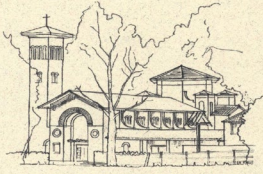




# English Martyrs' Newsletter



## CORPUS CHRISTI & SS PETER & PAUL 21<sup>ST</sup> & 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 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. 0118 937 5466  
Executive Headteacher: Mr Jamie Carroll  
Head of School: Mr Anton Dworzak  
<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 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE

Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm  
Monday to Friday at 9.30am  
Saturday at 9.30am & 11.30am (First Communion  
Masses)  
Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)

### MASS TIMES WEEK COMMENCING 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm  
Monday to Thursday at 9.30am  
Friday at 9.30am and 6.30pm  
Saturday at 10.00am  
Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)

### CONFESSIONS WEEK COMMENCING 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE

Sunday 30 mins before 9.00am & 11.30am & from  
4.30pm  
Monday to Friday 15 mins before Mass  
Saturday at 5.30pm.

### CONFESSIONS WEEK COMMENCING 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

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 27<sup>th</sup> June from 10.00am to 6.00pm. From 5.00pm, Praise and Worship will feature music, scripture reading, guided reflection, a time of silence and conclude with Benediction.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July 10.00am to 5.00pm. Praise and Worship as usual until 5:45p.m, followed by silent adoration for 15 minutes. Then, Angelus at 6p.m followed by Rosary, benediction, reposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Mass for Peace at 6.30pm.

## THE EUCHARIST: NOT JUST A SYMBOL BUT A LIVING REALITY

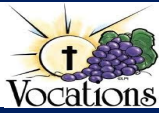
This weekend, as we celebrate the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, we are invited to pause and reflect on the incredible mystery of the Eucharist - Christ truly present: Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. This feast reminds us that the Eucharist is not just a symbol but a living reality - Jesus giving Himself to us out of love, to nourish, strengthen, and unite us.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in them" (John 6:56). This abiding presence is at the heart of our faith. Every time we come to Mass, heaven touches earth. We are not merely remembering a past event; we are participating in the eternal sacrifice of Christ made present on the altar.

The Eucharist also calls us to be Eucharistic people - living reflections of Christ's self-giving love. As we receive Jesus in Communion, we are transformed and sent forth to be His hands and feet in the world. Corpus Christi is not only about what happens inside the church; it extends to what flows from it: a life of service, compassion, and unity.

Let us renew our reverence for the Blessed Sacrament. May we approach the altar with grateful hearts and leave with a deeper commitment to love as Christ loves. As St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "When you look at the Crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then; when you look at the Eucharist, you understand how much He loves you now."

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)



"He spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and He healed those who needed to be cured."  
 Just as Christ ministered to the needs of those around Him, you may be called to bring spiritual healing and proclaim God's kingdom to His people. Are you being invited to follow in Jesus' footsteps by serving the Church as a priest? Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

## PARISH NOTICES

If you are a newcomer to our Parish, we are delighted to have you join us.  
 Please, follow this link [New to Our Parish – English Martyrs Reading](#) for some helpful information.  
 Also, please make yourself known to one of our Welcomers at the back of the church after Mass.

Readings for:	CORPUS CHRISTI	Ss PETER & PAUL	14 <sup>th</sup> ORDINARY
	First: Genesis 14: 18-20 Psalm: 110(109):1-4. Second: Corinthians 11:23-26 Gospel: Luke 9: 11b-17.	First: Acts 12: 1-11 Psalm: 34(33): 2-9. Second: Timothy 4:6-8.17-18 Gospel: Matthew 16:13-19.	First: Isaiah 66: 10-14c Psalm: 66(65): 1-7. 16, 20. Second: Galatians 6: 14-18 Gospel: Luke 10:1-12. 17-20.

Wednesday Word ([www.wednesdayword.org](http://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.



**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS FOR JUNE:** We extend our best wishes to everyone born in the month of June, who will be blessed after the Post Communion Prayer at all Masses on 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> June. May God bless all their endeavours.



