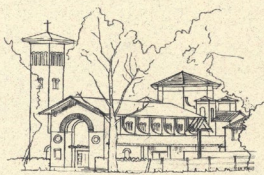


English Martyrs' Newsletter



EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD 20TH 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: Open Tuesdays to Thursdays 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:		TO DONATE TO OUR PARISH:	
<p>English Martyrs Catholic Primary Dee Road, Reading RG30 4BE. Head: Mrs C. Doberska : 0118 937 5466 https://www.englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk/home</p>		<p>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.</p> 	
<p>Blessed Hugh Faringdon Fawley Road, Reading RG30 3EP. Head: Dr Simon Uttley 0118 957 4730 https://www.hughfaringdon.org/</p>		<p>MASS TIMES WEEK COMMENCING 20th APRIL Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm Monday at 10.00am Tuesday to Friday at 9.30am Saturday at 10.00am Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)</p>	<p>CONFESSIONS WEEK COMMENCING 20th APRIL Sunday 30 mins before 9.00am & 11.30am & from 4.30pm Monday to Friday 15 mins before Mass Saturday after 10.00am Mass and at 5.30pm.</p>
		<p>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.</p>	

ALLELUIA IS OUR SONG

Pope Saint John Paul II once said that, "We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song!" We Christians believe that the risen Christ has turned all our sunsets into dawns. Signs of new life can be noticed at Easter. People come prepared to light a new fire, to light new candles, to sing the Glory to God in the Highest and other joyful hymns of praise. People receive new life through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion.

These are signs not only that Jesus rose from the dead but also that he is rising again. He is rising in each of us and in the Body of his people, again and again and again. If "being brought back to true life with Christ" (Col 3:1) is to mean anything, it means that the silver thread of resurrection runs through believers of our own time, freeing them to a new relationship with God and to a new bond of love with others; empowering them to realise their own human potential in a new way and sustaining them through struggles and trials until they triumph.

Thus, Easter isn't a spiritual event that happened just once, long ago; we don't say "Christ has risen" but "Christ is risen," because He rose, body and soul, and is still alive and with us today. Alleluia should therefore continue to be our song.

How could we echo the Alleluia in our daily lives? Simply by giving hope to others through our humble service, tolerance, forgiveness, and our life of prayer and worship.












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



"He is not here; He has been raised." The joy of the Resurrection brings new life. Could Christ be calling you to share this joy with others through a vocation in the Church? Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke. vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

PARISH NOTICES

Readings for:	EASTER SUNDAY (DAYTIME)	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
	First: Acts: 10.34a. 37-43 Psalm: 118(117) 1-2.16-17.22-24. Second: Colossians 3: 1-4 Gospel: John 20: 1-9.	First: Acts: 5: 12-16 Psalm: 118(117) 2-4.22-27. Second: Revelation 1: 9-13.17-19. Gospel: John 20: 19-31.
<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: Congratulations to Ian, Chris and Tyreece who will be baptised and confirmed at the Easter Vigil this weekend and to Cyprian, Donald, Elianifa, Isata, Teresa and Tulip who will be confirmed with them. Please pray for them all and welcome them as full members of the Catholic community. Their journey will continue during the Easter season as they seek to deepen their faith and discover how they are invited to serve the Lord in His Church.</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 Wednesday 16th April at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel.</p>	
	<p>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 24th April 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."</p>	
	<p>BOOKSHOP AND REPOSITORY WILL BE CLOSED ON EASTER SUNDAY. NORMAL OPENING TIMES FROM SUNDAY 27TH APRIL.</p>	
	<p>INFANT BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR MAY 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesdays 13th and 20th May for online Teams Meetings • Saturday 31st May for Session 3 in church <p>Those interested to have their children Baptised should contact the parish office.</p>	
	<p>DIOCESAN DAY OF REFLECTION FOR EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS Saturday 3rd May 2025 at St. Bede's parish in Basingstoke. Details on the noticeboard in the colonnade. EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS RETREAT DAY: Saturday 10th May 2025 in the parish hall. Starts immediately after 10.00am Mass and concludes with a light lunch at approx. 12.30pm. All Eucharistic Ministers are expected to attend if possible.</p>	
	<p>THANK YOU The Life Group and other charities Involved in the Spring Fayre on Saturday 5th April would very much like to thank everyone who supported the event, especially those who helped on the day.</p>	
	<p>READING CAMEROONIAN MASS This will take place next Sunday 27th at 2.00pm in our church.</p>	
	<p>BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS FOR APRIL Next weekend at the homily there will be a special blessing for everyone celebrating their birthday during the month of April.</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: Squash, deodorants men and women, tea, packet soups, meat balls, tuna, rice pudding, coffee, cereal especially cornflakes and Weetabix, ketchup and peanut butter. Many thanks for your donations. John Foley 07769 251747.</p>	
<p>PARISH JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMAGE Date: Saturday 14th June. Cost of Transportation: £40 Leave English Martyrs by Coach at 6.00am; Return to English Martyrs by Coach: approx. 9.30pm/10.00pm There will be a short break on each journey. Please bring a Picnic Lunch. Any queries, to Chris Ferreira- christabel1850@gmail.com OR Fr Gaston- gforbah@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</p>		

