

# English Martyrs' Newsletter



5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME  
9<sup>TH</sup> & 16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 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)

Asst 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: Open Tuesday to Thursday 9.00am to 3.00pm

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 Amanfo: [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 2 WEEKS COMMENCING

9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

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 2 WEEKS COMMENCING

9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

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 HALLMARKS OF A DISCIPLE

In this week's Gospel we see the attitude that a disciple of Christ has.

1. Disciples love to hear the Word of God (Luke 5:1): Do we love the Word of God? Do we choose to spend time reading the Word or are our lives too busy to see what God is saying through Scriptures and through his Son?
2. Disciples obey Jesus even when it doesn't make sense (Luke 5:4-7): Micah (6:8) we are told God asks three things of us; to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly; do we follow this command with those around us?
3. Disciples are aware of their own sinfulness (Luke 5:8-10a): Are we able to see what is in our lives that hinders are relationship with Christ? Do we bring these things to him in confession to find mercy and reconciliation?
4. Disciples are fishers of men (Luke 5:10b): they do not keep their faith to themselves, but instead take the opportunities to share Christ through their actions and in what they say.
5. Disciples are willing to forsake all and follow Christ (Luke 5:11): They choose Christ first and choose him in every moment of the day. Will you choose to be Christ before all else in the next week?

## CERTIFICATE IN CATECHESIS









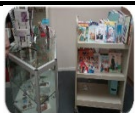
The Dominican Sisters of St Joseph in Lyngington are offering a 2-year Certificate in Catechesis to equip parish catechists, parents, and grandparents to transmit the Catholic faith to others. This Certificate is approved by the Bishop's Conference, and offers a formation developed from the 2020 Directory for Catechesis, relevant to the pastoral context we face in our parishes. It is delivered online in weekly sessions with notes, recordings, and presentations made available to the students. It is comprehensive in its overview of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and in its practical application to all forms of catechesis. 2 in-person days are offered each year to build up the students' community and fellowship in faith.

[Apply now](#) to begin your studies in September 2025.

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)

# PARISH NOTICES

Sunday Readings for:	5 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	6 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	<b>First:</b> Isaiah 6:1-2a. 3-8 <b>Psalm:</b> 138(137):1-5.7-8 <b>Second:</b> Corinthians 15:1-11 <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 5: 1-11	<b>First:</b> Jeremiah 17:5-8 <b>Psalm:</b> 1:1-4,6. 40(39):5a <b>Second:</b> Corinthians 15:12, 16-20 <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 6: 17, 20-26
<b>Wednesday Word (<a href="http://www.wednesdayword.org">www.wednesdayword.org</a>)</b> has some helpful reflections for parishioners on the three Sunday readings each week and a special page for younger children and their families.		
	<b>RCIA/ JOURNEY IN FAITH</b> This week, the group began two 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 power and meaning of the Sacraments, especially the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Fr Samuel then led us in reflecting together on the second Reading and Gospel for this weekend – the call of the first apostles. You can find a wonderful range of short and very accessible Sycamore films on many aspects of our Catholic Faith presented by Fr Stephen on YouTube. Try this 7-minute film on the sacrament of Baptism as a taster: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5axYNQTPY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5axYNQTPY</a> (Skip the advert!) There is no Journey in Faith meeting in Half Term 18th February. We start again on Tuesday 25th February.	
	<b>EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE.</b> Our Parish Emmaus groups explore the Sunday readings together with fellow parishioners in an informal setting. Next meeting(s) is/are on Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm Room 2, Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am in Room 2, Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> February at 4.30pm in Room 1 and Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am in Room 2.	
	<b>SENIOR YOUTH / CONFIRMATION GROUP:</b> The youth group didn't meet last week as we made room for the ministry fair. We will be meeting this Sunday (9th Feb) 6pm-7:15pm, before taking a two week break over half term. We will resume after the break on Sunday 2nd March.	
	<b>BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON SCHOOL</b> <b>VACANCY for Foundation Governor:</b> A vacancy for a Foundation Governor on the governing body has arisen and expressions of interests are being sought from practising committed Catholics for the ministry. More details on noticeboard in the Colonnade. Closing date for applications: 2nd March 2025	
	<b>PARISH AFTERNOON TEA</b> 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 20 <sup>th</sup> February 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.	
	<b>TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE &amp; FOODBANK</b> 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: weetabix, tinned hot dogs/corned beef/spam/meatballs, tinned chicken soup, whole/semi-skimmed long life milk, sugar, orange/apple juice, peanut butter and wet wipes. Many thanks for your donations. John Foley 07769251747	
	<b>FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:</b> Our next session is just around the corner, and I'm excited to announce that we'll be delving deeper into the beauty of the prayer given to us by our Lord - the "Our Father." This is an incredible opportunity to explore its significance and meaning together. Please arrive on time so that we can make the most of our time together. We look forward to seeing you all there!	
	<b>BOOKSHOP AND REPOSITORY</b> 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 <a href="mailto:chris.coxwell@ntlworld.com">chris.coxwell@ntlworld.com</a> or the parish office.	



