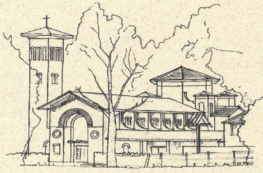


English Martyrs' Newsletter



16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
20TH JULY 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/UcUq5ncxASpguMmd_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 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:	
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		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 20th JULY 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 20th JULY Sunday 30 mins before 9.00am & 11.30am & from 4.30pm Monday to Friday 15 mins before Mass Saturday after 10am Mass and at 5.30pm.
		EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Fridays 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.	

JESUS PRIORITIZES OUR ATTENTION BEFORE OUR SERVICE

This weekend, we encounter the familiar story of Martha and Mary. As Jesus visits their home, Martha busily tends to the tasks of hospitality, while Mary sits at His feet, listening. Frustrated, Martha asks Jesus to tell Mary to help her. But Jesus gently replies, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part."

This Gospel challenges our tendency to equate love of God with constant activity. Martha's work is good (she's serving the Lord), but her heart is distracted and burdened. Jesus doesn't rebuke her for serving; rather, He addresses her anxiety. Mary, on the other hand, chooses stillness and attentiveness, making room in her heart to receive Jesus before doing anything for Him.

This passage reminds us that fruitful service flows from communion with Christ. Without time spent at His feet, our service can become anxious striving instead of a peaceful offering. Resting in the Lord is not laziness; it is trust. It acknowledges that our worth is not based on how much we do, but rather on being loved by God.


In a busy parish life, we can easily become "Marthas," doing much but forgetting to rest in prayer and worship. However, the heart of discipleship begins with listening. Before we serve others, we must first allow ourselves to be served by Jesus through the Word, the Eucharist, and prayer.

Let us ask for the grace to serve not from exhaustion, but from the peace that comes from resting in Christ's presence. That is the "better part."


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 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:	16 th ORDINARY	17 th ORDINARY
	First: Genesis: 18: 1-10 Psalm: 15(14): 2-5. Second: Colossians 1: 24-28 Gospel: Luke 10: 38-42.	First: Genesis: 18: 20-32 Psalm: 138(137): 1-3. 6-8. Second: Colossians 2: 12-14. Gospel: Luke 11: 1-13.


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>RCIA/ JOURNEY IN FAITH 2025: Thinking about exploring the Catholic Faith? Have you been thinking about learning more about the Catholic Faith? Perhaps you have been touched by seeing your partner's faith, by watching your child prepare carefully to receive their First Holy Communion or even by something you have seen on YouTube? Perhaps you were baptised a Catholic, and would now like to complete your Christian Initiation by being confirmed and receiving Holy Communion? Whatever might be drawing you to draw closer to the Lord at this point in your life, you would be very welcome to join the small group of adults who will begin a "Journey in Faith" by meeting together each week starting in late September. If you would like to know more, please contact the parish office on 01189 572149 office@englishmartyrsrdg.com or email: rcia@englishmartyrsrdg.com</p>
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	<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 23rd July at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel.</p>
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	<p>PARISH YOUTH This weekend is our last meeting before the summer break. There will be no Saturday session, but both groups will meet on Sunday for a more relaxed session together.</p>
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	<p>BAPTISM PREPARATION Part 1 of our next Baptism Preparation Course will be on Tuesday 22nd July at 7pm (Teams). There are 2 more sessions and parents must attend all 3. If you would like to join, then please let the Parish office know by 21st July. The next course will be in September 2025. Contact the Parish office for more details.</p>
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	<p>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). Collections close on Sunday 20th July and distribution of food parcels will commence from Monday 21st July. You can still donate and will be collecting non-perishable foods such as pasta, rice, pasta sauces, canned meatballs or sausages, canned vegetables or canned fruit.</p> <p>TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK are supporting approximately 35 households with food and household products. From this week we will resume donating to TDCF and would welcome tinned corned beef/ham/spam, tinned spaghetti hoops, tinned potatoes, pasta sauce, apple/orange juice, coffee, sugar, shower gel and toothpaste. Financial donations can be made to CDP Reading St Joseph. Sort Code: 30-93-04. Account No: 00885992. Please include as a reference, 'Your Surname, Foodbank'. Many thanks.</p>
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SUMMER MASS AND PICNIC IN THE PARK : A reminder of our Summer Outdoor Mass in Prospect Park on Sunday 27th July between 3.00pm and 5.00pm followed by a group picnic. *THERE WILL BE NO 5.00PM MASS ON SUNDAY 27TH.*

