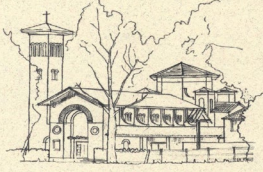


English Martyrs' Newsletter



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

6TH APRIL 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: CLOSED.

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

6th APRIL

Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm

Monday to Thursday at 9.30am

Friday at 6.30am, 9.30am

Saturday at 09.45am Penitential Service

Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)

CONFESSIONS WEEK COMMENCING

6th APRIL

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

Monday to Friday 15 mins before Mass

Saturday: During 9.45am Mass and from 5.30pm



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: On Friday from 10.00am to 6.00pm. From 5.00pm, Praise and Worship will feature music, scripture reading, guided reflection, a time of silence and concluding with Benediction.

DO YOU PERCEIVE IT?

“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” — Isaiah 43:18-19 (the Lord speaking to His people through the prophet Isaiah).

As we approach the end of our Lenten journey, let us take a moment to reflect on what God is doing in our lives. Perhaps we began our Lenten season unsure of our purpose, uncertain of what God might do or what we would accomplish. Alternatively, we may have started with a list of things we intended to give up or take on, plans for prayers, and spiritual writings we aimed to read.

No matter what our journey has looked like, God assures us, “See, I am doing a new thing.” Even if we feel that this Lent has not gone as we had hoped, we can trust in God. In the second letter to Timothy, we read, “Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself” (2 Timothy 2:13). Regardless of our shortcomings, God’s character does not change; His love remains constant and His desire for us endures. We find our confidence in Jesus, the cornerstone of our faith (1 Peter 2:4-6).

As we enter this final week before Holy Week, let us refrain from focusing on what we did not accomplish during Lent or the times we may have felt we failed. Instead, let us look ahead to what is to come and trust in God's promises. As we prepare for the crucifixion of Christ, let us put to death those aspects of ourselves that are not of God, and anticipate what God will resurrect in our lives as we place our trust in Him. God is doing a new thing; can you perceive it?









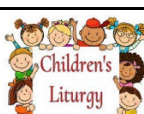
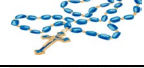
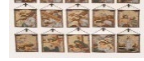
Fr. Gaston

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



"Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore." Jesus' words remind us of God's mercy and His invitation to a fresh start. In every vocation, we're called to accept His forgiveness and step forward with a renewed commitment to love and serve. This Lent reflect on how you are nurturing a heart open to love as you journey toward Easter.

PARISH NOTICES

Sunday Readings for:	5 th SUNDAY OF LENT	PALM SUNDAY
	First: Isaiah 43: 16-21 Psalm: 126(125) 1-6 Second: Philippians 3: 8-14 Gospel: John 8: 1-11.	First: Isaiah 50: 4-7 Psalm: 22(21) 8-9.17-20.23-24. Second: Philippians 2: 6-11 Gospel: Luke 22:14 – 23:56.
<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>RCIA/ JOURNEY IN FAITH: This week, the RCIA group shared a Passover meal as a way of understanding better the biblical background to the events of Holy Week and also the Jewish roots of the Eucharist.</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>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 7th April at 7.30pm in Room 2 and Wednesday 9th April at 10.30am in Bethlehem Chapel.</p>	
	<p>SENIOR YOUTH / CONFIRMATION GROUP: The youth group has now finished for the Easter holidays and will return once the schools are back. An email will be sent out to all parents in the next week with information, please do keep a look out for it! We pray that you have a blessed end to Lent and a joyous Easter!</p>	
	<p>FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Our next in-person First Holy Communion session is on Friday, 11th April at 6:00pm. We will be joining the Elevate Youth group to pray the Stations of the Cross together. If you're available, we warmly invite you to come along and support our children during this special moment.</p>	
	<p>BAPTISM Congratulations to Rosie May Biggins who is receiving the Sacrament of baptism on Saturday 12th April. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.</p>	
	<p>ENGLISH MARTYRS LENT FOOD BANK – EXTENDED Donations for the Lent Food Parcels will continue to be accepted until after the 5pm Mass on Sunday 6th April and can be placed in the receptacle in the colonnade. We are currently in need of: Rice – Flour - vegetable oil – Sugar – Pasta - Cans of Tomatoes and other vegetables (sweetcorn, carrots etc) - Cans of Tuna or other fish/meats - Tea or coffee - Eggs (if the use by date is after 15th April so that the families have time to use them). If anybody can donate the large bags for life that can be used to pack hampers that would also be very helpful. Thank you for your generosity throughout this campaign.</p>	
	<p>THIS WEEK at 5pm Mass we will be covering the topic of forgiveness mentioned in John 8:1-11. Jesus when teaching in the temple, shows mercy on a woman who is caught doing something wrong and gives her another chance. The children will be asked to remember the story of Zacchaeus and the unforgiving servant to remind them that no-one is perfect, we all make mistakes but Jesus – the one perfectly good person forgives us all and we should all give each other another chance".</p>	
	<p>ROSARY AT 6.00pm VIGIL MASS We will be praying the Holy Rosary from 5:30pm each Saturday, before the 6.00pm Vigil Mass. Let us join our prayers with those of our Blessed Mother, Mary, especially during this time of Lent.</p>	
	<p>STATIONS OF THE CROSS FRIDAY 11th APRIL @ 6.00pm Group Leading: Elevate Youth/First Holy Communion Group Organiser(s): Sharon Antony/Anita Connolly</p>	

