

English Martyrs' Newsletter



8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
2ND MARCH 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 colonnade and hall
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

2nd MARCH

Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday at 9.30am

Wednesday at 9.30am and 7.00pm

Friday at 6.30am, 9.30am and 6.30pm

Saturday at 10.00am

Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)

CONFESSIONS WEEK COMMENCING

2nd MARCH

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 5.00pm. Praise and Worship as usual until 5:45p.m, followed by silent adoration for 15 minutes. Then, Angelus at 6.00pm followed by Rosary, benediction, reposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Mass for Peace at 6.30pm.

FROM THE HEART

As you reflect on the past week, it's essential to evaluate what your words convey about you. Did you uplift others, or did you tear them down with your speech? Consider your first thought of the day; did it orientate the rest of your day toward Christ or toward the world? Think about how you reacted when another driver cut you off or when someone rudely stepped in front of you in line.

Your words and thoughts are powerful indicators of the condition of your heart. They reveal your emotional and spiritual state. The 'heart' is not just about emotions; it symbolizes your fundamental commitments, hopes, and trust. By examining your speech, you can pinpoint areas that need change as you strive to grow closer to Christ.




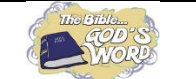


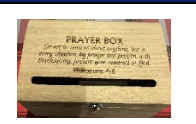


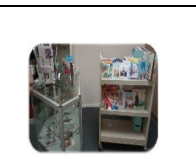

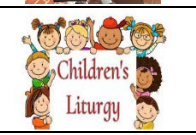
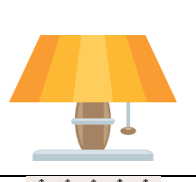

If your words reflect a heart filled with fear, it's time to confront how you place your trust in God. If you find yourself seeking security in money or job status, acknowledge that God is the ultimate provider. When you catch yourself being self-critical, remind yourself of the truth in Psalm 139: you are fearfully and wonderfully made.

As we approach Lent, seize this opportunity to assess your speech and consider how it reflects your core commitments and aspirations. Look back at what you've been saying, if your words are not cultivating life and hope in those around you (including yourself) commit to making changes during Lent that will realign your life with Christ. Take action now.

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:	8 th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	1 st SUNDAY OF LENT
	<p>First: Sirach 27:4-7 Psalm: 92(91) 2-3.13-16 Second: Corinthians 15: 54-58 Gospel: Luke 6: 39-45</p>	<p>First: Deuteronomy 26:4-10 Psalm: 91(90) 1-2.10-15 Second: Romans 10: 8-13 Gospel: Luke 4: 1-13</p>
<p>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.</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>RCIA/ JOURNEY IN FAITH: This week, the group began three weeks of watching and discussing a film presented by Fr. Stephen Wang (now Rector of the English College in Rome) in the Sycamore series on the Holy Eucharist. We are also preparing to attend the Rite of Election at Portsmouth Cathedral on Saturday 8th March. And to begin the final stages of the journey towards receiving the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil on the evening of Saturday 19th April. We continued to reflect together on the Gospel for this weekend – the warning against seeing the faults of others while being blind to our own greater faults.</p>	
	<p>EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE. AS WEDNESDAY IS ASH WEDNESDAY, THERE WILL BE NO MEETING ON 5th MARCH.</p>	
	<p>SENIOR YOUTH / CONFIRMATION GROUP: Meetings resume on Sunday evening, 2nd March, from 6.00 to 7.15pm.</p>	
	<p>PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS: As part of our First Friday devotion on 7th March, let us say together the prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus at 8:30pm. This can be done individually or as a family using either the cards we distributed or the online version on our website homepage.</p>	
	<p>PRAYER BOX IN THE COLONNADE Please drop your intentions in this prayer box for our parish intercessors to pray for you. The Friday Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament and some members of the English Martyrs Legion of Mary Apostolate offer these intentions in prayer. After a while, the priests prayerfully burn them.</p>	
	<p>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 fruit, orange juice, Deodorants, cereal, Ketchup, tuna, squash and Small cooking oil. Many thanks for your donations. John Foley 07769251747.</p>	
	<p>ENGLISH MARTYRS LENT FOOD BANK Once more, we thank all those who contributed to our Parish Christmas Food Bank. We will begin our Parish Lent Food Bank from Next weekend, 8th/9th March. The collection of items will end on 30th March and distribution will be done the week beginning 31st March.</p>	
 	<p>BOOKSHOP AND REPOSITORY In addition to Sunday mornings, we will now be open after 5pm Mass on Sunday evenings. The bookstall is situated in room 3 at the back of the hall and sells books, cards and other religious items to support your faith journey. A new CTS weekday missal will be available at the end of April. This is a hardback book giving the readings in the new translation for all weekday Masses. The cost of the missal is £55. If you would like to pre-order one please contact Chris Coxwell at chris.coxwell@ntlworld.com as soon as possible. Because of the high cost of this item, we would like a deposit of £30 before ordering.</p> <p>NEW DONA MACHINE We now have two new upgraded versions of the Dona Machine for cashless giving. Both are installed in the Colonnade and Hall as were the previous ones.</p>	
	<p>THIS WEEK AT 5.00pm MASS: We will be learning how actions are more important than words. What actions Jesus expects from us and how important it is to look and review our own actions. We will also talk about what an examination of conscience is.</p>	
	<p>LIGHTS IN CHURCH During the day, the Church will be open, but the lights turned off. Please, if you come in to pray, turn on the lights using the switch on your left as you enter the door of the church from the colonnade. The upper button turns on the lights, and the lower button switches off the lights. We request that if you are leaving the church when no other person is in, kindly switch off the lights. We remind everyone that the Church is open from 8a.m to 7p.m for us to come in and say a prayer.</p>	
	<p>EVENING STATIONS OF THE CROSS FRIDAY 7TH MARCH @ 6.00pm Group Leading: Lourdes Pilgrims. Organiser(s): Gerard Rocks & Judith Crimmins</p>	

