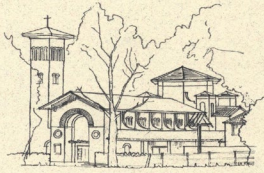


English Martyrs' Newsletter





21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
24TH AUGUST 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/UcUqB5ncxASpguMmd_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: CLOSED. Reopens 9.00am Tuesday 2nd September.
All calls/emails 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 24th AUGUST Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm Monday at 10.00am (Bank Holiday) Tuesday to Friday at 9.30am Saturday at 10.00am Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	CONFESSIONS WEEK COMMENCING 24th AUGUST Sunday 30 mins before 9.00am, 11.30am & 5.00pm Masses. Monday to Friday 15 mins before Mass Saturday after 10am Mass and at 5.30pm.	
 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.			

Welcome to Fr Felix Alabi, CSsR.
We welcome Fr Felix to the parish. He is on holiday and will be with us for two weeks.
He is the senior brother of Fr Samuel Alabi, our Assistant Priest.
We wish him a happy stay with us.

JESUS IS THE DOOR TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

In Luke 13:22–30, Jesus speaks plainly about the narrow gate and the urgency of true conversion. When asked if only a few will be saved, He doesn't offer statistics - He offers an invitation: "Strive to enter through the narrow door." This passage reminds us that salvation is not about mere association with Jesus or outward religious practice, but about a living relationship with Him.

Jesus is calling us beyond the Sunday obligation. It is a call to examine whether we truly know Christ and whether we allow him to know us. Are we allowing His Word to shape our daily lives? Do we seek Him in prayer, in the Sacraments, and in our neighbour?

This Gospel challenges us to move from familiarity with God to intimacy with Him. Our relationship with the Lord must be personal, daily, and rooted in love. God's grace is always available, but He desires our response: a heart open to conversion, humility, and trust.

In the end, Jesus offers hope. The Kingdom is wide enough for all ("people will come from east and west, north and south") but the door is narrow because it requires a wholehearted yes. Let us not delay. Now is the time to deepen our relationship with God, to walk closely with Christ, and to live as true disciples.


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









The Vocations Newsletter for August is now available.
To download a copy, visit our website at www.englishmartyrsrdg.com and follow the link.

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:	21 st ORDINARY	22 nd ORDINARY
	First: Isaiah: 66: 18-21 Psalm: 117(116): 1,2. Second: Hebrews 12: 5-7.11-13. Gospel: Luke 1.: 22-30.	First: Sirach: 3: 17-18. 20. 28-29 Psalm: 68(67): 4-7. 10-11. Second: Hebrews 12: 18-19. 22-24. Gospel: Luke 14: 1. 7-14.

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
	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 27 th August at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel.
	PARISH YOUTH On Summer Holidays. Meetings will resume in September.
	TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK are supporting approximately 35 households with food and household products. This week we are short of weetabix/cereals, long life juice, tinned corned beef/spam, tinned soup, packet soup, tinned fruit, coffee and sugar. 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.
	BOOKSHOP AND REPOSITORY is open each Sunday morning after 9.00am Mass until approx. 11.10am. for the sale of Prayer books, Rosary's, statues, cards and other religious items for both every day and special occasions. Also open after 6pm Mass on First weekend and after 5pm Mass on last weekend of each month. It is located in Room 3 at the rear of the Parish Hall on the right.
	BAPTISM Congratulations to Rachel Barreto who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism on Saturday 30th August. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

The Summer edition of Spirituality News is now available and features in this issue:

The Carmelite Secular Order - Caroline Dawnay: Prayerful Pause - Padre Pio: Patient Trust - Pierre Teilhard de Chardin: Synodal Signposts -Bridie Stringer: Events, retreats, and resources.

To download a copy, visit our website at www.englishmartyrsrdg.com and follow the link.

ADORE SPIRITUAL MINI-RETREAT 30TH AUGUST

10.00am to 1.00pm on Zoom. "PILGRIMS OF HOPE FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER - Jubilee is above all a time of forgiveness." Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prophecy, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring talk from guest speaker Fr Paul Leonard. Please register for the free Zoom meeting in advance at bit.ly/ADOREAUG2025

More information at www.altonrenewal.co



Rest In Peace

PATRICK JOSEPH MCHUGH RIP

Formerly of Partridge Drive, Tilehurst. Moved back to Belleek, Fermanagh 31 years ago. Leaves behind his wife Theresa and family: Kevin, Rosaline, Brendan, Sheila and Sean. Funeral Mass will be celebrated in Belleek, Fermanagh. Please pray for the repose of Patrick's soul. May he rest in peace.