SEMINARIAN FOR HOLY WEEK

We are looking forward with joy to welcoming Nathan King, one of our Seminarians for Portsmouth Diocese. Nathan King is in his fourth year of formation at Allen Hall Seminary in Chelsea. He will spend Holy Week in our Parish and then return later for his summer placement (June 28th to July 26th, 2025). Let us keep Nathan King and all other seminarians in our prayers.

VOTE AGAINST THE ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL – WRITE TO YOUR MP

Please, collect a postcard after Mass, complete it and send to your MP asking them to vote against the Assisted Suicide bill which will place a significant number of vulnerable individuals at risk in the coming years.

PARISH JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMAGE – SAVE THE DATE

As part of our Parish celebration of the Jubilee Year with the Theme, Pilgrims of Hope, our parish will have a pilgrimage to Walsingham on June 14th. More details about the trip including cost of transportation will be communicated next weekend. Please, save the date.

VIETNAMESE MASS: This will take place on Sunday 13th April at 2p.m in our Church.

LIVESTREAMING

PLEASE NOTE that some of our Masses are Livestreamed and a recording is made that is then loaded to our Youtube channel. This is normally the 11.30 Mass each Sunday morning but can change as circumstances dictate.

Therefore, if you do **NOT** wish to be part of any Livestreamed/recorded Mass then you are asked to please sit toward the back of the church; ideally in the pews immediately below the choir loft which is out of camera shot. THE easter Triduum Masses will ALL be livestreamed and recorded.

LEGION OF MARY

Meetings will be held every Monday from 5.00pm - 6.00pm until further notice via Teams.

Please contact legionofmary@englishmartyrsrdg.com for link or to find out more

PLEASE NOTE ALTERED MEETING TIMES

CAFOD MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church to support families affected by the disaster. Your donations will provide essentials like water, food, solar lights, and mosquito nets. Please give to CAFOD's Myanmar Earthquake Appeal by donating online at cafod.org.uk/myanmar, by scanning the attached QR code or by calling 0303 303 3030. If you want to make a donation at church you can use one of the Dona Machines in the colonnade or the hall, or make a cash donation at Mass in a marked envelope. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10.

So many choices! There is a poster on the earthquake in the colonnade.

Thank you so much for your prayers and donations.



SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES MASS:

SATURDAY 21ST JUNE

Are you celebrating 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or anniversary over 60 years? If so, Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration. This will take place at St. Bede's church in Basingstoke on Saturday 21st June at 11.00am. This will be followed by a buffet lunch and is a wonderful occasion to celebrate and be witness to Marriage.

Please contact YOUR PARISH SECRETARY or send an email to anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk to request a form to complete and return.

Please note the email address is not monitored daily and you may have to wait for a reply, so please be patient. To help celebrate the occasion please could you provide a COPY of your Wedding photograph, you can upload it when you return the form. Again, if you have no access to the internet, you can post a COPY along with the completed form to the following address:

(Please mark envelope Significant Wedding Mass) St Bede's Parish Office Popley Way Basingstoke, RG24 9DX

EMPOWERING VULNERABLE CHILDREN (EVC) UGANDA.

