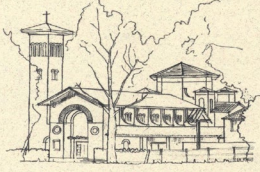


English Martyrs' Newsletter



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
4TH 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 6th & Thursday 8th from 9.00am to 3.00pm
CLOSED Wednesday 7th May
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. 0118 937 5466 Executive Headteacher: Mr Jamie Carroll Head of School: Mr Anton Dworzak 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 4th MAY Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm Monday at 10.00am (Bank Holiday) Tuesday to Thursday at 9.30am Friday at 10.00am Saturday at 10.00am Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)</p>	<p>CONFESSIONS WEEK COMMENCING 4th 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.</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>	

OBEYING THE INSTRUCTIONS OF OUR RISEN SAVIOUR

It may seem odd to us, reading the Gospel, that the apostles decided to go fishing. Yes, they had just witnessed the crucifixion of Christ, but they had also heard from Mary about his resurrection, and then Jesus had appeared to them in person. And now, what is their attention drawn to? "I am going fishing" – Peter told his friends who joined him. It's understandable to question their devotion to Jesus; after all they had seen, why weren't they spreading the message of Christ?

Nonetheless, waiting is what we are called to do, sometimes. Jesus had told them, "I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city [of Jerusalem] ..." (Luke 24:48-49 and Acts 1:4). The sending of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-13) had not yet happened. So they had not been strengthened with the authority to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

They returned to the same activity which they had abandoned to follow Jesus. Perhaps we should not think they merely returned to what was familiar or comfortable. They returned to their ordinary life activity as they were not yet set for the mission. It was in this ordinary activity that they first encountered Jesus and received their call to mission. This time, when Jesus asked them to cast their nets, they followed his word without hesitation.

This coming week, let us try to draw our hearts close to Jesus in prayer and listen to his instructions again. We will always be on the right track if we follow what he asks us to do in every situation. Sometimes, he may want us to wait for the right moment to perform a particular role. At some other moments, he will require us to act immediately. Jesus' instructions are addressed to us even in the ordinary activities we engage in daily.

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 FEAST DAY

The Feast of the English Martyrs, who are our Parish Patron Saints, falls on Sunday May 4th. We wish a happy feast day to every parishioner. Please, stay behind after the Masses for brief refreshments in the hall (after the Sunday 9.00am and 11:30am Masses) and outside by the front Car Park (after Saturday 6pm and Sunday 5pm Masses).



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:

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



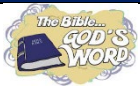
First: Acts: 5: 27-32.40-41
Psalm: 30(29) 2-4-6.11-13.
Second: Revelation 5: 11-14.
Gospel: John 21: 1-19.

First: Acts: 13: 14.43-52
Psalm: 100(99) 1-3. 5.
Second: Revelation 7: 9-17.
Gospel: John 10: 27-30.

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.



NAME BADGE SUNDAY Another opportunity to meet and greet fellow parishioners by name and develop a better sense of community within the parish.



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 7th May at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel.



SENIOR YOUTH / CONFIRMATION GROUP:

The group will start back this Sunday, May 4th, with Fr Gaston speaking on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Next week we are asking all parents and young people (those wishing to be confirmed) to come to a meeting to discuss what is happening within the youth/confirmation group.



THIS WEEK at the 9.00am and 11:30am Masses we are looking at just how much God loves us and what we can do to show that love to others.



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.

As this week is *Name Badge Sunday* the bookstall will also be open after 5.00pm Mass.

Also, 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.



INFANT BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR MAY 2025

- 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.

BAPTISM Congratulations to Dylan Gerald Smith-Good who receives the Sacrament of Baptism this Saturday 3rd May 2025.

Please keep him and his loved ones in your prayers.



EUCCHARISTIC 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.



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 tinned hot dogs/meatballs/ham, pot noodles, cereal, long life juice, coffee, sugar, semi-skimmed milk, packet soup and toilet rolls. 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.