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK(1)

Join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk in the Jubilee Year
You are invited to join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk together with Catholics in England and Wales as "Pilgrims of Hope" in response to Pope Francis' calling in his promotion of this Jubilee Year. By so doing, you will challenge yourself to walk 200km over 40 days during Lent.
Every £1 you raise will support CAFOD's work to fight injustice and global poverty and help communities like Lokho's in Kenya, experiencing the worst impact of the climate crisis, to rebuild their lives in hope.
You can sign up by clicking: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK(2)

Reading Catholic Parishes Big Lent Walk for CAFOD on Saturday 8th March

For those seeking something less challenging than a slog over 40 days, but still under the aegis of the Big Lent Walk, a Reading parishes community walk of about 8km is being organised with a meet time of 9.30 a.m. on 8th March at the starting point of Our Lady and St Anne's church in Caversham. Damian Porter from St Anne's will lead the walk. It will pass St James church and proceed along the Kennet through beautiful countryside as far as The Cunning Man in Burghfield, arriving there by 1p.m. There is a Reading Buses service (route 2) to take you back to central Reading, running every 30 minutes. You can sign up by clicking: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

CAFOD LENT APPEAL

The Lent Family Fast Day is Friday 14th March. For those of you wishing to use the CAFOD envelopes to donate to the Family Fast Day Appeal, these will be distributed at the Masses on the weekend of 8th and 9th March. Or, you can donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or by accessing the CAFOD virtual envelope online, or by scanning the QR code shown on the envelope you receive in church and on the poster in the colonnade. Through your donation you will be a "Pilgrim of Hope" in response to Pope Francis' calling in his promotion of this Jubilee Year. You'll be supporting communities experiencing the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope. The theme of this Lent's Appeal is Lokho's community in the drought-ridden Marsabit region of northern Kenya which never lost hope when their animals died, and crops failed. With the help and technical advice of one of CAFOD's local experts from Caritas, families are now growing enough food to build a safety net for their futures. You can see Lokho on the poster in the colonnade and in short videos that will be shown at the Masses on 8th and 9th March. Please join us in praying that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families.

CATECHISTS LENT DAYS OF PRAYER, FORMATION AND NETWORKING

The Vicariate for Evangelisation will be hosting three online events during Lent for Catechists across the diocese. These events offer a chance to connect with other catechists, share experiences, and find inspiration to hand on the faith in our parishes. Each event will begin at 7:30 PM and last for one hour. Catechists can choose from the three events based on their area of catechesis:
Thursday 13th March (Children's Liturgy and First Holy Communion)
Thursday 20th March (Marriage Preparation and Baptism)
Thursday 3rd April (Confirmation and RCIA)
To sign up for these events, please go to <https://forms.office.com/e/VkCdj1SWzA>.

LEGION OF MARY

Meetings will be held every Monday from 4.30pm - 5.30pm until further notice via Teams.
Please contact legionofmary@englishmartyrsrdg.com for link or to find out more

RESILIENCE TRAINING FOR WOMEN (CF. PHIL 4:13)

Free introductory session on a resilience training program designed for women (ages 17+) in Our Lady of Peace Parish (338 Wokingham Rd, Earley, Reading RG6 7DA). Open to friends from other parishes, this course will help you: Build self-confidence, strengthen mental and physical resilience, Develop character and inner strength & Kick-start a healthy lifestyle. The training will be led by Dieye – a fitness trainer, self-defense instructor, and trauma medic.
Course Details: Free introductory session on 20th March at 7.15 pm in the parish hall.
Four follow-up sessions (1 hour each, including warm-up) Cost: £10 for all four sessions Registration open until 16th March 2025 (course will run if there's sufficient interest). Register after Mass on Sundays or via OLoP Parish office: email-office@olop.org.uk.
Spread the word and take a step toward greater confidence and well-being!