**Rest In Peace**

*Please pray for the repose of the souls of*

Noreen Smith RIP whose Requiem will be here at English Martyrs on Monday 10th February at 1.15pm.

John Jones RIP whose Funeral Service will be at Reading Crematorium on Tuesday 18th February 2025

Bertha Rooney whose interment will be at Henley Road Cemetery on Tuesday 18th February 2025

Mr Cheuk Man Kung whose interment will be at Henley Road Cemetery on Wednesday 19th February 2025

Please also keep their families and loved ones in your prayers.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS PARISH RETREAT**

Shown in the Event Planner as being held in June will now take place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May.

## ORGAN RESTORATION

### FAMILY/FRIENDS WEEKEND (MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>/2<sup>ND</sup>)

We are grateful to all families who have repeatedly donated to Our Parish Organ Restoration project through the different fundraising initiatives. The weekend of March 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> will be an opportunity for parish families to once more support this project. Perhaps we could appeal to our children, siblings, and friends to support our family Weekend donation to this important restoration project. We are glad to note that we recently received a £5000 donation from one family. This takes the total raised so far to £29,892.30.

*Find the revised cost breakdown by Goetze and Gwynn Ltd.  
(Revised August 29th, 2024)*

#### ESTIMATED AMOUNTS

preparation, dismantling, collection and storage £11,200.00  
casework and finish, including re-gilding front pipes £8,400.00  
Great windchest £6,000.00  
adjusting keys, key action and stop action £7,200.00  
wind system, including new blower, blower box £6,600.00  
wooden and metal pipes cleaning and repairs £6,000.00  
Trumpet resonator repairs, clean and repair reed pipes £4,800.00  
installation assembly £17,800.00  
voicing and tuning £2,400.00  
Subtotal £70,400.00  
VAT @ 20% £14,080.00 (recoverable)  
TOTAL £84,480.00

### OTHER FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

- Living History" Presentation by George Nowacki – 20<sup>th</sup> February
- Cake Sale by Youth – 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> May
- Sponsored Cycling led by Fr Gaston – Date tbc
- Pentecost Lapel Ribbons by Anne Francois/Tracey Gurr – 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> June
- Goan Evening – Date tbc
- Any other initiative would be much appreciated.

We hope that the Diocesan fundraising office will help us approach some identified funding bodies for more support for this project.

## KNOCK PILGRIMAGES

Escorted Jubilee Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 10th March 2025. £799.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 4 nights' in 4\* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Ballintubber Abbey, Quiet Man Museum. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).