ADORE spiritual mini-retreat 26th JULY 10.00-1.00 on Zoom. "PILGRIMS OF HOPE – FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY." Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prophecy, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring talk from guest speaker John Hesketh. Please register for the free Zoom meeting in advance at bit.ly/ADOREJUL2025 More information at www.altonrenewal.com

MARCH FOR LIFE 6TH SEPTEMBER

The SPUC Reading Branch is hiring a coach to go to March for Life on the 6th September. No fixed cost but a suggested donation of £20 for those who can afford it. The coach will depart from St William of York Church with the ability to park in the car park. Please use the following form to sign up https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSek5dbAKTr8Dhba6UhnN4VbNQfJaf1B4nz2tx_o28cxQzEMtA/viewform or email Christopher Cahill at spucreading@gmail.com.

Please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia on Thursday 24th July, the Vigil of the Feast of St James.
These days seem quite dark, what with Parliament voting to partly decriminalise abortion and voting to legalise euthanasia.
Please invite others to join us in praying and fasting for life, you can do so with this link, <https://www.facebook.com/events/1419157822872567>

"The 15th Annual GK Chesterton Pilgrimage that will take place on Saturday 26th July 2025. As always there are several ways you can join in, either in prayer, or by joining us in walking a short section of the pilgrimage or even in walking the whole 27 miles!
To be involved you can; Sponsor Nathanael as he raises funds for Good Counsel's life-saving work;
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/helping-mothers-and-babies-with-the-gk-chesterton-pilgrimage>
Send prayer intentions for us to pray for along the way, we will not make the intentions public; catholicgksociety@yahoo.co.uk
and find other details of the walk and the Mass here, <https://www.facebook.com/events/1675870979701803>"

CAFOD ARE HIRING. Could you inspire Catholics to participate in the Church's mission, working to overcome poverty and injustice? Do you want to work for CAFOD and encourage support and partnership within the Church? We are looking for a Community Participation Coordinator to work in the Diocese of Portsmouth. Follow the link for more details and please pass on to any friends or relatives who might be interested. Closing date 27th July 2025. See cafod.org.uk/work-with-us

SUMMER PLACEMENT: We thank Nathan King, Seminarian on Summer placement, for his remarkable presence in our Parish. Nathan has been of help with serving at Mass, the Senior Youth Group, Visitation of the Sick, visitation of our schools etc.. Nathan's time in our Parish comes to an end on Saturday July 26th. We continue to pray for him as he continues his formation to the Sacred Priesthood.



First Holy Communion Preparation 2025-2026 Enrolment Now Open

There are a limited number of places available for our upcoming First Holy Communion programme.

To be eligible:

**Children must be in Year 3 or above as of September 2025
Families must be practicing members
of English Martyrs Church**

If you'd like to apply, please collect an enrolment form from either the Colonnade or the Parish Office. Return completed forms to the parish office by Thursday July 24th. Photocopy of Baptism certificate should be included if baptism took place in another church
We look forward to accompanying your family on this special step in your child's faith journey.

FIRE WARDENS

We are required by the Diocese to appoint Fire Wardens, and to hold a trial evacuation. Three wardens are needed at each Sunday Mass, but we need to recruit more than that to cover absences. Could you be one? There will be a half-hour briefing session after each Mass on 6-7 September, and an evacuation exercise shortly after, and these events will be repeated annually. (NB. You can be a welcomer and/or a warden.) Please give your name, regular Mass time and email address to the Parish office.



FOUNDATION GOVERNOR IN THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH

Are you looking for a way to live out your faith and serve your local community at the same time?

If so, becoming a Foundation Governor could be just the thing for you.

