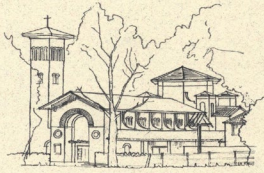


English Martyrs' Newsletter



EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS 14TH SEPTEMBER 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. Innaiah Maddineni imaddineni@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/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: 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 14TH SEPTEMBER Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm Monday to Friday at 9.30am Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	CONFESSIONS WEEK COMMENCING 14TH SEPTEMBER 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.	

JESUS REVEALED PROFOUND LOVE FOR US THROUGH HIS CROSS

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross invites us to reflect on the profound love Jesus has for us, as revealed through the cross. While some may view the cross as a symbol of shame and suffering, we see it as a sign of hope, redemption, and ultimate victory.

In the Gospel of St. John, Jesus says, "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself" (John 12:32). On Calvary, Christ was lifted up not in earthly glory, but in suffering and obedience. In this moment of surrender, divine love triumphed over our sin and death. The cross teaches us that God can bring life from death, hope from despair, and joy from suffering.

As Christians, we do not worship the wood of the cross itself, but the One who hung upon it for our sake. We are called to take up our own crosses daily, not as burdens, but as pathways to a deeper union with Christ. When we unite our own struggles, losses, and sacrifices with His, they are transformed and made holy.

Let this feast renew in us a spirit of gratitude for Christ's sacrifice. May we never forget that through the cross, we are redeemed, restored, and made new. In our own lives, may we become living signs of the victory and love made visible on the cross.

WELCOME TO FR INNAIAH MADDINENI

We are delighted to welcome Fr. Innaiah Maddineni, who is joining our parish this weekend to assist Fr. Gaston. We offer our prayers for Fr. Innaiah's ministry in our parish, hoping he will have a joyful experience in our welcoming community.









FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Congratulations to all the children who are receiving First Holy Communion this weekend. May God bless them and their families.

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:	EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS	25 th ORDINARY
	First: Numbers: 21: 4b-9. Psalm: 78(77): 1-2. 34-38. Second: Philippians: 2: 6-11. Gospel: John 3: 13-17.	First: Amos: 8: 4-7 Psalm: 113(112): 1-2. 4-8.. Second: Timothy: 1: 12-17. Gospel: Luke 15: 1-32.
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.		
	JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA) Adults who wish to explore the Catholic Faith or to complete the sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) are warmly invited to join the group who will begin their journey together at an introductory meeting on Tuesday 23rd September from 7.30 pm in the Bethlehem Chapel. Meetings will continue weekly where we will reflect on the Sunday scripture readings together and begin to explore the Creed which we say at Mass every Sunday and our own questions about faith. For more information, speak to one of our priests 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 17 th September at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel.	
	TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK are supporting approximately 35 households with food and household products. This week we are short of tinned meatballs, hotdogs, corned beef and spam; baked beans, spaghetti hoops in tomato sauce, weetabix and other cereals, long life milk, sugar, and washing up liquid. Financial donations can be made to CDP Reading St Joseph. Sort Code: 30-93-04. Account No: 00885992. Please include as a reference, '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 and last weekend of the month and after 5pm Mass on first weekend of each month. It is located in Room 3 at the rear of the Parish Hall on the right.	
	PARISH AFTERNOON TEA There will be another Parish Afternoon Tea for any parishioners who would like to come and join us for a relaxed afternoon with tea / cake and a chat. The event is being held in the Parish Hall on Thursday 18th September at 2.30pm. Please spread the word, and you can bring a friend with you to the Tea if you wish. We can offer transport to anyone who needs it. Please let Stephen Hogg know on 07891 773379 if you need a lift. We look forward to seeing you all again."	
	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 obviously we need to recruit more than that to cover absences. In particular, we do not yet have enough volunteers for the 11:30 and 5:00 Masses. <i>Could you be one?</i> There will be a half-hour briefing session after each Mass on 20-21 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.	
	PARISH CENTENARY In September 2026 our parish will be 100 years old and to celebrate the centenary we are planning a year of celebrations which will start very soon. Events include an organ recital, a pilgrimage to Lourdes and many more. The final event will be a Mass on Sunday 20th September 2026, with the main celebrant being Bishop Philip. We will need lots of help to make all the events successful and you will find a list of these in the colonnade together with a suggestion sheet for other events you may feel are worthy of inclusion in the list.	