APPEAL ON 5th/6th APRIL

This Charity provides a future, through education, for some of the poorest children in the world. There will be a 2nd collection this weekend and Judi Fawcett, Founder and Trustee, will give a brief talk about their work at all of our Masses.

For further information about the Charity please go to their website at <http://www.evuganda.org>

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH

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. The term of office is for four years from the date of appointment. Foundation Governors are personally appointed by Bishop Philip, Bishop of Portsmouth to diocesan schools to represent his interests and those of the Catholic community as a whole.

Closing date for applications: 16th May 2025

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday	13 th April	6pm Sat 9.00 am 11:30 am 5.00 pm	Palm Blessing & Procession from the hall before all Masses.
Maundy Thursday	17 th April	7:30 pm after Mass until midnight 11.45pm	Mass of the Lords Supper including Washing of Feet Veneration at Place of Repose Night Prayer
Good Friday	18 th April	9:30 am 3.00 pm	Public Stations of the Cross in Church grounds Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday	19 th April	2.00pm 8.30pm	Polish Blessing of food Easter Vigil Mass
Easter Sunday	20 th April	9.00 am. 11:30 am. 5.00 pm.	Easter Masses

LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICES: READING PASTORAL AREA

Location	Date	Time
St. John Bosco, Woodley	8 th April	7.00 – 8.00pm
St. Joseph's, Tilehurst	9 th April	7.00pm
Christ the King, Reading	10 th April	7.00pm
Our Lady of Peace, Earley	12 th April	9.00am – 12.00pm
English Martyrs	12 th April	9.45am
St. James, Reading	Every Saturday	5.00 – 5.40pm

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 5th to Sunday 13th April 2025		
<i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>		
Saturday 5 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Josephine Pereira RIP
Sunday 6 th	9.00am	Maria Victoria Fernandes & Filip Ambrose Araujo RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	People of the Parish
	5.00pm	Deceased & living members of the Vithayathil & Alookaran families
Monday 7 th	9.30am	Thanksgiving Intention for the Rodrigues Family
Tuesday 8 th	9.30am	Kevin Commins & Kathleen Gaughan RIP
Wednesday 9 th	9.30am	Theresa & Xavier Fernandes Intentions
Thursday 10 th	9.30am	Dickson & Hannah Fernandes, Birthday Thanksgiving.
Friday 11 th	6.30am	Bredge Heneghan Birthday, Intention.
<i>St Stanislaus, Bishop, Martyr memorial</i>	9.30am	Mr Rodrigues, Thanksgiving.
	7.15-9.15pm	Parish Lenten Retreat
Saturday 12 th	09.45am	Lenten Penitential Service
<i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord</i>		
Saturday 12 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	João Da Luz RIP
Sunday 13 th	9.00am	Lindamira Stephens RIP
	11.30am	Mary Fahy RIP
	2.00pm	Vietnamese Mass
	5.00pm	Vincent Creighton RIP

VIVACE VOICES

Director of Music
Ian Westley

Tickets £5
at the door

Pianist - Mary Westley
Bassoon - Phoebe Masters

Spring Concert

An eclectic mix of music and song, with extracts from Pergolesi's
Stabat Mater

Wednesday 9th April
2.30pm

Refreshments
& Raffle


All Profits to

Supporting adults
with learning
difficulties


English Martyrs Church
Liebenrood Rd
Reading
RG30 2EB

Ample parking at the church and
on Liebenrood Road





**St James Way –
Camino Ingles**



**Walking Pilgrimage – 68.5 Miles over 5 days
Reading to Southampton.**

Friday 20th June to Tues 24th June 2025

As part of the Jubilee Year “Pilgrims of Hope” we invite you to join us on the UK leg of the Pilgrimage route to Santiago De Compostela in Spain.

This ancient route along footpaths and bridal ways is well marked, going through Mortimer down to Winchester and then on to Southampton. Discover what it means to be a true Pilgrim and how such a journey will transform you. The estimated total cost is £300 depending on the number of people. It would only include accommodation and breakfast. We will also aim to have daily mass or morning prayer/adoration available over the 5 days.

If you are interested in this challenge of a lifetime and think you can walk 11 to 16 miles a day, then please contact Adam at adamwlasak@hotmail.com or Tel: 07851504962 for more details.