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.
 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 are out of camera shot.

LEGION OF MARY

Meetings will be held every Monday (including BH's) from 5.00pm - 6.00pm until further notice via Teams. Please contact legionofmary@englishmartyrsrdg.com for link or to find out more.

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

CERTIFICATE IN CATECHESIS OPEN EVENING

Join us to ask your questions and find out more!

WEDNESDAY 30TH APRIL

7.30 PM – 8.30 PM

REGISTER ONLINE; LIGHTOFTRUTH.UK/JOIN



THE DOMINICAN
SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH



Light of Truth



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.

EASTER SUNDAY COLLECTION

The Easter Sunday Collection is traditionally given to the priests of our Parish. It is an opportunity for the faithful to give thanks to God for the ministry of our priests Fr Gaston & Fr Samuel. You can donate using the yellow envelopes** or through the 'Contactless Machines' in the Colonnade and the Hall. Please Gift Aid your gift if you are able.

Alternatively, donations can be made using our online Giving page:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/reading-english-martyrs-parish-easter-second-collection>

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

DOUAI ABBEY PASTORAL PROGRAMME REFLECTION DAYS & WORKSHOPS IN MAY 2025

Saturday 10th May - Sabbath Day: The Lord's Day.
Saturday 17th May 2025 - Living in a Sainted Land
Saturday 31st May 2025 – Bible alive.... Scripture speaks
See Noticeboard in the colonnade for more details.

Divine Mercy

O soul, whoever you may be in this world, even if your sins were black as night, do not fear God, weak child that you are, for great is the power of God's mercy."



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – 27TH APRIL AT 2.15 PM ST JOSEPH'S, TILEHURST

Traditionally, there is a Novena for Mercy that begins on Good Friday and the Chaplet is said every day, ideally at 3 pm, for all our special intentions up to Divine Mercy Sunday: www.thedivinemercy.org. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy was given to us through the appearances of the Lord to St Faustina Kowalska. He asked that a Feast of Mercy be held on the Sunday after Easter.

All are welcome.

SCHOOL RESUMPTION.

We welcome all the staff and children back to our parish schools this week and we pray for a successful term.


**MASS INTENTIONS:
Saturday 19th to Sunday 27th April 2025**

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of The Lord

Sunday 20 th Easter Day	9.00am	Agnelo Ernesto De Araujo & Fioza Francisca Dias In Thanksgiving.
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Martin Sweeney RIP
	5.00pm	Anna Bojda, in Thanksgiving
Monday 21 st Easter Monday (BH)	10.00am	Frank Hayden RIP
Tuesday 22 nd	9.30am	Jim Rafter RIP and deceased members of the Kelly family RIP
Wednesday 23 rd St. George's Day – Transferred to 28 th April	9.30am	Louie Fearn's RIP
Thursday 24 th	9.30am	Lena O'Connor RIP
Friday 25 th	9.30am	Martin Brennan RIP
Saturday 26 th	10.00am	Maura Bolger RIP

Second Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy Sunday

Saturday 26 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	John Knox RIP
Sunday 27 th	9.00am	Tom McKeown RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	People of the Parish
	2.00pm	Reading Cameroonian Mass
	5.00pm	Gracy & Prince Vithayathil, in Thanksgiving. (30th Wedding Anniversary)



HOPE into **ACTION**
READING
Enabling churches to house the homeless

A SPECIAL SERVICE OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING
FRIDAY 9th MAY at 7.00pm (1 hour)
Here at English Martyrs Church
CELEBRATE MIRACLES IN MOTION
Join us in giving thanks for
lives transformed through
hope and action.

