

English Martyrs' Newsletter

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7TH DECEMBER 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 7th DECEMBER Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm Monday at 9.30am and 7.00pm Tuesday to Friday at 9.30am Saturday at 10.00am and 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	CONFESSIONS WEEK COMMENCING 7th DEC. 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: 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.	

INTERIOR READINESS FOR THE COMING OF CHRIST

Advent invites us into a sacred season of preparation—not the frantic kind often encouraged by our culture, but a profound, interior readiness for the coming of Christ. In today's Gospel, John the Baptist cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord!" This call is not merely a poetic expression; it is a summons to transformation. John reminds us that the Lord desires a direct path into our hearts, one that is cleared of whatever hinders us from fully receiving Him.







Preparation in the Christian life is never a passive act. Just as we tidy our homes for a beloved guest, we must also prepare our souls for the Savior who arrives with mercy, healing, and peace. Advent encourages us to slow down, examine our hearts, and honestly acknowledge the valleys of discouragement, the mountains of pride, and the winding roads of distraction that we place before the Lord. Through repentance, prayer, and acts of charity, these obstacles begin to diminish.

However, this preparation is not solely for celebrating Christ's birth at Christmas. It also anticipates His coming again in glory and His daily presence in our lives through grace. Every moment presents an opportunity to welcome Him.

As a parish community, let us support one another in this sacred work. May our Advent be characterized not by busyness, but by hopeful expectation. And may the Lord find in each of us a heart ready to receive Him, allowing His light to shine ever more brightly in our world.

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:	2 nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)	3 rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)
	First: Isaiah: 11: 1-10 Psalm: 72(71); 1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. Second: Romans: 15: 4-9. Gospel: Matthew: 3: 1-12.	First: Isaiah: 35: 1-6a.10 Psalm: 146(145); 6c-10. Second: James: 5: 7-10. Gospel: Matthew: 11: 2-11.
	NAME BADGE SUNDAY Another opportunity to meet and greet fellow parishioners by name and develop a better sense of community within the parish.	
	EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE. MEETING(S) SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK IS(ARE): Monday 8 th December at 7.30pm in Room 2 and Wednesday 10 th December at 10.30am in the parish hall.	
	ENGLISH MARTYRS ADVENT/CHRISTMAS FOOD BANK 29th NOV to 21st DEC Please, place your donations at the collection basket by the entrance to the Church. We require NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS ONLY please; NO CLOTHES OR SHOES. These food items will be used to prepare parcels for families that may need additional support during the upcoming Christmas celebration	
	PARISH SENIORS CHRISTMAS PARTY. will be on Saturday 13th December in the Parish Hall from 2.00 – 4.30pm. All Senior Parishioners are welcome to attend. Invitations to the Party have been available from Welcomers after Masses for the last two weekends, and are still available. Please return the invite to a Welcomer or to the Parish Office by Sunday 7th December, as we need to know the numbers to cater for.”	
	The military wives are giving a Christmas concert of songs at Christ the King parish church, Northumberland Ave. on Friday 12 th December at 7.30. Parking available. Admission is free and everyone is welcome. Donations will also be welcome. There will be refreshments during the interval.	
WINTER OPENING TIMES OF THE CHURCH Due to the reduction in daylight hours at this time of year, the Church will be open between 8.00am and 5.00pm and for Masses and other services.		
VOCATIONS DECEMBER NEWSLETTER: Vocations Newsletter December 25		
MY DAY BY DAY - ADVENT BOOKLETS Available in the Colonnade. Suggested donation £1 in the Flowers box please.		
ELEVATE CHRISTMAS PARTY: 12 th December 2025 at 6.00pm in the Hall.		

CONGRATULATIONS Flavia Botelho & Savio Andrades who are celebrating their 25th Wedding Anniversary. Flavia & Savio will receive a special blessing at 6.00pm Mass this Saturday, 6th December.

RECENTLY DECEASED
Please pray for the repose of the souls of: Laura Lehane RIP and Lynette Kelly RIP. Please keep them and their loved ones in your prayers.