PARISH RETREAT

April 11th from 7:15pm in the Hall.
Theme: Reconciliation and Forgiveness
This will be preceded by the usual Praise and Worship Hour, Stations of the Cross by Junior Youth in First Holy Communion Group and Elevate and some refreshments in the Hall.

PARISH AND SCHOOL JOINT CELEBRATION OF THE YEAR OF HOPE

English Martyrs Primary School is inviting parishioners to join them in one of their activities to mark the Year of Hope.
This activity is the CAFOD Big Walk (*Walk in Solidarity*). This will take place on the 3rd of April at 3:45pm. This walk (1km) which will also involve parents of school children is geared towards raising funds to enable CAFOD to fight poverty around the world. The following link can be used for the fundraising: (<https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/big-lent-walk>)

QUESTIONS FOR THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Diocesan Pastoral Council has been scheduled for March 22nd, 2025, in Winchester. The focus will be on Formation of the Laity. There are two key questions around which talks and discussions at this Council will revolve.
1/ *What Methods/Resources and Topics would foster the Evangelisation, Formation and Catechesis of the Laity at the personal, family, parish and Diocesan levels?*
2/ *What do people feel they need?*
If any parishioner would like to express their thoughts on these two questions, please, email Angela Wills t: rcia@englishmartyrsrdg.com who is one of those to attend from our parish.

FIRST FRIDAY ACTIVITIES

This coming first Friday will have the following activities:
6:30am: Mass
9.00am: Stations of the Cross
9:30am: Mass followed by adoration till 5p.m
5.00pm: Praise and worship till 5:45pm followed by Benediction
6.00pm: Angelus followed by Stations of the Cross and Mass for Peace.
Going forward, Benediction will come before Angelus on First Fridays.

**MASS INTENTIONS:
Saturday 1st to Sunday 9th March 2025**

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 1 st March <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 2 nd	9.00am	Mortimer Sheehan RIP (1 st Anniversary)
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Martin Brennan RIP and Phil Gouge Recovery.
	5.00pm	Maura Bolger RIP
Monday 3 rd	9.30am	Patricia Raulston RIP
Tuesday 4 th <i>St. Casimir, memorial</i>	9.30am	Martin Brennan RIP
Wednesday 5 th <i>Ash Wednesday: The Beginning of Lent</i>	9.30am	Martin Brennan RIP
	7.00pm	Anthony Cordery RIP and Hargun Family Intentions
Thursday 6 th	9.30am	Johnny Roughneen RIP
Friday 7 th <i>Ss Perpetua & Felicity memorial</i>	6.30am	Phil Gouge Recovery
	9.30am	Jennifer McGrath RIP
	6.30pm	The Intentions of Lorna Biggins
Saturday 8 th	10.00am	Lorna Biggins Intention
<i>First Sunday of Lent</i>		
Saturday 8 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Eugene & Mark Herbert RIP
Sunday 9 th	9.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Martin Brennan RIP
	5.00pm	Kevin, John & Madge Lee RIP

**FREE LENTEN COURSE - NEW MONDAY NIGHT ONLINE COURSE -
4 WEEKS STARTING 10TH MARCH AT 7.30PM.**

The concept of "Jubilee" has its origins in the Book of Leviticus (chapter 25) as a special year of reconciliation, pilgrimage, and coming home. Pope Francis has designated the 2025 Holy Year as a time to renew ourselves as "Pilgrims of Hope."

As we are quickly approaching Lent – what better way to prepare our hearts and mind for Easter than to join in fellowship and reflect and mediate on the deeper aspects of faith and explore deeper the message of Easter.

In this 4-week online course via zoom we will be reflecting on uplifting and practical insight into the joy of living now with hope in the future blessing of Eternal Life with God in Heaven, contemplating John's revelation in the cave of Patmos and how we can help people experience the joy of hope.

10 March - Session 1 - Hope in the Risen and glorified Jesus

17 March - Session 2 - Heaven, the fulfilment of our deepest longings

24 March - Session 3 - Heaven on Earth

31 March - Session 4 - The Holy Spirit, the River of Life.

What better way to start the year and reflect on how we could live joyfully with the hope of eternal life. We hope you can join us and together journey as pilgrims of hope. Please EMAIL Joan Kent at jkent@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk if you wish to join us for this Lenten course. Please see below a trailer for the course if you wish to find out more. Please feel free to invite your friends and family and anyone else who you think may be interested in joining us.

<https://vimeo.com/788226129>

FREE

CAP Money Course

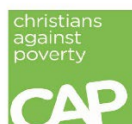
Starts 7PM Monday 17th March 2025

Greyfriars Centre
Friar Street, RG1 1EH



- Build and balance a household budget
- Set aside some money for the future
- Make smarter well-informed decisions

"Positive and informative"
"Made me feel confident in the financial world"
"A real life saver for me"



**More info
and sign up**