SCAM ALERT: Please, do not reply to any request for favour purported to be coming from Fr Gaston through the following scam email address: parishrector.desk55@gmail.com

thank you

21 Families say Thank you! - A short note of thanks.

Out of 21 couples who joined the Retrouvaille programme in February, two couples have turned away from divorce, and others have now found *hope* to restore their marriages. Your bulletin announcements, referrals and prayers made this possible. MARRIAGE HELP - Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next date: 20-22 June www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 0788 7296983

Thank you again on behalf of the Retrouvaille team.

“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

CHANGE OF MASS TIME ON FRIDAY 9TH

Joint Parish and School Celebration of Year of Hope- **Mass at 10.00am** not 9:30am with KS2 children attending.

NEWLY INSTALLED ACOUSTIC PANELS IN OUR PARISH HALL



Acoustic panels help minimise noise from vibrations, improving clarity of hearing. We therefore hope that these panels will significantly facilitate communication during parish events

GROUP CO ORDINATORS MEETING

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

ORGAN RESTORATION FUND

(Many thanks to the anonymous donor of £3,000)

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

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.

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



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 Ferrelle christie1.050@gmail.com
OR Fr Gaston gforbahi@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Price: £40
Payment: Harish Bank details: A/C Name GDP Reading English Martyrs, Sort Code 40 93 04, Account No. 00885666
Also Donation machines.

CALLED & GIFTED ONLINE INFORMATION EVENING

MONDAY 7th JULY, 7.00 - 8:30pm

Portsmouth Diocese Called & Gifted Team are planning to hold an online information evening for Called and Gifted on Monday 7th July. This is intended for anyone who may be interested in hearing more about discerning charisms and the spiritual and practical benefits this can bring for individuals and communities. There will be an introduction and overview to charisms, testimonies on the fruit of discerning and using charisms, a brief description of the Called and Gifted process and a time for Q&A. Everyone is welcome.

Please email calledandgifted@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk to register your interest.

D BARN N C E

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: 00885666
Account Name: GDP Reading English Martyrs
Children must be supervised at all times
(COWBOY ATTIRE WELCOME)
Email: norenhamel@hotmail.com
Tel. 0118 996 7208

SAINT JUDE - APOSTLE OF HOPE SUMMER CELEBRATION 31st May 2025 In Faversham, Kent.

See Noticeboard for more details

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.

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 3rd to Sunday 11th May 2025

Third Sunday of Easter

Saturday 3 rd (<i>Vigil Mass for Sunday</i>)	6.00pm	John Knox RIP
Sunday 4 th <i>Feast of English Martyrs</i>	9.00am	For all the Souls in Purgatory and abandoned Souls RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Beno Narcis RIP & Laura Nkunde RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish
Monday 5 th	10.00am	Derek Taplin RIP
Tuesday 6 th	9.30am	Kevin Commins & Kathleen Gaughan RIP
Wednesday 7 th	9.30am	Maria Rita Fernandes RIP
Thursday 8 th	9.30am	Mr Renie Perera RIP
Friday 9 th	10.00am	PILGRIMS OF HOPE English Martyrs Catholic School (KS2) attending
Saturday 10 th	10.00am	Rosalica Goes RIP

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Saturday 10 th <i>(Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	6.00pm	Deceased members of the McCormack & Martland families RIP
Sunday 11 th	9.00am	Valentim & Filomena, in Thanksgiving.
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Francisco Vito de Araujo & Helen Lourenco RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish



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 the lives transformed
through hope and action.

MASS OFFERING

Intention

Day or Date preferred

Time preferred (if available)

Donor

Tel No (in case of query)


Amount enclosed

Please hand to a priest,
place in presbytery letterbox
or Sunday collection plate.


The Catholic Printing Co. of Eamworthingham Ltd
www.catholicprint.co.uk

MASS OFFERING ENVELOPES

We have provided envelopes to be used for booking Mass offering. These can be found in the Colonnade. We encourage that rather than booking intentions over the Office phone, these envelopes should be used so that precise information can be provided. These envelopes can be brought to the Parish Office, placed in the presbytery letterbox, or dropped in the collection basket during offertory time. Please, leave your contact number on the envelopes, which will be used only for the purpose of contacting you to confirm the Mass booking.



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 nononhamel@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