

# English Martyrs' Newsletter



## FEAST OF ST. EDMUND OF ABINGDON 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025

**ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH,  
64, LIEBENROOD ROAD, READING, RG30 2EB:  
Registered Charity No. 1199568**

Parish website: [www.englishmartyrsrdg.com](http://www.englishmartyrsrdg.com)

Livestream link on You Tube:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCulqb5ncxASpguMmd\\_0MNtA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCulqb5ncxASpguMmd_0MNtA)

Parish Priest: Fr. Gaston Forbah [gforbah@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:gforbah@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Asst Priest: Fr. Innaiah Maddineni [imaddineni@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:office@englishmartyrsrdg.com)

### PARISH SAFEGUARDING MINISTERS/CONTACT DETAILS/ROLES

Yvonne Newman: [safeguarding@englishmartyrsrdg.com](mailto:safeguarding@englishmartyrsrdg.com) (Safeguarding cases and concerns)

Gavin Knight: [safeguarding2@englishmartyrsrdg.com](mailto:safeguarding2@englishmartyrsrdg.com) (DBS applications/updating of DBS parish register)

Ernestina Amanfo: [safeguarding3@englishmartyrsrdg.com](mailto:safeguarding3@englishmartyrsrdg.com) (Safeguarding compliance in all parish activities)

<b>SCHOOLS:</b>	<b>TO DONATE TO OUR PARISH:</b>	
English Martyrs Catholic Primary Dee Road, Reading RG30 4BE. 0118 937 5466 Executive Headteacher: Mr Jamie Carroll Head of School: Mr Anton Dworzak <a href="https://www.englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk/home">https://www.englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk/home</a>	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 <a href="https://www.hughfaringdon.org/">https://www.hughfaringdon.org/</a>	<b>MASS TIMES WEEK COMMENCING 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b> Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm Monday to Friday at 9.30am Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	<b>CONFESSIONS WEEK COMMENCING 16<sup>TH</sup> NOV.</b> 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.
	<b>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.</b>	

### GOD'S LOVING MERCY RESTORES WHAT SIN HAS BROKEN

In John 21:15–17, the risen Jesus turns to Peter and asks three times, “Do you love me?” Each question pierces Peter’s heart, reminding him of his three denials during the Passion. However, in this tender exchange, Jesus does not shame Peter; instead, He restores him. The Lord encounters Peter not in perfection, but in repentance and renewed love. Similarly, He meets us not in our perfection, but in our repentance and renewed love.

This passage reflects the grace we find in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Like Peter, we approach the Lord aware of our failures, denials, and moments of weakness. Yet Jesus does not turn away from us. In confession, He asks us the same question: “Do you love me?” Each time we respond with sincere contrition, His mercy restores what sin has broken. Our confession is not merely about recounting our faults; it is about renewing our love. It is Christ’s invitation to begin anew, to receive His forgiveness, and to be strengthened to live as His disciples.

Through the sacrament, the Good Shepherd heals our hearts so that we can, in turn, “feed His sheep.” Reconciled and renewed, we are sent back into the world as witnesses of His mercy. Just as Peter’s encounter with Jesus prepared him to lead the early Church, each confession prepares us to serve with humility, compassion, and joy.

In the Eucharist, we meet the same Lord who restored Peter. He nourishes us so that we, too, can feed His sheep. Let us pray for hearts that respond to His question with sincerity and courage and for the grace to express our love for Christ through acts of mercy, humility, and faithful care for one another.

St. Edmund of Abingdon demonstrated his love for God through self-sacrifice, devotion to others, and an unwavering commitment to the principles of the Gospel. May he intercede for us. Amen.

