water into wine. Interestingly, those who witnessed this act of God through Jesus were not the most important or wealthiest guests, nor were they the ones for whom the wedding was held.

The people who witnessed this miracle were the servants. It was to them that Jesus instructed to fill the purification jugs with water and pour it out. They were the ones serving who experienced the miracle firsthand.


When we choose to serve God, we draw closer to Him and place ourselves in a position to see His work and love manifested in those around us. How can we serve our friends and family in the coming week? The servants obeyed the voice of Jesus; what is God saying to us, and will we choose to obey that voice?

Fr. Gaston



"Do whatever He tells you." At the Wedding at Cana, Jesus performs His first miracle, blessing the union of a married couple. Marriage is a sacred covenant, and like the servants at the wedding, we are called to listen to Christ's guidance in our marriages. Take time to pray together and invite Christ into your marriage, trusting in His power to strengthen your bond.

PARISH NOTICES

Sunday Readings for:	2 nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	3 rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	First: Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm: 96(95):1-3. 7-10 Second: Corinthians 12:4-11 Gospel: John 2: 1-11	First: Nehemiah 8:2-4a. 5-6.8-10 Psalm: 19(18):8-10.15 Second: Corinthians 12:12-30 Gospel: Luke 1: 1-4; 4:14-21

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 This week the group discussed what the Rite of acceptance into the Order of Catechumens had meant to each of us: our new Catechumens, their sponsors, those preparing for Confirmation and Holy Communion and catechists. The Rite took place at the beginning of the 9am Mass last Sunday. It was the moment for the people who have been exploring the Catholic Faith over many months to express their serious desire to continue their preparation to receive the Sacrament of Baptism this Easter. We had all found it moving in different ways. The rest of the evening was spent sharing our thoughts and understanding of the 2nd Reading and the Gospel which we will all listen to at Mass this weekend. We also watched a clip from the TV series "The Chosen" (Season 1 Episode 5) relating the Gospel account of the Wedding at Cana. It helped us to think more deeply about what this story from John's Gospel teaches. We also discussed the place of prayer in our daily lives.
(You can find the video we watched on YouTube on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3R0Mkx8rrc>)



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 22nd 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.



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.



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.



SENIOR YOUTH / CONFIRMATION GROUP:

At our previous meeting we looked at how we can live out our office as priest, prophet and king as baptised Catholics over the following week. The youth group (also for) confirmation will run this coming Sunday (January 19th) after the 5pm Mass (finishing at 7:15pm)



TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK

Many thanks for supporting us with your prayers and generous donations. Our Drop-in Centre and Foodbank is open every Wednesday, from 1-3pm. The Foodbank is also open every Friday from 5-6.30pm. For those able to donate, this week we are short of the following items: tinned hot dogs/meat, oil, coffee, sugar, honey, orange juice and toothpaste. Many thanks for your donations. John Foley 07769251747.

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP PHILIP TO ENGAGED COUPLES

'On Saturday morning, 8th February 2025, I am going to mark Valentine's Day by inviting all the engaged couples of our Diocese – those being married in a church either here or abroad – to come together for a Valentine's Day Breakfast here at the Cathedral. I am sure it will be a very happy occasion. I will be inviting couples from across the Diocese for a 9.15 am start. After coffee and doughnuts, there will be a presentation from a newly married couple from last year, talking about their wedding day and how it all went. After a break, a speaker from our Marriage and Family Life team, will talk about the joy of Catholic marriage. The morning will end with a short liturgy in the Cathedral, in which each couple will come forward to the bishop for a blessing and for the blessing of their engagement rings. Please pray for all those getting married in our Diocese over the months ahead, and for all married couples, and all our families'.

ORGAN RESTORATION FUND CURRENTLY STANDS AT £24,892.30

ADORE SPIRITUAL MINI-RETREAT 25th January 10.00-1.00 PILGRIMS OF HOPE - JESUS IS THE WAY." Includes Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prophecy, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker Daniella Stephens.
Please register for the free Zoom meeting in advance at bit.ly/ADOREJAN2025 More information at www.altonrenewal.com

PAX CHRISTI PEACE SUNDAY - JANUARY 19TH

"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 and 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"

You can donate at <https://paxchristi.org.uk/product/peace-sunday-appeal-2/>

CAFOD SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

Do you enjoy working with children and young people? Could you help to inspire and empower children and young people in your local Catholic schools by delivering an assembly or a workshop? Supported by CAFOD with training and all resources provided please consider the role of CAFOD school volunteer.

