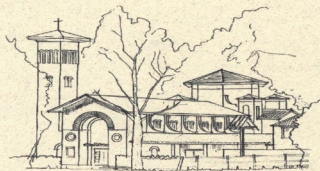


# English Martyrs' Newsletter



## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 5<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025

**ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH,  
64, LIEBENROOD ROAD, READING, RG30 2EB:**

**Registered Charity No. 1199568**

**Parish website: [www.englishmartyrsrdg.com](http://www.englishmartyrsrdg.com)**

**Livestream link on You Tube:**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCulqb5ncxASpguMmd\\_0MNtA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCulqb5ncxASpguMmd_0MNtA)

**Parish Priest: Fr. Gaston Forbah**

[gforbah@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:gforbah@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Assistant Priest: Fr. Samuel Alabi MSP**

[salabi@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:office@englishmartyrsrdg.com)**

### PARISH SAFEGUARDING MINISTERS/CONTACT DETAILS/ROLES

Yvonne Newman: [safeguarding@englishmartyrsrdg.com](mailto:safeguarding@englishmartyrsrdg.com) (Safeguarding cases and concerns)

Gavin Knight: [safeguarding2@englishmartyrsrdg.com](mailto:safeguarding2@englishmartyrsrdg.com) (DBS applications/updating of DBS parish register)

Ernestina Amanfor: [safeguarding3@englishmartyrsrdg.com](mailto: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 5<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)

### CONFESSIONS WEEK COMMENCING 5<sup>TH</sup> 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.

## THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

For some, this Sunday, on which we celebrate the Epiphany (manifestation) of the Lord, marks the end of Christmas. The decorations have been packed away, the tree has been removed, and the toys that were gifted are now lying forgotten after Christmas Day.

But what about Jesus? We celebrated his birth as God incarnate not long ago. The angels revealed him as our Savior to the shepherds, and the Magi showed us that he is the Saviour for the entire world.

In the weeks to come, Christ is revealed as God's Son at his baptism by John in the Jordan River. He is the Messiah who came to reveal God's glory and bring change to the world, beginning with his first miracle at the wedding in Cana in Galilee and fulfilling prophecy as he reads from the scroll in the synagogue in Galilee.

The solemnity of the Epiphany is not the end of our Christmas celebration; rather, it opens us up to a new dimension of encountering Christ. He continually reveals Himself as the Son of God who has come to earth with all the blessings of Heaven. Let us pray for clarity of vision so that our eyes of faith may recognize Christ, just as He revealed Himself at different moments in the Scriptures. God is present among us in His Son, Jesus. Let us not allow our cares and worries to blur our vision of Him, as He shares with us the grace to recognize and love Him in our daily lives.

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](mailto:communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



"They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." What gift can you offer Christ? If He is calling you to a vocation that serves the Church, He is asking for the gift of your life to serve His people. Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke. vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

## PARISH NOTICES

Sunday Readings for:

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**



First: Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm: 72(71):1-2.7-8.10-13  
Second: Ephesians 3:2-3a. 5-6  
Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

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

Wednesday Word ([www.wednesdayword.org](http://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.



**RCIA/ JOURNEY IN FAITH.** The group will resume their meetings on Tuesday 7th January at 7.30 pm in the Bethlehem Chapel.



**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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:chris.coxwell@ntlworld.com) or the parish office.



**SENIOR YOUTH/CONFIRMATION GROUP:**

Will be restarting on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 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.



**CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

We welcome back to the Parish all the children and their families who went away for Christmas. The Children's Liturgy sessions will resume next Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at all the Sunday Masses and those at the 9am and 11:30am Masses fortnightly thereafter. The 5pm Mass will continue every week, 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 Amanfor, at [childrensliturgy@englishmartyrsrdg.com](mailto: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](mailto:jackewins9@gmail.com). Membership of the SVP is not necessary.



**GROUP MEETINGS**

Parish Catechists' Ongoing Formation on January 18<sup>th</sup> and Group Coordinators on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Both begin with Mass at 10.00am and continue after in the hall.



**CHRISTMAS BREAK FOR OUR PRIESTS:**

Fr. Gaston is now on his Christmas break until 11<sup>th</sup> January. Fr. Samuel will take his leave from 25<sup>th</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February.

**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](http://wordonfire.org/the-bible-event)

### STELLA MARIS - CALLING ALL KNITTERS

As a worldwide Roman Catholic charity and part of the Caritas Social Action Network, Stella Maris cares for the spiritual, practical, and welfare needs of Seafarers and Fishers of all faiths and none. The Southampton office serves hundreds of thousands of seafarers arriving at ports along the south coast of England, throughout the year. Every ship visited receives a bag of gifts, including faith materials, rosaries, chocolate, and knitted hats.

Dedicated knitters across the Portsmouth Diocese offer these much-appreciated hats, bringing pleasure to crews who endure tough, isolated lives, separated from family and friends for up to nine months at a time. If you'd like to help, you might like to use the tried and tested Stella Maris knitting pattern, easily found by searching online for "Stella Maris Knitting" Or you can use your own favourite patterns. Dark or bright colours are best. You can pray for the seafarers and those who look after them using this prayer resource.

### 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 on Sunday 12th to be returned to the Parish office from week commencing 20th January.

## 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 <sup>th</sup> December	2.00 pm
First Holy Communion celebration	Saturday 28th June	9am & 11:30am	Advent Penitential Service & Confessions	Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	10.15am
Mass in the Park	Sunday 27th July	3-5pm	Christmas Mass times	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	As for 2024
First Holy Communion celebration	Saturday 13th September	10.00am	New Year's Eve  New Year's Day	Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> December  Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2026	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/Rosary – 11:15, songs of praise/adoration – 11:30 – 11:40, silent adoration – 11:40-11:50.  Midnight Mass – 12.00am. Refreshments/Music – after midnight Mass till 2am.

### A NOTE OF GRATITUDE AND BLESSING

We thank God for the blessings He bestowed upon our parish, in 2024. Each of us served as a channel of blessing to the parish through our prayers and our collective worship at Mass. Additionally, we brought immense blessings to our parish through our dedicated service in our respective groups. May the good Lord reward each one of you abundantly.

I pray that 2025 brings countless blessings into our individual lives, families, jobs, and our parish community. I continue to count on your generous self-offering for the realization of all that we have planned for 2025 in our parish. Please do not relent.

I also invite those who have not yet considered getting involved in any parish activity to come forward and share their talents in service to Christ in our parish community. I wish you a happy, healthy, successful and fruitful 2025.

Fr. Gaston.

**MASS INTENTIONS:  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

***The Epiphany of the Lord***

Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Mgr. John Nelson & family Intentions
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Marie Barbara O'Toole
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Mark Herbert RIP
	5.00pm	Michael Linehan RIP
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	William & Martin Walsh RIP
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Domingos Rodrigues RIP
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Rosa Farah RIP
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Mark Herbert RIP
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Johnny Roughneen RIP
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Anne O'Connor RIP

***The Baptism of the Lord***

Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Chris Moran RIP
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Jose Vincente Gonsalo Lourenco RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Gaspar Cardoza, in Thanksgiving
	5.00pm	People of the Parish



**Rest In Peace**

*Please pray for the repose of the souls of 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.