

English Martyrs' Newsletter



29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME


19TH OCTOBER 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: CLOSED. Reopens Tuesday 28th October at 9.00am.
 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)

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| 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 19th OCT 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 19th OCT. 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: Fridays from 10.00am to 6.00pm. From 5.00pm, Praise and Worship featuring music, scripture reading, guided reflection, a time of silence and concluding with Benediction | |

BE LIVING WITNESSES

In this passage, Jesus confronts the religious leaders of His time for their hypocrisy. He accuses them of constructing monuments to the prophets while sharing in the guilt of their ancestors who killed those very prophets. Though they claim to honour holiness, their hearts remain closed to the truths those prophets proclaimed. While Jesus' words are strong, they come from a place of love; He desires conversion, not condemnation.

This Gospel challenges us to examine our own faith. Do we, like the Pharisees, outwardly honour the saints and martyrs while ignoring the messages that made them holy? It is easy to admire heroes of faith from a distance, but it is much harder to follow their example in everyday life. This includes speaking the truth when it is unpopular, defending the dignity of the poor and the unborn, forgiving our enemies, and loving sacrificially. Jesus warns the "scholars of the law" for taking away "the key of knowledge." When faith becomes merely about rules and appearances, it stops leading others to God. As missionary disciples, we are called not just to know the faith but to live it authentically and share it joyfully.



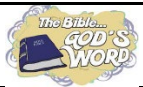

May we open our hearts to the prophetic Word of Christ today. Let us not just build monuments to holiness but instead become living witnesses—prophets of love, mercy, and truth in our own time. In doing so, we honour the prophets not only with our words but also with our actions.



When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" Priests and religious brothers and sisters help to keep faith alive in the world. Could God be calling you to be one of these dedicated servants? Talk to your priest or contact Canon 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: | 29th ORDINARY | 30th ORDINARY |
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|  | First: Exodus: 17: 8-13 Psalm: 121(120); 1-8 Second: Timothy: 3: 14-4.2. Gospel: Luke 18: 1-8. | First: Sirach: 35: 15-17. 20-22. Psalm: 34(33); 2-3. 17-19. 23 Second: Timothy: 4: 6-8. 16-18. Gospel: Luke 18: 9-14. |
|  | JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA) This week, the group explored the meaning of the Sacrament of Baptism with the help of a video from Fr Stephen Wang: <i>How Baptism can change your life</i> (available on YouTube or www.sycamore.fm) and a discussion of our own experiences. We also reflected together on this Sunday's Gospel: <i>The Unjust Judge</i> , before Fr Innaiah offered us some background and guidance on praying the Rosary. We continue to meet each week on Tuesday evening 7.30 – 9 pm in the Bethlehem Chapel. For more information, contact one of our priests, the parish office on 0118 957 2149 office@englishmartyrsrdg.com or email: rcia@englishmartyrsrdg.com | |
|  | EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE. MEETING(S) SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK IS(ARE): Wednesday 15th October 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 coffee, juice, tinned corned beef/spam, tinned tuna, packet soup, oil and tinned fruit. 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. | |

The Nativity Journey

Parishioners from all parts of the Reading Pastoral area are invited to join together for an outing to Wintershall on Saturday 20th December 2025 (2.00pm performance), to see 'THE NATIVITY JOURNEY';

Please see Poster in the Colonnade for more details.

This Sunday is World Mission Sunday

The Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Missio – his charity for world mission – through a special collection. This day of prayer, solidarity and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world.

NIGHT OF LIGHTS: The Night of Light is an international initiative to reclaim Hallowe'en for the church on the evening of October 31st. In our parish, we will observe this with the following activities: Rosary procession in church (6-6:30pm), Family Fun, Food and Games (6:30 – 7:30pm). Children may dress up in white items of clothing in communion with the Saints or in white angel costumes. Please see Poster in the Colonnade for more details.

English Martyrs October Challenge: We are encouraged as families to pray at least a decade of the Rosary together during October and beyond. **Launch of the centenary of the dedication of our Parish Church.** Please, let us pray for a successful and fruitful celebration of this centenary year, which begins this weekend and concludes with a solemn Pontifical Mass on September 20th, 2026, to be celebrated by Bishop Philip.

ENGLISH MARTYRS @ 100

ORGAN RECITAL – FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2025

You do not need to purchase a ticket for this event. Please share the details with your family and friends and bring them along. Festive refreshments will follow the recital.

BED 4 A NIGHT: JANUARY – MARCH 2026

English Martyrs is delighted to be able to participate in this community project to help keep the homeless off the streets in the coldest months of the year.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 27TH - 31ST JULY 2026

Final prices and booking forms will be available from the Colonnade over the next couple of weeks. Please complete and return these forms as early as possible so that we can secure the best possible deal. More information from Judith via the parish office.

The Vietnamese Mass will take place this Sunday, 19th October at 2:30 p.m.