Foundation Governors play an important part in maintaining and developing the Catholic character of a school.

The main role of a Governing Board is to operate at a strategic level, *ensuring that the Catholic vision and character of the school is upheld, holding the head teacher and leadership team to account and overseeing the financial performance of the school.*

Governors set the budget, manage the school's admissions criteria and are involved in the recruitment of senior leadership.

If you would like to obtain more information about the role, please email the Clerk to the Governors at:

clerk@englishmartyrs.reading.sch

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT

The Afro-Caribbean Community in our parish will host an event on October 11th in our Parish Hall, in celebration of the Black History Month. This will be marked by some lovely cultural dishes, a guest African Artist, raffle and lots of fun. Proceeds will go towards our Parish Organ Restoration Fund.

Tickets: Adult - £15; child - £10 (10-16yrs). Pay through the parish bank account and contact Parish office for confirmation: Check Poster on Notice board for more details.



ORGAN RESTORATION FUND:

Current Total raised: - **£39,607.76**

EVENTS STILL TO COME:

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION on Saturday October 11th (See above & Poster for details)

ORGAN RECITAL – FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER 6.00pm

GOAN FUNDRAISING DINNER – December 2025.

Date TBC



CHURCH CLEANING: Many thanks to those who offered to join the Church cleaning team. We now have two Groups (Sunday Group and Tuesday Group) that ensure deep cleaning of our Church every week.

If you wish to join one of these cleaning teams, please, contact the parish office.

Many thanks to Mirabelle Adé Anyu for inspiring and coordinating this initiative.



ANNUAL LEAVE: Fr.Gaston will be going to his home country of Cameroon for his annual leave from

July 30th to September 3rd.

We welcome back Fr Samuel from his annual leave.

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 19th to Sunday 27th July 2025

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 19th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Gregory Nanayakkara RIP
Sunday 20 th	9.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Norman Hayde RIP
	5.00pm	Brendan Hickey RIP
Monday 21 st	9.30am	Archbishop J H King RIP
Tuesday 22 nd <i>St Mary Magdalen, feast</i>	9.30am	Derek Taplin RIP
	1.30pm	Requiem of Kunjavara Varghese RIP
Wednesday 23 rd <i>St. Bridget of Sweden, feast</i>	9.30am	Tom & John O'Malley RIP
Thursday 24 th	9.30am	Rosalica Goes RIP
Friday 25 th <i>St. James, Apostle, Feast</i>	9.30am	Brendan Hickey RIP
Saturday 26 th <i>Ss Joachim & Anne, Parents of Our Lady, feast</i>	10.00am	Brigan Gonsalves, Thanksgiving

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 26th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Deceased members of the McCormack & Martland families RIP
Sunday 27 th	9.00am	Philomema Kirran, Intention
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Jeronimo Nazareth RIP
	3.00pm	MASS IN THE PARK - People of the Parish
	5.00pm	NO MASS

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



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH

**Blessed Hugh Faringdon School
VACANCY for Foundation Governor**

Closing date for applications: 15th September 2025

See noticeboard in colonnade for full advert

SAINT FRANCIS LEPROSY GUILD - WORKING FOR A WORLD WITHOUT LEPROSY

Saint Francis Leprosy Guild is the UK's only Catholic leprosy charity. Founded in 1895 and with Cardinal Vincent Nichols as a patron, SFLG today supports over 30 centres in 13 countries, caring for people who have been marginalised by leprosy. We also fund research projects, hospitals and an active case-finding programme to detect and diagnose people affected by leprosy as early as possible to stop the transmission of the disease and prevent lifelong disabilities occurring. Will you help SFLG work towards a leprosy free world? For more information, please find our Spring newsletter at the back of the church or visit our website: www.stfrancisleprosy.org or email parishes@saintfrancisleprosy.org



Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:
Mr Kunjavara Varghese RIP whose Requiem will be at English Martyrs Church at 1.30pm on Tuesday 22nd July 2025
Veronica (Ellie) Hopnor RIP. Requiem will be at English Martyrs at 11.00am on Wednesday 6th August 2025.
Please keep them and their loved ones in your prayers.