† Rest In Peace

*Please pray for the repose of the souls of: Sarah Ryan RIP, Christine Rudkins RIP.
Frances O'Brian RIP. Frances will be received into church at 4.30pm on Monday 15th September' Her Requiem will be at 11.30am on Tuesday 16th September. Please keep them and their loved ones in your prayers.*

OXFORD PRO-LIFE COMMUNITY LAUNCH. Saturday 20th September | 10-1pm | St Anthony of Padua Church Hall (next to the JR, OX3 7SS). A fun and enjoyable morning to meet like-minded people and find your pro-life niche. Child & family-friendly. Free parking. Refreshments. Email Ed/Jo.ox.prolife@gmail.com or visit <https://oxfordprolife.org.uk/> for more info.

Holidays periods can be very stressful for marriages and couples often suffer in silence.:
 Marriage support - Does your relationship need some TLC? Need help with deeper issues?
 Next programme starts 17th October www.retrouaille.org.uk Tel: **+44 7887 296 983**

WEEK OF ACCOMPANIED PRAYER: SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER – FRIDAY 10TH OCTOBER
 Don't miss your opportunity to take part in a retreat in daily life and deepen your personal relationship with the Lord. After the opening meeting for all participants and guides on Sunday 5th at 3 pm, you will meet each day with your own prayer guide at a time that suits your schedule. There will be information sessions after the two morning Masses this Sunday – or take one of the information/ registration leaflets today.

PARISH CENTENARY

There are further copies of the calendar of events for our Parish centenary in the Colonnade, please do take one and also take a "pink" form to complete if you are able to help with any of the events. We need as many people as possible to be involved.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT: Tickets for this Event on the 11th of October are now sold out.

If you have registered for this event, the deadline for payment is **THURSDAY 18th SEPTEMBER.**

Payment should be made to the Parish bank account reference: BHM2025 Amount: £15 Adult & £10 Child (10 - 16 years).



ORGAN RESTORATION FUND:

Current Total raised: - **£44,901.41**

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

CAFOD MEETING

You are invited to a CAFOD meeting at St Bedes Church Hall Basingstoke on **Saturday 20th September** from 10:30am to 1:30pm. Come and hear about the difference your donations are making to communities around the world and CAFOD's work with partners in Southern Ethiopia. A simple lunch will be provided so please book your place by emailing Jo on jlwry@cafod.org.uk

OLDER PEOPLE'S DAY EVENT

On **Wednesday 1st October** from 9.30am to 2pm there is a free event for older residents to celebrate Older People's Day. This will be at Broad Street Mall, where the ground and first floor will have a multitude of stalls with specialist advice and support aimed at older people, their families, carers and friends.

The day could prove really valuable to attendees, with free NHS health checks, free benefit and pension credit advice, and an 'ask your councillor' stall.

There will also be opportunities to take part in dance and exercise with performances from Tilehurst Square Dance Club, Dunsden Green Country Dance Club, the Council's leisure providers Better, and the Age UK Berkshire choir.

**MOVIES
POPCORN
SWEETS
AND FUN**

you are invited to
**THE
PRINCE OF
EGYPT**
a movie night
organised by ELEVATE
Junior Youth Group

**SEPTEMBER
19TH FRIDAY
6PM TO 7.45PM**

The Parish Hall
English Martyrs Church



Dear C&G Alumni,

Don't miss out on our Reunion Event on Saturday 20th September! Join us for a day of prayer and fellowship.

The C&G team have planned a day of prayer, formation, sharing and worship for everyone who has experienced the Called and Gifted discernment process. The theme we have discerned for the day is "A house built on rock is not washed away like a house built on sand" and we hope the day will help us all to build our lives more fully on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit.