# 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:	St. EDMUND OF ABINGDON	CHRIST THE KING
	First: Jeremiah 1 4-9. Psalm: 96(95); 1-3. 7-8. 10. Second: Corinthians: 3: 1-6. Gospel: John: 21: 15-17.	First: Samuel: 5: 1-3 Psalm: 122(121); 1-2. 4-5. Second: Colossians: 1: 12-20. Gospel: Luke: 23: 35-43.
	<b style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px;">JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)</b> This week, Fr Gaston celebrated Mass with the Journey in Faith group in the Bethlehem Chapel. Fr Gaston explained each stage of the Mass carefully and prayerfully, so that each one of us was able to deepen our understanding and appreciation of the sacred liturgy. Afterwards, we gathered to share our questions and reflections with both our priests. We continue to meet on Tuesday evenings 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	
	<b style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 2px;">EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE.</b> MEETING(S) SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK IS(ARE): Wednesday 19th November at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel.	
	<b style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 2px;">TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE &amp; FOODBANK</b> are supporting approximately 35 households with food and household products. The items we require this week are Mashed potatoes, corned beef, ham/spam, washing up liquid, jam, longlife skimmed milk, peanut butter, orange juice, spaghetti hoops, sugar, shower gel and sweet biscuits. Thank you so much for your continued support.	
	<b style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 2px;">BOOKSHOP AND REPOSITORY</b> 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 (Name Badge) and last (Birthday Blessing) weekends of the month and after 5pm Mass on first weekend (Name Badge) of each month. <i>There is now a selection of Christmas cards and other Christmas items on sale together with a limited number of books for advent and advent calendars and candles.</i> It is located in Room 3 at the rear of the Parish Hall on the right.	
	<b style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 2px;">PARISH AFTERNOON TEA</b> 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. This event is being held in the Parish Hall on Thursday 20th November 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.	
	<b style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 2px;">PARISH SENIORS CHRISTMAS PARTY</b> This year our Parish Seniors Christmas Party will be on Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> December in the Parish Hall from 2 – 4.30pm. Invitations to the Party will be available after Masses next weekend, on 22 <sup>nd</sup> /23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov, and the following weekend, 29 <sup>th</sup> /30 <sup>th</sup> November.	
	<b style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 2px;">FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:</b> Our next session will be on Friday 21st November at 6.00pm when we will be celebrating a Slow Mass. This is a reflective celebration, specially prepared for our First Holy Communion children and their families. The children will be guided to experience the beauty of the Mass in a way that is accessible, meaningful, and prayerful. This is a special opportunity to support them on their journey of faith.	
	<b style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 2px;">ADVENT CONCERT SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER at 6.00pm</b> St John & St Stephen's Church, Orts Road Reading RG1 3JN <b>FREE ENTRY</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>RETIRING COLLECTION IN AID OF HOPE INTO ACTION</b></span>	
<b>SYRO MALABAR MEMORIAL MASS:</b> This will take place in our Church on Saturday 22nd November at 12 noon.		

# ENGLISH MARTYRS @ 100

## ORGAN RECITAL – FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025

You do not need to purchase a ticket for this event. Please share with family and friends, helping to make this event a wonderful evening. Festive refreshments will follow the recital.

## ENGLISH MARTYRS PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2026 [NOTE CHANGE OF DATES]

Costs £755 per person, based on 2 or more sharing a room/£915 per person in a single room.

This includes return flights, with airport transfers in France, 23kg checked in luggage, travel insurance, four nights full board accommodation in Hotel Croix des Bretons which is close to the sanctuary along with a full pastoral programme led by Fr Gaston..

BOOKING FORMS AVAILABLE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE/COLONNADE & MUST BE RETURNED TO TANGNEY TOURS ASAP TO KEEP THE PRICE DOWN.

## **PORTSMOUTH GREGORIAN CHANT COURSE 2026.**

held at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth (UK). This unique series of workshops offers an opportunity to immerse yourself in the timeless art of Gregorian Chant, guided by expert instructors and supported by the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. Three one-day workshops: 10<sup>th</sup> January 14<sup>th</sup> February, and 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Suitable for both beginners and experienced singers. Each session concludes with a live liturgical performance in the Cathedral. Open to adults and children (7+), of all backgrounds and faiths See Noticeboard in Colonnade for more information.

## **GOOD COUNCIL NETWORK**

'Sackcloth & Ashes'

Please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia on Monday 17th November. See poster in the colonnade. These days seem quite dark, what with Parliament voting to partly decriminalise abortion and voting to legalise euthanasia.

Please invite others to join us in praying and fasting for life, you can do so with this link: - <https://www.facebook.com/events/828656872884422>

**END OF LITURGICAL YEAR THANKSGIVING MASS:** The week beginning 24th November is the last week in the Liturgical Year C. It is important that we recognise the marvellous blessings God has bestowed on us through the different celebrations this liturgical year, beginning with last Advent. We are encouraged to use this week as Thanksgiving week. Do anything to show your gratitude to God. The highlight will be Thanksgiving Mass on Friday 28th at 7p.m followed by refreshments in the hall.