For more information contact Jo Lewry jlewry@cafod.org.uk or phone 07710 094447

WORLD LEPROSY DAY – SUNDAY 26TH JANUARY 2025

As World Leprosy Day approaches on the last Sunday of January 26th, we the John Bradburne Memorial Society (JBMS), humbly reach out to you with a request for your support and prayers. This day serves as a vital opportunity to raise awareness about leprosy, a disease that still affects thousands of people globally, and to renew our commitment to serving those who live with its consequences at the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre in Zimbabwe.

You can donate at www.johnbradburne.com

LEGION OF MARY

There will be a legion of Mary meeting this Saturday 18th January in Room 1 at 4.30pm.

For the rest of the month, there will be zoom meetings TBC. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact rachaelpatrice@hotmail.com for further information.

MASS FOR CAMEROONIANS IN READING.

There will be a Mass for Cameroonians in Reading on Sunday, 19th at 1:30pm followed by tea/coffee in the Hall.

ENGLISH MARTYRS MINISTRY FAIR 2025

The 2025 session of our Parish Ministry Fair will take place in the hall after all Masses on the weekend of February 1st and 2nd. This event offers parishioners a chance to learn about the various groups that operate within our parish and to consider joining one or more of them. We are all called to use our talents in service to our parish community.

All group leaders are encouraged to get the necessary items for display ready. This event will also be marked by a raffle draw.



Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

John Brennan RIP whose funeral took place last week here at English Martyrs. 20th January is the first month anniversary of his death.

John Donovan RIP.

Mary 'Maura' Bolger RIP whose Requiem will take place at English Martyrs on Wednesday 22nd January at 10.45am.

Gerrard Elliot RIP whose Cremation Service takes place at West Berkshire Crematorium on Tuesday 28th January at 2.00pm.

Rose 'Phyllis' Reilly RIP whose Requiem will take place at English Martyrs on Thursday 30th January at 11.30am.

Mary 'Marion' Kiernan whose Funeral service is at Henley Road Chapel (South) on Friday 7th February at 12.15pm.



The largest youth gathering of Catholics, Flame is once more taking place at the OVO Arena, Wembley on Saturday 15th March 2025, with the theme *Unstoppable*.

If you are aged 14 or over and belong to one of our Youth Groups and/or are an altar Server and would be interested in finding out more about this event then please speak to your Group Leader or contact the Parish Office. It's a day event starting from 10am until 5:40pm aimed from aged 14 years. If we have a group we can organise to travel together.

The cost is likely to be around £50 per person

**MASS INTENTIONS:
Saturday 18th to Sunday 26th January 2025**

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
Monday 20 th	9.30am	Mary Nelson RIP
Tuesday 21 st <i>St. Agnes, memorial</i>	9.30am	Derek Taplin RIP
Wednesday 22 nd	9.30am	Mark Herbert RIP
	10.45am	Requiem of Mary 'Maura' Bolger RIP
Thursday 23 rd	9.30am	Robert Ayo Priddy RIP
Friday 24 th <i>St. Francis de Salle, memorial</i>	9.30am	Thecla Walsh RIP
Saturday 25 th <i>Conversion of St. Paul, feast</i>	10.00am	Johnny Roughneen RIP

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 25 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Peter Sheppard RIP
Sunday 26 th	9.00am	Manual Xavier Do Rego RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Kathleen Carolan RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish

GRATITUDE FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, EM SCHOOL

"The Governing Body of English Martyrs School would like to thank Rosalind Doctor and Sandrine Hardy, who have stepped down as Governors after many years of faithful service to our school community.

If you are interested in becoming a Foundation Governor, please contact Fr Gaston Afah (gforbah@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or the Clerk of EM Governing Board, Rachel Gonzalez (clerk@englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk).