

English Martyrs' Newsletter



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
11TH MAY 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 from 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. 0118 937 5466

Executive Headteacher: Mr Jamie Carroll

Head of School: Mr Anton Dworzak

<https://www.englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk/home>

Blessed Hugh Faringdon

Fawley Road, Reading RG30 3EP.

Head: Dr Simon Uttley 0118 957 4730

<https://www.hughfaringdon.org/>

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.



MASS TIMES WEEK COMMENCING

11th MAY

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 WEEK COMMENCING

11th MAY

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.



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.

FOUR IMPORTANT TRUTHS ABOUT JESUS HIGHLIGHTED IN OUR GOSPEL PASSAGE

1. Jesus is the Good Shepherd: As our shepherd, He looks after us, protecting us from harm which could originate externally or from our own ego. However, like sheep that occasionally ignore their shepherd, we too can overlook our Good Shepherd and suffer the consequences. As our Good Shepherd, Jesus provides for our needs and He constantly reaches out to seek us when we stray away from His love.
2. Jesus Speaks to us: Like sheep, we constantly need guidance to stay safe and be in the right direction. Jesus ceaselessly speaks to our hearts. The question is, do we listen? We need to continuously make the effort to perceive Jesus' voice through readings at Mass, homilies, the people we encounter and even nature. We must ask ourselves, "What is Jesus saying to me?" or "What is God doing in my life?" Are we taking the time to truly listen?
3. Jesus Knows Us: Our God is not a distant being who set the world in motion and stepped back. He is near us and in a special way, entered our human condition in and through His Son, Jesus, who seeks to be intimately involved in our lives (if we choose to make room for Him in our hearts). He knows us better than we know ourselves, and His response to that knowledge is to love us. Yet, like Adam and Eve in the garden, we sometimes try to hide from God or conceal our sins, hoping He won't notice.
4. Jesus Invites Us to Follow Him: The invitation given to the disciples is the same invitation extended to us: "Follow me." Disciples of Christ do not merely hear the word of God; they strive to live it out daily. This invitation is not solely about obedience; it is also about communion—spending time with God and deepening our understanding of His love for us.

The question is: Will we listen to the Good Shepherd, who knows us and draws close to us? When He speaks, will we follow Him?

Fr. Gaston


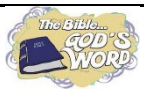





To keep up to date with the news of the Diocese and the Bishop please follow us on: Facebook: @PortsmouthRC / LinkedIn: Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth / Twitter: @PortsmouthRC / Diocesan website: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/> If you have news that you want to share with the Diocese, please contact communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



World Day of Prayer for Vocations

"My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me." Let's unite as a Church to ask the Lord to inspire more hearts to hear His call and to follow Him in the priesthood and consecrated life. Trust that He knows each of us by name and will lead the right hearts to their vocation. Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

PARISH NOTICES

Readings for:	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
	First: Acts: 13: 14.43-52 Psalm: 100(99) 1-3. 5. Second: Revelation 7: 9-17. Gospel: John 10: 27-30.	First: Acts: 14: 21-27 Psalm: 145(144) 8-13 Second: Revelation 21: 1-5. Gospel: John 13: 31-35.
<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>		
	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 12 th May at 7.30pm in Room 2 and Wednesday 14 th May at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel.	
	SENIOR YOUTH / CONFIRMATION GROUP: This weekend we invite parents and young people who are wishing to be confirmed to come for a meeting with Fr Gaston after the 5pm Mass on Sunday 11th May. This is an important meeting that will enable families to know more about the journey and expectations over the next year.	
	FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Friday 16th May at 6.00 pm This gathering will be a meaningful opportunity for children to deepen their understanding of the Eucharist. We look forward to sharing this important journey with you!	
	The 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. On sale are Prayer books, Rosary's, statues, cards and other religious items for both every day and special occasions. A number of secondhand books have recently been gifted to us, so do please come and browse our selection. If you can help with the bookstall on a regular basis after any of the other Sunday Masses, please contact Chris Coxwell at chris.coxwell@ntlworld.com or the parish office.	
	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 22 nd May 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.	
	INFANT BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR MAY 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesdays 13th and 20th May for online Teams Meetings • Saturday 31st May for Session 3 in church Those interested to have their children Baptised should contact the parish office.	



TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK We are supporting 35 households with food, thanks to your donations. The number benefitting is increasing every month, so we appeal to your generosity for more donations. This week we are short of Weetabix/cornflakes, pot noodles, long life juice, long life milk, sugar, baked beans, oil (small/medium size), rice pudding, biscuits and wet wipes. Financial donations can be made to CDP Reading St Joseph. Sort Code: 30-93-04. Account No: 00885992. Include as a reference, 'Your Surname, Foodbank'. Many thanks.



