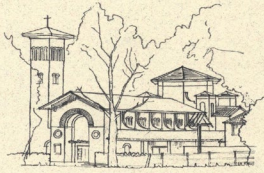


English Martyrs' Newsletter



17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
27TH 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/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 29th and Thursday 31st 9.00am to 3.00pm

CLOSED Wednesday 30th July.


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 27th JULY Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 3.00pm (Mass in Park) Monday to Thursday at 9.30am Friday at 9.30am and 6.30pm (Mass for Peace) 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 Monday to Friday 15 mins before Mass Saturday after 10am Mass and at 5.30pm.
		EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: On Friday from 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.	

PRAYER AS COMMUNION WITH A LOVING FATHER

In Luke 11:1–13, Jesus teaches His disciples how to pray, beginning with the word "Father." This single word reveals a profound truth: prayer is not just communication with God; it is communion with a loving Father. To truly and deeply know God, we must approach Him as children—confident, trusting, and dependent.

When the disciples ask, "Lord, teach us to pray," they are really asking, "Help us to know the One you know so intimately." Jesus responds by guiding them toward a relationship. The Our Father is more than just words; it's a way to understand God's heart: His holiness, His will, His provision, mercy, and protection.

The parable that follows emphasizes this point. If a human father provides good things for his children, how much more will our heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask? This is key: knowing God begins with receiving the Holy Spirit, who draws us into the very life of the Trinity.


Our prayers must be rooted not in obligation or fear, but in the desire to know God as He truly is—a Father who listens, provides for, and delights in His children. As we persevere in prayer, we discover that God is not distant; He is near, attentive, and always ready to respond.

Let us pray boldly and trustingly, not to gain God's favour, but because we already have it as beloved sons and daughters.


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:	17 th ORDINARY	18 th ORDINARY
	First: Genesis: 18: 20-32 Psalm: 138(137): 1-3. 6-8. Second: Colossians 2: 12-14. Gospel: Luke 11: 1-13.	First: Ecclesiastes: 1:2; 2: 21-23 Psalm: 90(89): 3-6. 12-14.17 Second: Colossians 3: 1-5, 9-11. Gospel: Luke 12: 13-21.


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.

	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 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" meeting together each week from Tuesday 30th September. There will be an introductory information meeting on Tuesday 23rd September. If you would like to know more, please contact the parish office on 0118 957 2149 /office@englishmartyrsrdg.com or email: rcia@englishmartyrsrdg.com
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	PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS: As part of our First Friday devotion on 1 st August, 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.
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	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 30th July at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel.
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	BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS FOR July: We extend our best wishes to everyone born in the month of July, who will be blessed after the Post Communion Prayer at all Masses this weekend. May God bless all their endeavours.
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	PARISH YOUTH On Summer Holidays. Meetings will resume in September.
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	TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK are supporting approximately 35 households with food and household products. This week we are short of tinned corned beef/ham/spam, tinned spaghetti hoops, tinned potatoes, pasta sauce, tomato soup, apple/orange juice, sweet biscuits, shampoo and toilet rolls. 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.
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SUMMER MASS AND PICNIC IN THE PARK : A reminder of our Summer Outdoor Mass in Prospect Park this Sunday 27th July between 3.00pm and 5.00pm followed by a group picnic. For a copy of the hymn sheet for this Mass – either A4 sheets or booklet – visit our website front page at www.englishmartyrsrdg.com and follow the link.

THERE WILL BE NO 5.00PM MASS ON SUNDAY 27TH.

MARCH FOR LIFE 6TH SEPTEMBER

The SPUC Reading Branch is hiring a coach to go to March for Life on the 6th of 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.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AT SPUC

Join the pro-life mission SPUC Education Officer (England)

SPUC is hiring a full-time Education Officer, based in London with travel across England.

Help bring the pro-life message to schools and communities through engaging talks and outreach. A passion for life and youth engagement essential.

To apply or find out more, visit spuc.org.uk/joinourteam

FOREIGN CURRENCY

The Parish will gladly take foreign currency from you when you get back from holiday. Notes or Coins. ALL MONEY RAISED WILL GO TO THE ORGAN RESTORATION FUND. There is a collection box in the wall at the back of the church. Thank you!

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE.

Saturday 2nd August. More information and travel details via <https://prolifepilgrimage.org/>

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 7.00pm

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 wish him a safe journey and an enjoyable visit to his homeland.



FOREIGN CURRENCY

The Parish will gladly take any foreign currency from you – Notes or Coins - when you get back from your holiday abroad.

ALL MONEY RAISED WILL GO TO THE ORGAN RESTORATION FUND.

There is a collection box in the wall at the back of the church. Thank you!



COULD YOU HELP A CHILD LEARN TO READ?

ABC to read is a local charity supporting children across Berkshire who are struggling with reading. Many children fall behind in school simply because they find reading difficult – and this can affect their confidence, learning and future opportunities. We recruit and train volunteers to work one-to-one with children in primary schools, helping them gain the skills and confidence they need to enjoy reading. Just half an hour twice a week can make a lasting difference in a child's life.

We are currently looking for volunteers in your area.

Full training and ongoing support are provided, and all volunteers are DBS checked.

If you'd like to find out more about becoming a volunteer or how your church group could support our work, please contact us at info@abctoread.org.uk or visit our website at www.abctoread.org.uk.

Help us give more children the gift of reading.

READING STREET PASTORS

Reading Street Pastors host two tents at Reading Festival, we are open 24hrs from Wednesday to Monday morning 20th August - 25th August.

We are basically somewhere for festival goers & staff to come & chill out in pleasant surroundings with sofas. It is a safe space for people that might be feeling overwhelmed by the sheer amount of people at the festival, they can play board games or just chill with their friends.

We provide refreshments & snacks at a reasonable price. There are New Testament Bibles on the tables, the volunteers are available to pray for people if asked or talk about their Faith.

It is an amazing opportunity to reach out to all those young people who are curious about Christianity. We know that people have come to know Jesus through having contact with the volunteers in the tents. Please email me at the email below for more information and if you would like to be involved.

The Wednesday/Thursday/ Friday night shifts are all full now.

reading@streetpastors.org.uk

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 26th July to Sunday 2nd August 2025

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
Monday 28 th	9.30am	Ellie (Veronica) Hopnor RIP
Tuesday 29 th <i>Ss Martha, Mary, Lazarus, memorial</i>	9.30am	Betty Smyth Intention
Wednesday 30 th	9.30am	Special Intentions
Thursday 31 st <i>St. Ignatius of Loyola, memorial</i>	9.30am	Brendan Hickey RIP
Friday 1 st August <i>St. Alphonsus Liguori, memorial</i>	9.30am	Maria Castle RIP
	6.30pm	Patrick McMenamin
Saturday 2 nd	10.00am	Kitty Kitson, in Thanksgiving (90th Birthday)

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 2 nd (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Kathleen Carolan RIP
Sunday 3 rd	9.00am	Edwin Thomas RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Maria De Araujo RIP
	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

	<div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH</div> <p>Blessed Hugh Faringdon School VACANCY for Foundation Governor Closing date for applications: 15th September 2025 <i>See noticeboard in colonnade for full advert</i></p>
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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 soul of:
Veronica (Ellie) Hopnor RIP. Requiem will be at English Martyrs at 11.00am on Wednesday 6th August 2025.
Please keep her and her loved ones in your prayers.*