

English Martyrs' Newsletter



30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 26TH OCTOBER 2025 BAMENDA SUNDAY

**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:		TO DONATE TO OUR PARISH:	
<p>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</p>		<p>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.</p> 	
<p>Blessed Hugh Faringdon Fawley Road, Reading RG30 3EP. Head: Dr Simon Uttley 0118 957 4730 https://www.hughfaringdon.org/</p>	<p>MASS TIMES WEEK COMMENCING 26TH OCT Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm Monday to Friday at 9.30am Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)</p>	<p>CONFESSIONS WEEK COMMENCING 26TH 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.</p>	
 <p>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</p>			

TRUSTING IN GOD'S MERCY

In this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 18:9–14), Jesus tells the story of two men who come to the Temple to pray. The Pharisee proudly thanks God for not being like others, while the tax collector stands humbly at the back, beating his breast and whispering, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

Jesus tells us that it was the humble tax collector who went home justified before God. His simple prayer reached the heart of the Father because it came from a place of honesty and trust. He recognized his need for God, and that was enough.

This parable reminds us that God's mercy is always greater than our sins. We don't need to approach Him with perfect words or flawless lives. We just need to come with open hearts. When we acknowledge our weaknesses, God rushes to meet us with compassion and healing.

Like the tax collector, we are invited to stand before the Lord just as we are; not comparing ourselves to others or pretending to be better than we are but trusting completely in the mercy of God who loves us.






Every time we turn to Him in prayer, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we can be certain of His welcome. His mercy never runs out. It restores, renews, and reminds us that we are always His beloved children. This week, take a moment to pray, "Lord, have mercy on me," and let His gentle forgiveness fill your heart. Allow that mercy to shape how you see yourself and how you show compassion to others.



"For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted". Humility is essential in all vocations, whether it be sacramental marriage, priesthood, or consecrated life. What are some ways you can work on becoming humbler in your life? Have you humbled yourself to ask God what His plan is for you? Talk to your priest or contact Canon John Cooke at vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318869

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:	30th ORDINARY	ALL SAINTS
	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.	First: Revelation: 7: 2-4. 9-14. Psalm: 24(23); 1-6 Second: John: 3: 1-3. Gospel: Matthew: 5: 1-12.
	JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA) This week, the group continued to explore the Nicene Creed, looking at the person of Jesus and His relationship with the Father. We watched part of Fr Stephen Wang's film "Who is Jesus?" available on You Tube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgjpyWez17o . We also reflected together on this Sunday's Scripture readings, about effective prayer. There is no meeting next week because it is half term. We begin to meet again on Tuesday 4 th November from 7.30 – 9 pm in the Bethlehem Chapel. For more information, contact one of our priests, the parish office on 01189 572149 office@englishmartyrsrdg.com or email: rcia@englishmartyrsrdg.com	
	EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE. MEETING(S) SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK IS(ARE): Monday 27 th October at 7.30pm in Room 2 and Wednesday 29 th October at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel.	
	TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK are supporting approximately 35 households with food and household products.	
	BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS FOR OCTOBER We extend our best wishes to everyone born in the the month of October, who will be blessed after the Post Communion Prayer at all Masses this weekend. May God bless all their endeavours.	

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.

World Mission Sunday

Thank you for your donations to the World Mission Sunday appeal. Your prayers and support will help missionaries work alongside communities worldwide, regardless of background or belief. Please continue to pray for all who share the love and hope of Christ with our sisters and brothers in need throughout the world. To support mission year-round, visit missio.org.uk or call 020 7821 9755 (office hours).

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 one decade of the Rosary together during October and beyond.

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

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

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.

LITTER PICKING IN PROSPECT PARK 23rd MAY & 18th JULY 2026

Help keep our green spaces clean and tidy.

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 via the link on the front page of our parish website labelled “Marian Mission”. Any questions? Contact Chris Maude at

EnglishMartyrsMarianMission@PortsmouthDiocese.org.uk

Bamenda Sunday Celebration: We shall be celebrating Bamenda Sunday on this 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. We are directly benefitting from this link through the ministry of Fr Gaston Afah, our Parish Priest. We pray for all the other four Priests from Bamenda serving in Portsmouth, Southampton and Guernsey Island. May this link continue to be a source of blessing to our two dioceses.

Second collection at all Masses in support of Pastoral Projects in our Sister Archdiocese of Bamenda, in Cameroon.

BAPTISM: Let us pray for Mateus George who will be baptised this Saturday. May God bless his family.

WEDDINGS:

Congratulations to Elizabeth Milsom-James & Jamie Boyd, who were married last Saturday in our Church. We pray that they will have a happy and fruitful married life.

Let us pray for Ponda Neema Ngwabe & Entsie Amuesi Leroy, who will get married this weekend. May God’s blessing accompany them throughout their marriage journey.

October – Month of the Rosary

This weekend, 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.

SOS – save our Sunday Socialising !

The wonderful teams who prepare tea and coffee after the 9.00am Sunday Mass urgently need reinforcements. Some of the long-standing teams are taking a well-earned rest and so we need one or two new teams to prepare and serve the coffee after the 9.00am Mass. You would be on the rota every 5 weeks or so and your contribution to making our parish a place of warm welcome for all would be invaluable.

Please think of gathering with a few friends or family to create a team and contact the coffee team this Sunday morning for more information.

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 25th October to Sunday 2nd November 2025

30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME- BAMENDA SUNDAY

Saturday 25 th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Beatriz Ordonez RIP
Sunday 26 th	9.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am Live Streamed	Kerr & Atherstone families, Intentions.
	2.30pm	Cameroonian Mass
	5.00pm	Rosalica Goes RIP
Monday 27 th	9.30am	Louie Fearn RIP
Tuesday 28 th Ss SIMON & JUDE, Apostles, feast	9.30am	Michael John Greaney RIP
Wednesday 29 th	9.30am	Mary Fletcher, Thanksgiving (80th Birthday) Luis Alberto Guisbert Bernal RIP (1st Anniversary)
Thursday 30 th Blessed Winchester Martyrs, memorial	9.30am	Darmapala Weerasekara RIP & Rita Agnus Perera
Friday 31 st	9.30am	Mary O'Neill RIP Valentim, Birthday Thanksgiving
	6.00-7.30pm	NIGHT OF LIGHT CELEBRATION
Saturday 1 st November	10.00am	Pauline Brown RIP.
ALL SAINTS (Transferred from 1st November)		
Saturday 1 st (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Deceased members of the McCormack & Martland families RIP
Sunday 2 nd **	9.00am	Mary & Alex D'Souza RIP
	11.30am Live Streamed	Maria Goes RIP
	1.30pm	Cameroonian Mass
	5.00pm	People of the Parish

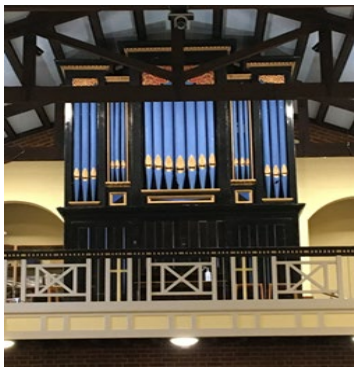
** All Souls Day: transferred to Monday 3rd November



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

We have 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. Our next fundraiser is the Organ Recital on 5th December.

TO REMIND YOU:

OUR TARGET IS: £ 84,480.00 incl. VAT

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

British Standard Time(aka British Summer Time) will end at 02.00 on Sunday 26th when clocks should be turned BACK 1 hour.