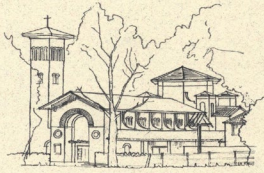


English Martyrs' Newsletter





14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
6TH 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 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 6th 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 6th 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.			

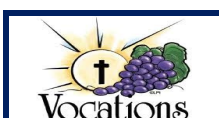
THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL

This weekend, Jesus sends out seventy-two disciples ahead of Him, instructing them to travel lightly - without a money bag, sack, or sandals. He tells them, "The harvest is abundant, but the labourers are few," and commissions them to proclaim peace, heal the sick, and declare the nearness of the Kingdom of God.

This passage reminds us that our life as missionary disciples is not fuelled by our own strength or resources, but by our reliance on God. Jesus does not send the disciples out fully equipped in human terms; He sends them with faith. Their success comes not from their power, but from their trust in the One who sent them.

Our tendency is often to seek control, preparation, and certainty before we act. However, Christ calls us to step out in trust, allowing Him to work through our availability rather than our ability. The disciples rejoiced in the authority they experienced. Still, Jesus gently redirects them: "Do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you but rejoice because your names are written in heaven." The deepest joy comes not from what we do for God, but from who we are in Him.


This weekend, we are invited to place our confidence not in ourselves, but in the faithful God who equips those He calls. When we rely fully on Him, we become free to serve with courage, peace, and joy, knowing that He will provide all that we need.




"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:	14 th ORDINARY	15 th 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.


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 Our monthly opportunity to meet and greet fellow parishioners by name and develop a better sense of community within the parish.
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	RCIA/ JOURNEY IN FAITH 2025: Regular weekly meetings for people wanting either to explore the Catholic Faith or to complete their Christian Initiation will begin again in mid-September. In the meantime, there will be several informal gatherings during July and August for people who are already interested. For more information, contact one of our priests, the parish Office office@englishmartyrsrdg.com or rcia@englishmartyrsrdg.com .
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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 Monday 7th July at 7.30pm in Room 2 and Wednesday 9th July at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel.
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	PARISH YOUTH: This week in the youth sessions we will discuss why and how we should pray. Encouraging the young people in ways they can strengthen their relationship with God through prayer.
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	INFANT BAPTISM Do you want your child to be baptised? We shall be running infant Baptism preparation during the month of July. Please, contact the parish office if you have a child below 7 years who needs baptism as soon as possible.
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	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.
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CONCERT IN AID OF NEXT GENERATION CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION, Saturday 2nd August at 8.00 pm in Our Lady of Peace Church Hall, 338 Wokingham Road, Earley, RG6 7DA. We are a registered charity, founded at Our Lady of Peace, sponsoring education for orphaned and very poor children in Nigeria. The first of our students have now completed their university education, something that would have been impossible without the help of Christians in our local churches. Four bands will entertain you with great music. Come and support us and have a great evening. Tickets £10 (cash) on the door, under 16s free. To reserve tickets email info@ngcf.co.uk.

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.

CAFOD SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.
Do you enjoy working with children and young people? Are you retiring this summer? Could you help to inspire and empower children and young people in your local Catholic schools by delivering an assembly or a workshop? Supported by CAFOD with training and all resources provided please consider the role of CAFOD school volunteer. For more information contact Jo Lewry at jlewry@cafod.org.uk or phone 07710 094447

THE DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE, LONDON is holding a Celebration of St Faustina Birthday at Aylesford Priory, Aylesford, Kent on Bank Holiday Monday 25th August 2025 from 10:30 am to 4pm. The reflection day will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Call Millie on 07957 594646 for more information. Coaches from Ealing Broadway and Victoria.