PAPAL AWARD TO MALCOM AND SYLVIA LIVINGSTON
We shall celebrate Mass on Wednesday, 17th December at 5.00pm during which a papal award (Benemerenti Award) will be presented to Malcom and Sylvia Livingston. We extend our **congratulations** to them for qualifying to receive this recognition for their dedicated service to the Church in Portsmouth and in our Sister Archdiocese of Bamenda, Cameroon. We also assure them of our continuous prayers as a parish community.

ENGLISH MARTYRS @ 100

BED FOR THE NIGHT – WINTER 2026

Monday evenings /Tuesday mornings, from 5th January to 30th March in the parish hall.
Guests get an evening meal, a warm and safe place to sleep and breakfast the following morning.

ENGLISH MARTYRS PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: Monday 10th – Friday 14th August 2026

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

Full itinerary available on poster in colonnade.

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

CHRIST THE KING CHRISTMAS EVENT FOR STRUGGLING FAMILIES

Christ the King Parish, Whitley, is organising an event to support families who are feeling the financial pinch this year. They're hoping for donations of wrapped gifts (labelled by age and gender), along with any food items that could help make the day special. The event will take place on Sunday 14th December, and there may also be a small food bank available to give parents a little extra support during this difficult season. Families from outside Christ the King parish are welcome to attend. If anyone wants to donate to this event, please, contact the Parish Deacon of Christ the King parish through their parish office.



ADVENT HOPE

Saturday 13th December

10.00 am - 3.00 pm

An opportunity to REFLECT, SHARE and PRAY together with the



Carmelite Friars



St. Joseph's Church - Tilehurst - READING

Berkshire Drive, RG31 5JJ Tel. 0118 942 8632 sjtilehurst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

ESCORTED TOUR TO WESTPORT, KNOCK & CO MAYO, 08TH MARCH 2026.

£899.00 pps. Price includes flight from Heathrow or Luton, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Full use of leisure facilities. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock Shrine, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre & Kylemore Abbey. Irish music nightly. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

For more details see poster on Noticeboard



Building a Learning Community of
Faith, Hope and Love

OPEN MORNING WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER AT 9.30am

Is your child due to start school in September 2026? If so, have you considered our wonderful parish school, English Martyrs Catholic Primary, on Dee road? Applications need to be made by the deadline of *15th January 2026*. Parents should apply via the Reading Borough Council website: [Primary admissions - Brighter Futures For Children](#)
Parents also need to fill in and return to the school, the school's supplementary information form, which can be found on the school website: [Admissions - English Martyrs Catholic Primary School](#)

MASS INTENTIONS: Saturday 6th to Sunday 14th December 2025

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

Saturday 6th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Ann & Johnny Commins RIP
Sunday 7th	9.00am	Felix Pinto RIP
	11.30am	Ann Commins RIP
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	
	5.00pm	Rosalica Goes RIP
Monday 8th	9.30am	João Da Luz RIP
<i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	7.00pm	Brian Kerr and his family, Intention
Tuesday 9th	9.30am	Ann Commins RIP
Wednesday 10th	9.30am	Frank Jennings RIP
Thursday 11th	9.30am	Mary Cleary RIP
Friday 12th	9.30am	Ancet Rodrigues, Intention
Saturday 13th	10.00am	Maura Bolger RIP (1st Anniversary)
3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)		
Saturday 13th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6.00pm	Ann Commins RIP
Sunday 14th	9.00am	Filomena Araujo, Thanksgiving
	11.30am	Christopher O'Dowd RIP
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	
	2.30pm	Vietnamese Mass
	5.00pm	Eugene Carolan RIP

ADVENT CONFESSIONS 2025

St Joseph Tilehurst – December 17th at 7.00pm: Christ the King – December 18th at 7.00pm

Our Lady of Peace – December 20th at 10.00am; St John Bosco – TBC; English Martyrs – December 20th at 9:45am

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2025

Christmas Eve (24th December)

5.00pm: Vigil Mass for Children and their families

7.00pm. Second Vigil Mass.

11.15pm: Christmas Carol Service

Midnight: Christmas Midnight Mass

Christmas Day (25th December)

9.00am: Christmas Mass

11:30am: Second Christmas Mass.



BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON SCHOOL

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

6.00pm on Wednesday 10th December

At English Martyrs Church. **ALL WELCOME**

Followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall

There will be a collection for Alexander Devine Children's Hospice