EILEEN RICHARD RIP

A former long term parishioner, Eileen moved to the United States around the year 2000. Eileen passed away during COVID. Her ashes are now being returned to the UK and will be interred in Henley Road Cemetery, Reading in early September. Please keep Eileen and her family in your prayers.



The LIFE GROUP would like to thank everyone who supported/helped at the recent coffee morning. Our next Fundraising event will be the Jumble Sale on Saturday 6th September.

'LIFE' JUMBLE SALE
SATURDAY 6th September at 1.00pm
If you have any jumble to donate, please bring items to the parish hall on Saturday morning.
EVERYBODY WELCOME.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT: Tickets for this Event due to be held on the 11th of October are now sold out. If you have registered your name, please transfer the money for the tickets to the Parish Bank account. Reference: BHM2025 Amount: £15 Adult & £10 Child (10 - 16 years).



ORGAN RESTORATION FUND:

Current Total raised: - **£40,192.76**

EVENTS STILL TO COME:

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION on Saturday October 11th (ALL TICKETS SOLD)
ORGAN RECITAL – FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER 7.00pm
GOAN FUNDRAISING DINNER – December 2025.
Date TBC

CHILDREN'S LITURGY TRAINING

Online Workshop
SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER
9.00AM-12NOON



SCAN TO REGISTER



MESSAGE FROM READING COUNCIL - EMERGENCY ALERTS TEST COMING ON 7th SEP

Another date for your diary is Sunday 7th September, when at around 3pm there is going to be a national Emergency Alerts test. Millions of mobile devices will vibrate and make a siren sound for around 10 seconds along with a text. The message, which will be sent to all 4G and 5G phone networks in the UK, will make clear that this is a test and no further action is required.

Since the first national test of the Emergency Alerts system in April 2023, five alerts have been sent, including during major storms when lives were at risk.

Whilst these alerts aim to protect the public in emergencies, they could put victim-survivors of domestic abuse at risk, especially those who rely on hidden phones as part of their safety plan. Mobile phones will emit a loud siren and vibrate, even if they're on silent, but please be aware that should you need to you can opt out of this test. If you need to disable alerts for safety reasons, [follow these steps](#).



READING STREET PASTORS are part of a national team first pioneered in 2003. They are trained volunteers from local churches who care about our community. They are usually on patrol from 10:30 pm. to 3:00 am. on a Friday or Saturday night to care for, listen to and help people who are out on the streets. They are led by a local coordinator and also have support from local churches and community groups in partnership with the police, local council and other statutory agencies.

Reading Street Pastors will be hosting two tents at Reading Festival and will be open 24hrs from Wednesday 20th August to Monday morning 25th August. Basically, we are somewhere for festival goers & staff to come & chill out in pleasant surroundings. 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 and 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.

If you are interested in finding out more about our work, or are interested in becoming a Street Pastor, please contact us using the details on this page.

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 23rd to Sunday 31st August 2025

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 23 rd (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Caridade Sebastian Lobo RIP
Sunday 24 th	9.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Martin Coll RIP
	5.00pm	For the soul of Rosalica Goes RIP
Monday 25 th (Bank Holiday)	10.00am	Jim Pickering RIP
Tuesday 26 th	9.30am	Sunil Nina Perera RIP
Wednesday 27 th <i>St Monica, memorial</i>	9.30am	Louie Fearn's RIP
Thursday 28 th <i>St Augustine of Hippo, memorial</i>	9.30am	Annie Kate & Thomas Walsh RIP
Friday 29 th <i>The Passion of St John the Baptist, memorial</i>	9.30am	William, Tommie & Martin Walsh RIP
Saturday 30 th	10.00am	Helena Lourenco RIP

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 30 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Deceased members of the McCormack & Martland families RIP
Sunday 31 st	9.00am	Gama Family & Friends RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Deceased members of the Rafter & Kelly families 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

FR SAMUEL ALABI MSP



We would like to THANK Fr Samuel for all his hard work over the last 18 months. He will certainly be missed.

There will be a retiring collection after all Masses next Weekend 30th/31st August giving everyone an opportunity to show their appreciation to him. Alternatively, if you cannot attend Mass, you can use Dona or <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/fr-samuel-leaving-collection> or scan the attached QR code on the left to make an online donation

Fr Samuel's last day in the Parish is on Sunday 7th September and you are welcome to join him for some refreshments after each of the 4 Sunday Masses.