READING THE NEW TESTAMENT IN THE ORIGINAL GREEK A small group of local Christians from various churches have been meeting regularly for several years to read and reflect together on the New Testament scriptures in the original Greek (koine). We are currently working our way through the Gospel of Luke and, since Covid, we meet on Zoom on Friday mornings every few weeks. (Next meetings are Friday July 11th and August 1st 9.30 – 11 am). We would be delighted to welcome new members. You do not need to be an expert New Testament Greek scholar, just have an interest in deepening our understanding of the Scriptures through reading them in the original language. We all take advantage of the many online interlinear resources like Bible Hub (biblehub.com) and a range of commentaries. Experts would, however, be very welcome!
For more information contact: angela.wills@btinternet.com



TGS Eurogroup leadership will be bringing a group of 20 students aged 16-20 from Venice Italy to Reading from **16-30 July** for their UK summer programme. They will be using the church hall exclusively from 17th – 29th July except for Sundays and they will be joining the 9:00am mass on 20th and mass in the park on 27th July followed by a football match- Italy vs England. Come and welcome them and support our football team!



One additional host family is still desperately needed to host this group, so looking for a family with a spare room/twin beds to host two male students. If you live close to the church and have availability/capacity please get in touch with Margaret on **07824075977** for details. Thank you!



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.



ORGAN RESTORATION FUND:

Current Total raised: - **£39,432.76**

EVENTS STILL TO COME:

AFRICAN CULTURAL MUSIC EVENING with dinner on Saturday October 11th
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?>

ENGLISH MARTYRS PARISH, IN CONJUNCTION WITH TANGNEY TOURS are planning a further pilgrimage to Lourdes during our parish centenary year and plan to include our fellow parishioners in Christ The Redeemer Parishes, Reading.

This will be for four nights on a full board basis (breakfast, lunch & dinner included), return flights, 20kg of luggage, airport transfers in the UK and France, along with a spiritual programme led by Frs Gaston and Samuel. It is anticipated the costs of this trip will be in the region of £720-£750 per person (reductions for children) but costs cannot be confirmed until Autumn 2025.

Please complete a no obligation, expression of interest form (available in the colonnade or from the parish office) if you are interested in going. The more people we know might be interested, will help keep costs down.

MISSIO/RED BOX

The Summer edition of the APF/Missio magazine is now available in the Colonnade. Please take your free copy.

SUMMER MASS AND PICNIC IN THE PARK : A reminder to include in your diaries, 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 that Sunday.

WEEK OF ACCOMPANIED PRAYER IN OUR PARISH:**5th - 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 5th October. Save the date.

FORMATION FOR MINISTERS OF CHILDREN'S LITURGY

**SATURDAY 6th 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

MASS INTENTIONS:**Saturday 5th to Sunday 13th July 2025****14th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Saturday 5 th	10.00am	Moises Pinilla RIP & Moises Paez RIP
Saturday 5 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Good Health of Nailah Nunes
Sunday 6 th	9.00am	Jim Kelly RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Claude Fearn's Intentions (95th Birthday)
	5.00pm	People of the Parish
Monday 7 th	9.30am	Intentions of Rachel Penrose & Andrew McMenemin
Tuesday 8 th	9.30am	Ayush Joseph, in Thanksgiving
Wednesday 9 th	9.30am	Brendan Hickey RIP
Thursday 10 th	9.30am	Teresa Chapman RIP
Friday 11 th <i>St Benedict, Feast</i>	9.30am	Brendan Hickey RIP
Saturday 12 th	10.00am	Rosita Ruiz de Paez RIP

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 12 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 13 th	9.00am	Aldo Garzia RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Pauline Kirby (née McGullion) RIP (1st Anniversary)
	5.00pm	João Da Luz RIP

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

STELLA MARIS (formerly Apostleship of the Sea)

Next weekend, 12th/13th July, is Sea Sunday and there will be a second collection at all Masses.

CLERGY TRANSFERS: Fr. Samuel Alabi MSP will be moving from Reading, English Martyrs to South

Wight to become the Priest in Charge with Fr Steven Restori as the Parish Priest.

This will take effect on 8th September 2025.

Though brief, we are grateful for Fr Samuel's ministry in the parish, and we pray for him as he rounds up his stay with us and prepares to take up his new responsibilities.