Alone or bored in your marriage? Considering separation or are already divorced? If you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. We have helped thousands of couples get back on track. Call to find out more www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443

Devotions to Mary and Holy Rosary via Teams on Mondays at 5:00pm". This is open to everyone in the Parish.

To access this online prayer meeting, contact: email address

EnglishMartyrsMarianMission@PortsmouthDiocese.org.uk

GROUP CO_ORDINATORS MEETING

The next Group Coordinators Meeting is on Saturday 17th May 2025 after 10.00am Mass.

ADORE SPIRITUAL MINI-RETREAT 31ST MAY

"PILGRIMS OF HOPE – Filled with joy."

Includes Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prophecy, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker Jenny Baker.

Face-to-face meeting 10.00am - 3.30pm at St Philip Howard Church, Fareham PO14 1ND - bring picnic to share.

Or live-streamed 10.00am - 1.00pm

at bit.ly/ADOREMAY2025 and click on LIVE. No need to register in advance.

For more information at www.altonrenewal.com

HOLY SPIRIT NOVENA:

The Vicariate for Evangelisation is hosting an online novena to the Holy Spirit 8pm from Friday 30th May with two additional talks on Saturday 31st May and Wednesday 4th June. Everyone is welcome to join us as we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

To register go to www.tinyurl.com/FFMNovena or email ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

HOLY SPIRIT DAY:

The Vicariate for Evangelisation is also working with Charis Portsmouth to host a Holy Spirit day on Saturday June 7th at English Martyrs Church, Reading starting with a 9:30am Mass and finishing with lunch.

All are welcome, whether you are attending the Novena or not. Register via the same link as the novena at www.tinyurl.com/FFMNovena or email ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

ORGAN RESTORATION FUND

Total raised as at 30th April 2025: - **£37,088.86**

ORGAN RESTORATION FUNDRAISING EVENTS COMING UP

PENTECOST LAPEL RIBBONS – 7th/8th JUNE

BARN DANCE – A family event on Friday 13th June at 7.00pm.

SPONSORED CYCLING – Saturday 21st June.

AFRICAN CULTURAL MUSIC EVENING with dinner on Saturday October 11th

ORGAN RECITAL – December 2025. Date TBC

GOAN FUNDRAISING DINNER – December 2025. Date TBC

READING CATECHIST DAY

Catechists from across Reading are meeting on Saturday May 24th starting with Mass at 10am and finishing with lunch at 12.30pm. This is an opportunity to meet with other catechists from across Reading. The day will consist of Mass followed by a time of prayer before formation from Fr Gaston and an opportunity to share with catechists to hear what other parishes are doing and to learn from each other.

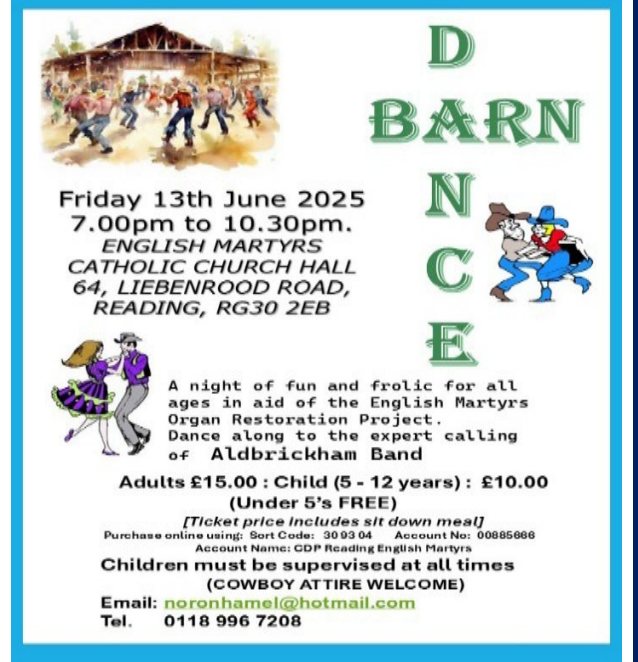
Please email Meghan at ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk if you wish to attend and also to let the team know if you have any dietary requests.



Parish of ENGLISH MARTYRS
PILGRIMAGE
TO THE SHRINE OF
OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM
SATURDAY, 14 JUNE 2025

Date: Saturday 14 June
Leave English Martyrs By Coach: 6am
Return to English Martyrs by Coach: approx. 9.30pm/10pm
There will be a brief break on each journey.
Picnic Lunch will be needed.
Any queries; to Chris Ferreira - christabel1850@gmail.com
OR Fr Gaston - gforbah@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Price: £30
Payment: Parish Bank details: A/C Name CDP Reading English Martyrs. Sort Code: 30-93-04. Account No. 0085666
Also: Donation machines.