**SENDING OUR CHILDREN TO OUR PARISH SCHOOLS:** Next weekend, at the 9a.m and 11: 30a.m Masses, we will have a presentation by the Executive Head of English Martyrs Primary School, aimed at encouraging parishioners to send their children to our Catholic Primary School.

**GOAN CHRISTMAS DANCE AND DINE:** Our parish will have another opportunity to socialise and grow in knowledge of each other and our different cultures. This opportunity will be afforded us by the exciting dinner that will be held on December 20th in Blessed Hugh Farringdon School from 6p.m.

Tickets are currently on sale: Adults (£20), Children 7 years upward (£10), children under 7 years (Free). There will be delicious snacks, buffet, and exciting live band music.

This event is geared towards raising more funds for our parish organ restoration and so donation of food and drinks is welcomed. Please, contact the parish office if you wish to donate and you will be guided on how to do this. Volunteers are also needed to help transport items, set up the hall, usher guests etc.

Please, contact parish office if you wish to help.

**FUNERAL OF MGR. JIM JOYCE:** Let us pray for the repose of the soul of Mgr. Jim Joyce whose funeral will take place on Wednesday, 19th November 2025, in Corpus Christi Church, Wokingham. He served the diocese of Portsmouth in many ways before his retirement. May God grant comfort to his family.

## MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 15th to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025

### St. EDMUND OF ABINGDON

<i>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> (Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>Peter Mario Lobo RIP</i>
<i>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Gertrudes Fernandes RIP &amp; Santan do Rego RIP</i>
	<i>11.30am</i>	<i>Maeve Nolan RIP</i>
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Monday 17<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Holy Souls RIP</i>
<i>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Nancy &amp; Adrian Cordery RIP</i>
<i>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Mary Fletcher, Thanksgiving (80th Birthday)</i>
<i>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Chris Moran RIP, John &amp; Jim Knox RIP</i>
<i>Friday 21<sup>st</sup></i> <i>Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary, memorial</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Carmina Falcao RIP</i>
<i>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup></i> <i>St. Cecilia, memorial</i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Private Intention</i>
	<i>12.00pm</i>	<i>Syro Malabar Memorial Mass</i>
<b>OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE</b>		
<i>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> (Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>Pete Biggins RIP (1st Anniversary)</i>
<i>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup></i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Mary O'Donaghue RIP</i>
	<i>11.30am</i>	<i>James, Sadie, Maureen &amp; Terry McGiffen RIP</i>
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	<i>&amp; People of the Parish</i>
	<i>2.30pm</i>	<i>Vietnamese Mass</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>Deceased Members of the Rabuano family RIP</i>



**ENGLISH MARTYRS TRAVELLING CRIB:** It's that time of year again when the Posada Crib is getting ready for its Advent journey around the parish. Last year I managed to get 2 schools, a parish tea and 9 different houses to host the crib. This year I would like to get more hosts to widen the travelling crib community. The commitment is hosting the crib overnight and planning for drop off and pick up to/from the other hosts. The travelling crib is for all the parish and is welcome to go to couples, single parishioners and families. If you are interested in hosting the crib, please email Ann on [annpatton01@btinternet.com](mailto:annpatton01@btinternet.com) or phone on 07732 683312. Leave a message and Ann will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you.

**NOVEMBER: MONTH OF HOLY SOULS:** *Please place your intentions for deceased family & friends in the Prayer Basket at the front of the altar.*

**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.

**SAVE THE DATE - Life/Charity Christmas Fayre on Saturday 6th December in the Parish Centre.**

**BAPTISM:** Congratulations to Zinnia Isabel Cruz who receives the Sacrament of Baptism this Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

#### **RECENTLY DECEASED**

Please pray for the repose of the souls of: Pedro Rodrigues RIP. His Requiem will be at St Joseph's Tilehurst on Monday 17th November 2025. Ann Commins RIP. Her Requiem will be here at English Martyrs at 12.30pm on Tuesday 25th November 2025. Please keep them and their loved ones in your prayers.

#### **CHILDRENS LITURGY:**

Please note that Parents should attend to support their children if the child is under the age of 5 years old. Also, if a child has a special educational need or disability that requires an increased level of support, we would ask that a parent attends to support their child.

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS - 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 5.00PM.** See poster in colonnade for how your child(ren) can join in and help to act out the wonder of the Nativity.