**RCIA/ JOURNEY IN FAITH 2025:** Are you interested in exploring the Catholic Faith or discussing your life questions in a small, informal group? We will hold 2 or 3 occasional meetings this summer for those who want to share their thoughts. In September, we will start regular weekly meetings for anyone looking to learn more about the Catholic Faith and complete their Christian initiation. This includes those who have been baptized but have not yet received Holy Communion or confirmation and those who have been baptised and received Holy Communion but have not received confirmation. If you know someone interested in this journey of faith, please speak to one of our priests, contact the parish office at 01189572149, or email: [office@englishmartyrsrdg.com](mailto:office@englishmartyrsrdg.com) or [rcia@englishmartyrsrdg.com](mailto:rcia@englishmartyrsrdg.com)



**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 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 7.30pm in Room 2 Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 10.30am in Bethlehem Chapel.



**RECONCILIATION/FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** For children preparing to receive their First Holy Communion on 28th June 2025 there will be a Reconciliation Service on Friday, 27th June 2025 at 5:30 pm. Following this, there will be a run-through of their First Holy Communion celebration, helping them feel prepared and confident for the special day. The First Holy Communion Masses will take place on Saturday, 28th June, with two services at 9:30 am and 11:30 am. During these Masses, the children will receive the Eucharist for the first time - a truly meaningful and joyous occasion. We look forward to celebrating this with them and their families.



**PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS:** As part of our First Friday devotion on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July, let us say together the prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus at 8:30pm. This can be done individually or as a family using either the cards we distributed or the online version on our website homepage.



**PARISH YOUTH:** Over the next couple of weeks, we will continue to explore the work of Jesus on the cross and how we can strengthen our faith in him.



**ENGLISH MARTYR'S SUMMER FOOD BANK:**

We hope to provide food parcels to families for the summer holiday (as we did at Christmas and Easter). To do so we will be collecting up until Sunday 20th July. If you would like to donate, we will be collecting non-perishable foods such as pasta, rice, pasta sauces, canned meatballs or sausages, canned vegetables or canned fruit.



**BAPTISM**

Welcome to Nolan John Fernandes who received the Sacrament of Baptism on Saturday 14th June 2025. Ezeiel Kalokah-Sowa who receives the Sacrament of Baptism this Saturday 21st June 2025. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

**ADORE SPIRITUAL MINI-RETREAT**

28th JUNE 10.00am - 1.00pm on Zoom. "PILGRIMS OF HOPE – ALONG WITH MARY."  
 Includes Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prophecy, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring talk from guest speaker Joe Livingston. Please register for the free Zoom meeting in advance at [bit.ly/ADOREJUN2025](http://bit.ly/ADOREJUN2025) More information at [www.altonrenewal.com](http://www.altonrenewal.com)

**ARBORFIELD MILITARY WIVES CHOIR**

The Arborfield Military Wives Choir are giving a concert at Christ the King church, Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 8NR on Friday 11th July at 7.30pm. This will be followed by refreshments in the hall. The concert will include a medley of songs and will last about 90 minutes.

This is a free event, with donations to support the choir. Everyone is welcome to what should be a very enjoyable evening.

**SEMINARIAN NATHAN KING** will be back in our Parish for his Summer placement from 28<sup>th</sup> June to 26<sup>th</sup> July. Let us keep him in our prayers.



The **BARN DANCE** last Friday raised an **amazing**  
**£1015**  
towards the cost of the Organ Restoration.

Thank you to all those who contributed in any way to the success of this event.  
A fun time was had by all!



**Pentecost Ribbons raised £239.78 toward the fund.**

**Total raised as at 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025: -  
£39,432.76**

**SPONSORED CYCLING – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June.**  
**AFRICAN CULTURAL MUSIC EVENING** with dinner  
on Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup>  
**ORGAN RECITAL – December 2025.** Date TBC  
**GOAN FUNDRAISING DINNER – December 2025.**  
Date TBC

### **CRICKET EVENT**

On Sunday 6th July, the Vatican City cricket team will be visiting Douai Park in Upper Woolhampton, to help raise funds for the Douai Foundation, which supports Benedictine education projects around the world. The Vatican will be playing in a 15-over triangular tournament against the Old Dowegians and the Emeriti Cricket Club, competing for the Pope Leo XIV Cup, named in honour of His Holiness. As well as the cricket, there will be food and drink, a dog show, a bouncy castle, and an opportunity to enter the raffle.