D BARN DANCE

Friday 13th June 2025
7.00pm to 10.30pm.
ENGLISH MARTYRS
CATHOLIC CHURCH HALL
64, LIEBENROOD ROAD,
READING, RG30 2EB

A night of fun and frolic for all ages in aid of the English Martyrs Organ Restoration Project. Dance along to the expert calling of Aldbrickham Band

Adults £15.00 : Child (5 - 12 years) : £10.00
(Under 5's FREE)
[Ticket price includes sit down meal]
Purchase online using: Sort Code: 3093 04 Account No: 00856666
Account Name: CDP Reading English Martyrs
Children must be supervised at all times
(COWBOY ATTIRE WELCOME)
Email: noronhamel@hotmail.com
Tel. 0118 996 7208

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.

KATHLEEN RYCE has decided to hang up her duster and retire as part-time cleaner of the church buildings. We want to say THANK YOU to her for all the hard work done over 20+ years. We will be advertising for Kathleen's replacement in the very near future.

In the meantime. Please can you help keep the premises as tidy as possible, by

- Keeping the kitchen bins emptied regularly
- Emptying the dishwasher after you use it.
- Letting the parish office know if hand towels/toilet rolls need to be topped up.

If anyone has an hour to spare to sweep/mop the hall please let the parish office know.

SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE CLERGY TRAINING FUND

THIS WEEKEND: 10th /11th May.

There is a Second Collection for the CLERGY TRAINING FUND, which supports our seminarians, including the 11 men currently in formation

for the priesthood, for the duration of their six or seven-year journey to ordination. To sustain a seminarian costs around £30,000 each year. Each seminarian brings to his training his own life experience and then participates in a comprehensive programme of formation pastorally, intellectually, humanly and spiritually. These are the men who will baptise and catechise the coming generations, and care for us on our pilgrim way: our generosity today is a legacy to the Church of tomorrow.

**MASS INTENTIONS:
Saturday 10th to Sunday 18th May 2025**

***Fourth Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday***

Saturday 10 th (<i>Vigil Mass for Sunday</i>)	6.00pm	Deceased members of the McCormack & Martland families RIP
Sunday 11 th <i>Feast of English Martyrs</i>	9.00am	Valentim & Filomena, in Thanksgiving. Pam Bedwell RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Francisco Vito de Araujo & Helen Lourenco RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish
Monday 12 th	9.30am	Benny McGourty RIP
Tuesday 13 th <i>Our Lady of Fatima</i> <i>Memorial</i>	9.30am	João Da Luz RIP Terence John Morse RIP
Wednesday 14 th <i>St Matthias, Apostle</i> <i>Feast</i>	9.30am	Dr Patrick Bobb RIP
Thursday 15 th	9.30am	Porferio Ga-an RIP
Friday 16 th	9.30am	Helen and Tom Gallogly & family Intentions.
Saturday 17 th	10.00am	George family Intentions

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Saturday 10 th (<i>Vigil Mass for Sunday</i>)	6.00pm	Intentions of Chris Knollys, Adrian Thorpe & Pam Maddox RIP Colleen Hughes
Sunday 18 th	9.00am	Chris Knollys, Adrian Thorpe & Pam Maddox RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Kathleen Carolan RIP
	5.00pm	



Join us

Everyone is Welcome
Catholic Charismatic Renewal
Meeting, 31st May
11:15 am until 1PM

St. Joseph's Church Hall, Berkshire Drive, Tilehurst RG31 5JJ
Faith, Hope and Love, the Greatest Gift is Love!

If you are coming, please text John Foley 07769251747 as this helps the catering.



WINTERSHALL
Experience the story




The Life of Christ
The greatest story of all time

17 - 21 June 2025
10am - 3.30pm

Our powerful, biblical, outdoor drama takes you back to a time when Jesus lived on earth.

See the remarkable events of Jesus' life re-enacted as you follow the actors around Wintershall's beautiful lakes and ancient woodland.

15% discount on groups of 20 or more. Other dates are also available on the discount.
Bookings to be made by Saturday 31st May 2025 to avail of the DISCOUNTS.
Contact Mel on 0118 996 7208 or email noronhamel@hotmail.com
PRIESTS GO FREE

Thursday and Friday
(19th and 20th June)

Adult ticket £35.00
Child ticket (3-18 yrs) £17.00
Family ticket
(2 adults, 2 children) £92.00

Saturday 21st June 2025

Adult ticket £40.00
Child ticket (3-18 yrs) £20.00
Family ticket
(2 adults, 2 children) £110.00