## CAFOD MEETING

Saturday 22nd February from 10:30am to 1pm at Christ the King Church Hall Reading RG2 8NR. Please join us to find out how your donations to CAFOD are making a difference to communities in Kenya. Everyone is welcome and please book your place so that we have an idea of numbers by emailing Jo on [jlewry@cafod.org.uk](mailto:jlewry@cafod.org.uk)

**FOR OUR DIARIES** Lenten Penitential Service and Confessions: April 12th beginning at 9:45a.m.

**THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM:** The next meeting will be on Wednesday 12th February in Room 1 at 6p.m to 7p.m. Let us pray for all the members (Fr Gaston Afah, Fr Samuel Alabi, Gerard Rocks, Meghan Dimbylow, Tony Maina, Angela Wills, Anita Connolly and Chris Ferreira).

## THURSDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

George Nowacki will be giving a talk and slide show describing the 4-year journey he made with his mother to England during the war. It includes stories of their life in a Labour Camp in Northern Russia and in a refugee camp near Tehran. Refreshments will be provided, and all are welcome.

## WEEK OF ACCOMPANIED PRAYER IN OUR PARISH: 5-10TH OCTOBER

Have you ever wished you had the time to go on a retreat, to spend some unhurried time with the Lord – but your life is busy and going away to a retreat centre is not really an option for you? Weeks of Accompanied Prayer (WAPs) are an opportunity for busy people like us to do just that. For 5 days, you set aside a half an hour for a time of personal prayer and then meet with an experienced prayer guide each day for half an hour, at a time that works for you, to reflect on your prayer time, and perhaps discover some new ways of praying. Your meetings are one to one and completely confidential.

Here is a quote from someone who attended a recent WAP in a neighbouring parish All I want to say is that this has been a wonderful week, and I am so grateful that I had this opportunity. It has been invaluable in my journey with God and my only sadness is that it has to finish. Thank you so much to the organisers and to my prayer guide, Stephen, for all it has brought to me.

Our parish is hosting a Week of Accompanied Prayer in October: 5-10th, starting with an Introductory meeting on Sunday 5th. Save the date.

## LEGION OF MARY

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

## WORD ON FIRE UK BIBLE CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 2025

If you want to gain a deeper appreciation of the Bible and the Catholic faith, come and join Bishop Robert Barron and thousands of other Catholics from across the UK for the national conference: *Evangelisation & Culture: The Bible*. Tickets are available for the Friday and Saturday or just a day pass for the Saturday. Date: Friday 21st - Saturday 22nd February 2025. Location: Excel Centre, East London. Speakers Include: Bishop Robert Barron, N.T. Wright, Professor Tracey Rowland, Archbishop John Wilson and more.

For more information and to register, please visit: [wordonfire.org/the-bible-event](http://wordonfire.org/the-bible-event)

**MASS INTENTIONS:  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025**

***5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time***

Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Kevin McDermot RIP
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Amelia Olivera & Gregor Gonsalo Lourenco RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Bertie Leneghan RIP
	5.00pm	Deceased members of the Donohue family RIP
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> <i>St Scholastica, memorial</i>	9.30am	Sydney Burrett RIP
	1.15pm	Requiem of Noreen Smith RIP
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> <i>Our Lady of Lourdes, memorial</i>	9.30am	Alan Williams RIP
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Frank Jennings RIP
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	João Da Luz RIP
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> <i>St Cyril &amp; St Methodius, feast</i>	9.30am	Intentions of Denzila & Selvy Fernandes
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Ethelreda Davis RIP

***6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time***

Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Mark Herbert RIP
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Johnny Roughneen RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	People of the Parish
	2.00pm	Vietnamese Mass
	5.00pm	Don O'Sullivan RIP
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Francis 'Frank' Carr RIP
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Private Intention
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Martin Brennan RIP
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Peter & James Biggins RIP
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	Peter & James Biggins RIP
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> <i>THE CHAIR OF ST PETER, feast</i>	10.00am	Maura Bolger RIP

***7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time***

Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	James Biggins RIP
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Martin Brennan RIP
	5.00pm	Deceased members of Barrett & Commins families RIP