Tickets are £10 for adults and entry is free for children under 14. Although they will be available on the gate, it would help the organisers greatly if visitors bought in advance (on sale until Monday 23rd June).

BOOK HERE: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/81393?>

### **PETER'S PENCE SECOND COLLECTION 2025**

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June.**

Peter's Pence is the name for the financial support offered by the faithful to the Holy Father as a sign of their sharing in the concern of the Successor of Peter for the many different needs of the Universal Church, and for the relief of those most in need.

The faithful's offerings to the Holy Father are destined to Church needs, humanitarian initiatives and social promotion projects, as well as to the support of the Holy See.

The practice of providing material support to those charged with preaching the Gospel is as old as Christianity itself.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** **Congratulations** to Dillon McElligott who will receive First Holy Communion at the 9.00am Mass on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Let us keep him and his family in our prayers.

**ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY:** Let us pray for Fr Samuel Alabi, whose priestly ordination anniversary is this Saturday. May God continue to strengthen and inspire him.

**SUMMER MASS IN THE PARK:** A reminder to include in our diaries, our Summer Outdoor Mass in Prospect Park on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July between 3.00pm and 5.00pm. Consequently, there will be NO 5.00pm MASS that Sunday as was the case last year.

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

Weeks of Accompanied Prayer (WAPs) are an opportunity for busy people to have a retreat in daily life. 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 confidential.

We will start with an Introductory meeting on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Save the date.

### **FORMATION FOR MINISTERS OF CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

**SATURDAY 6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER: ST. BEDE'S, BASINGSTOKE.**  
**FROM 10.30am to 1.00pm**

The programme will include prayer and reflection, sharing good practice; working collaboratively; how to grow and communicate as Liturgical Catechists; Music suggestions; and a wish list for future support, networking and how to find more helpers. Anyone wishing to attend should register via [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**MASS INTENTIONS:  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

***Corpus Christi***

Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> ( <i>Vigil Mass for Sunday</i> )	6.00pm	Lee Armstrong RIP (1st Anniversary)
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.00am	Anna Joseph Olivera RIP
	11.30am	People of the Parish
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	
	5.00pm	For the soul of Rosalica Goes RIP
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	Ryan Flood RIP
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> <i>Nativity of John the Baptist</i>	9.30am	Michael & Fidelma Bliss Intention
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Norma & Philip Dick, Intentions
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Ida Misquita, in Thanksgiving
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> <i>The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus</i>	9.30am	Louie Fearn's RIP
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> <i>The Immaculate Heart of Mary</i>	9.30am 11.30am	FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES For the Intentions of the candidates and their families

***Ss Peter and Paul, Apostles***

Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> ( <i>Vigil Mass for Sunday</i> )	6.00pm	Sen & Dennis Buhay, in Thanksgiving (25th Wedding Anniversary)
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Tony Flaherty RIP
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	
	5.00pm	All deceased members of the Rabuana family RIP
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Baby Caolán RIP
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	9.30am	
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am	Fearn's Family & Claude's Birthday Intentions
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> <i>St. Thomas, Apostle.</i>	9.30am	Constance Kathline Harris RIP & Rico Lagamon RIP
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am 6.30pm	Ethel Cole RIP Mike Sarson RIP
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	

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

Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> ( <i>Vigil Mass for Sunday</i> )	6.00pm	Good Health of Nailah Nunes
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Jim Kelly RIP
	11.30am	Claude Fearn's Intentions (95th Birthday)
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	
	5.00pm	People of the Parish

**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.

**DEVOTIONS TO MARY AND HOLY ROSARY VIA TEAMS.**

Mondays at 5:00pm. This is open to everyone in the Parish. To access this online prayer meeting, contact: email [EnglishMartyrsMarianMission@PortsmouthDiocese.org.uk](mailto:EnglishMartyrsMarianMission@PortsmouthDiocese.org.uk)



**Rest In Peace**

*Please pray for the repose of the soul of Brendan Hickey RIP who died on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June. Please keep him and his loved ones in your prayers.*