The venue is St Peter's, Winchester which many of you will be familiar with. In order to give everyone time to travel, registration will open at 9:30am and we will start with Mass at 10am. The morning session will include a time of prayer, praise and worship, formation on the Home and discussion. Lunch will be provided. The afternoon session will include a guided meditation, a time of sharing experiences of discerning/using charisms in small groups and finish with prayer, praise and worship. There will also be a talk on Accompaniment and how it can help in our ministry and how we use our charisms.

If anyone with a charism of prophecy receives a word or image for the day, please let us know by emailing the team (calledandgifted@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

To book your place at the day, please email Joan at calledandgifted@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk, as a cooked lunch is being provided (donations welcome!) please let Joan know if you have any dietary requirements.

We look forward to welcoming you to the day!

Called and Gifted Team, Portsmouth Diocese

The Harry Ensemble, directed by Edward-Rhys Harry, are performing a concert entitled Jubilate! at Douai Abbey on **Saturday 27th September** at 7:30pm, accompanied by Simon Dinsdale. The programme includes the following music from the 16th and 18th century, along with some more contemporary pieces.

Giovanni Palestrina 'Missa L'Homme Arme a 4'. Santa Pesci: 'Ave Maria'. Maria Rosa Coccia : 'Magnificat'.

Rihards Dubra : 'Ave Maria (1) and 'Oculus Non Vidit'. Dilys Elwyn-Edwards: 'Missa Brevis'. Edward-Rhys Harry: 'Jubilate Deo'

Plus organ pieces

J.S. Bach Chorale Prelude - Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier. Eugene Gigout 'Tocatta in B Minor

Tickets cost £12 in advance or £15 on the door and are available from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on?q=the%20harry%20ensemble>

Address: Douai Abbey, Upper Woolhampton, Reading RG7 5TQ. There is plenty of free parking available.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM SUNDAY, formerly known as Home Mission Sunday, is observed annually on the third Sunday of September. This year, it falls on the 21st of September. It is a day dedicated to proclaiming the joyful message of the Gospel—a message that brings hope and transformation to all who receive it with an open heart. Second Collection at all Sunday Masses next weekend

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 13th to Sunday 21st September 2025

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Saturday 13 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Martin Coll RIP
Sunday 14 th	9.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Frank Jennings RIP and Evelyne Kassulamemba RIP (1st Anniversary)
	5.00pm	Rosalica Goes RIP
Monday 15 th <i>Our Lady of Sorrows, memorial</i>	9.30am	John Belcher RIP
Tuesday 16 th <i>Ss Cornelius & Cyprian, memorial</i>	9.30am	Archbishop J H King RIP
	11.30am	Requiem of Frances O'Brian RIP
Wednesday 17 th	9.30am	Santana & Nancy Gonsalves, In Thanksgiving
Thursday 18 th	9.30am	Intentions of Johnny Commins & Ann Commins
Friday 19 th	9.30am	Harry Mullin RIP
Saturday 20 th <i>St John Chrysostom, memorial</i>	10.00am	João Da Luz RIP
<i>St Andrew Kim Taegon, St Paul Chong Hasang & Companions, memorial</i>	1.00pm	Filippino Mass
25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
Saturday 20 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Norman Hayde RIP
Sunday 21 st	9.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Kathleen Gaughan RIP
	2.00pm	Vietnamese Mass
	5.00pm	Rosaleen Carr RIP (1st Anniversary)

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

APF/MISSIO

The Autumn APF/Missio magazines are now available for collection from the Colonnade; please take your copy.

**MORE than you imagine,
for LESS than you expect**

St Joseph's is the best value school in Reading and Berkshire

Our fees may be the lowest in the area, but our standards remain among the highest.

JOIN US FOR OUR
SHOWCASE SENIOR OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 2 OCTOBER 6-9PM

Head's talk, tours and fun interactive department activities

ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE
READING • BERKSHIRE

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JOIN US FOR OUR
SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER 6.30-8.30PM

Head's talk, tours and fun interactive department activities

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