Reading Cameroonian Mass: This will take place next Sunday, 26th, at 1:30 p.m. followed by brief refreshments in the hall.

Weddings: Congratulations to Elizabeth Milsom-James and Jamie Boyd who are getting married this Saturday 18th October 2025 and Entsie Lery & Ponda Ngwabwe who will be married on Saturday 25th. Please keep them in your prayers as they receive this wonderful Sacrament.

MARIAN MISSION

“Through Mary to Jesus”

Our parish is launching our “Marian Mission” to enable us all – tailored to our time constraints – to devote ourselves to our Blessed Mother Mary because as St Louis de Montfort said: Mary is the safest, easiest, shortest and most perfect way of approaching Jesus, we never give more honour to Jesus than when we honour his Mother.”

There are a number of ways we can do this, outlined on our parish website under the Groups heading, labelled “Marian Mission”. Any questions? Contact Chris Maude at

EnglishMartyrsMarianMission@PortsmouthDiocese.org.uk

Bamenda Sunday Celebration: We shall be celebrating Bamenda Sunday on the weekend of 25th/26th October in honour of the link between the Diocese of Portsmouth, England, and the Archdiocese of Bamenda in Cameroon. This is an opportunity to pray for this missionary link and offer financial support for the pastoral projects in the Archdiocese of Bamenda.

Second Collection Next weekend: Support of Pastoral Projects in our sister Diocese in Bamenda, Cameroon.

Blessing of Graves: The blessing of Graves at Henley Road Cemetery will take place on Sunday, November 9th at 2.00pm.

Rosary after Morning Mass on Friday: In a bid to deepen our devotion to Mary, Mother of Jesus and Help of Christians, we will have the rosary said immediately after exposition on Fridays before the Friday Adorers continue their slots for adoration.

Centenary Prayer: Throughout our Parish Centenary Year, we shall say the Centenary prayer in place of the prayer to St Michael the Archangel after weekday Masses.

October – Month of the Rosary

On the weekend of 25th/26th October, our First Holy Communion children will be presented with Rosary beads as part of their spiritual journey. We invite you to keep them in your prayers as they grow in faith and love of Our Lady.

Bicycle on Offer: One of our parishioners has a road bicycle which he wishes to offer to anyone who may need it. It is a porch bicycle but currently has a flat tyre. Anyone who is interested can contact the Parish office.

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 18th to Sunday 26th October 2025

29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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| Saturday 18 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday) | 6.00pm | Rosario Barreto RIP |
| Sunday 19 th | 9.00am | Caitano Pereira RIP |
| | 11.30am | Norah O'Dowd RIP |
| | Live Streamed | |
| | 2.30pm | Vietnamese Mass |
| | 5.00pm | People of the Parish |
| Monday 20 th | 9.30am | Derek Taplin RIP |
| Tuesday 21 st | 9.30am | Jeromio & Aurora Pereira RIP |
| Wednesday 22 nd | 9.30am | Intention of Tess Donohue |
| Thursday 23 rd <i>Diocesan Day of Prayer & Reparation for Life</i> | 9.30am | Richard Whittle RIP |
| Friday 24 th | 9.30am | Nikki Pink, Intention |
| Saturday 25 th | 10.00am | Jonathan Tromp, Intention |

30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

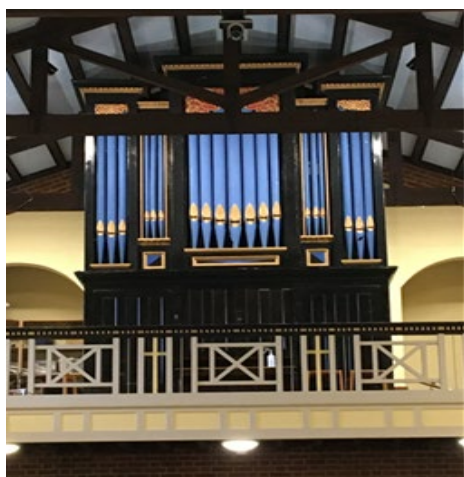
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| Saturday 25 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday) | 6.00pm | Beatriz Ordonez RIP |
| Sunday 26 th | 9.00am | People of the Parish |
| | 11.30am | Kerr & Atherstone families, Intention. |
| | Live Streamed | |
| | 1.30pm | Cameroonian Mass |
| | 5.00pm | Rosalica Goes RIP |



Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed.

Going into Hospital: If you or a loved one is 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.



ORGAN RESTORATION PROJECT

The Black History Month celebration was a very popular event and raised a wonderful £1,472.50 towards our Organ Restoration Fundraising campaign. Thank you to all those involved in this event.

We have also been awarded a grant of £8,200 toward the cost of our Organ Project by Benefact Trust; (<https://www.benefacttrust.co.uk/>) which has been a great help toward our aimed for total.

TO REMIND YOU:

OUR TARGET IS: £ 84,480.00 incl. VAT

RAISED TO DATE: £55,837.41 (excludes some Gift Aid)