

English Martyrs' Newsletter

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1ST FEBRUARY 2026






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 **EMERGENCY ONLY** CONTACT NUMBER: 07495 711537
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 9am to 3pm
All calls/emails are monitored. Email: office@englishmartyrsrdg.com

12E

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 FROM Sunday 1st February Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm Monday to Thursday at 9.30am Friday at 9.30am and 6.45pm Saturday at 10.00am and 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	CONFESSIONS From Sunday 1st February Sunday 30 mins before 9.00am, 11.30am & 5.00pm Masses Monday to Friday 15 mins before Mass Saturday after 10.00am Mass and at 5.30pm.
	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: On Friday from 10.00am to 5.00pm. Praise and Worship as usual until 5:45pm then Benediction/Angelus and at 6pm the Rosary is said. Mass for Peace is at 6.45pm.	
	PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS: As part of our First Friday devotion on 6 th February, let us say together the prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus at 8:30pm. This can be done individually or as a family/group using either the cards we distributed or the online version on our website homepage.	

THE BEATITUDES

In Matthew 5:1–12, Jesus sits on the mountainside and teaches the Beatitudes; words that turn the world's understanding of success, happiness, and power upside down. Rather than praising strength, wealth, or status, Jesus blesses the poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful, and those who hunger for righteousness. In doing so He reveals the heart of the Christian life: true happiness is found not in self-sufficiency, but in dependence on God.

The Beatitudes invite us to examine not only what we believe, but how we live. To be “poor in spirit” is to recognise our need for God in prayer and humility. To mourn is to allow our hearts to be moved by sin and suffering and to trust that God alone can bring true comfort. Meekness and mercy challenge us to resist anger, pride, and division, choosing patience, forgiveness, and compassion instead.





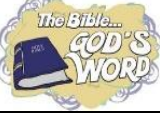




Jesus does not promise an easy path. He speaks honestly about persecution and rejection for those who follow Him faithfully. Yet He also promises something greater: the Kingdom of Heaven. The Beatitudes show us that holiness is not reserved for a few extraordinary people, but is possible in everyday faithfulness at home, in our parish, and in our world.

As we continue to grow spiritually, may the Beatitudes shape our hearts, guiding us to live as true disciples who reflect Christ's love and joy to others.

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:	4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	First: Zephania: 2:3; 3: 12-13. Psalm: 14(145); 6-10. Second: Corinthians: 1: 26-31. Gospel: Matthew: 5: 1- 12.	First: Isaiah: 58: 6-10 Psalm: 112(111); 4-9. Second: Corinthians: 2: 1-5. Gospel: Matthew: 5: 13- 16.
	NAME BADGE SUNDAY Another opportunity to meet and greet fellow parishioners by name and develop a better sense of community within the parish.	
	RCIA/JOURNEY IN FAITH. This week, the JIF group reflected on the <i>I Confess</i> , the prayer we say together at the beginning of Mass. We also looked at the coming season of Lent; how and why we celebrate this season in the Church. We then discussed this Sunday's Gospel on the Beatitudes before watching a clip from Bishop Barron's film on this topic: <i>Happy are We</i> from his Catholicism series. All those preparing to receive Sacraments of Initiation at Easter were encouraged to watch the whole film in the coming week. It was good to have our priests with us to share in discussions and offer guidance .	
	MONDAY 26th JANUARY. We were glad to welcome 10 guests in from the cold . New volunteers on the evening and overnight teams picked up the routines quickly. The chicken, leek and mushroom pie, with veg, and/or the rice and vegetables were greatly enjoyed and the delicious bannoffee pie disappeared very swiftly! The chess board was again in play, new guests found their feet and chatted easily. After a peaceful night two guests left early for work. Those with us at 8pm relished the cooked breakfasts and friendly hospitality on offer. Thank you to all volunteers, to donors and for your prayers.	
	EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE. NEXT MEETING(S) WILL BE ON: Wednesday 4th February at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel and Thursday 5th February at 7.30pm in Room 2.	
	FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Our next session will take place on Friday, 6th February at 6.00pm in the parish hall. This week, we will be exploring the Our Father - a truly beautiful and central prayer of our faith. After our session, Mass will begin at 6.45pm, and families are encouraged to join us.	
	TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK This week we are short of Cooking oil, washing up liquid, coffee, rice pudding, baked beans, custard, spaghetti hoops and hot dogs. Thank you for the generous donations we received this week and for your continued support	
	HANGING ON GRACE A journey through various forms of prayer. The Zoom link will remain the same throughout the course: - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89522128102?pwd=XoDhG99AJZFIFhSejylxhyl9QTv60Z.1 Meeting ID: 895 2212 8102 Passcode: 981456 Sessions start at 7:15pm UK Time. Next session is on:- 3rd Feb: Week 4 - The Prayer of Silence: 10th Feb: Week 5 - The Prayer of Intercession 17th Feb: Week 6 - Journaling Prayer & Spontaneous Prayer. NO SESSION on 24th Feb 3rd March: Week 7 - The Prayer of Thanksgiving & Praise (OPTIONAL). To register for these sessions, visit https://bit.ly/HangingontoGrace2026	
	CONGRATULATIONS TO: Raphael Onyewuchi who receives the Sacrament of baptism this Saturday 31 st January 2026. Please keep him and his family in your prayers at this special time.	

ENGLISH MARTYRS @ 100

15th April: Drop-in Cafe

8th May: Celebratory Mass with all our schools joining us.

23rd May: Litter picking in Prospect Park

24th May: Pentecost Community Lunch

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: LAST CALL

ALL BOOKING FORMS FOR THE PROPOSED LOURDES PILGRIMAGE MUST BE RECEIVED FULLY COMPLETED BY 9.00AM ON MONDAY MORNING, 2nd FEBRUARY.

SPARE BOOKING FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE COLONNADE IF YOU WOULD STILL LIKE TO GO. CURRENTLY WE DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT NUMBERS TO MAKE THE TRIP VIABLE.

THIS IS THE LAST OPPORTUNITY TO GO AS A PARISH GROUP.

PLEASE NOTE A DEPOSIT OF £300 PER PERSON IS NEEDED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

PARISH AFTERNOON TEA

The organisers of our Parish Afternoon Tea would like to thank the anonymous donor who gave a very generous donation towards the cost of running the Afternoon Tea events.

We are very grateful for your support. Thank you so much.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION, PORTSMOUTH BRANCH

The Catholic Women's Association, Queen of Peace Branch, Portsmouth, will attend our 10a.m Mass on Saturday 7th February and continue in the hall with their meeting. They will take the readings and lead singing of entrance, offertory, communion and exit hymns. We wish them a fruitful day of prayer and deliberation in our parish.

LENT 2026 BIBLE STUDIES

A FREE, six-week journey presented LIVE ONLINE by Mauro Iannicelli of Come & See Catholic Formation Ministries. STARTS: Tues 17th February, 2026 @7pm UK Time.

INFO & REGISTRATION: comeandsee.org/lent26. Check poster on Noticeboard/Parish Facebook.

LENT FORMATION: SAVE THE DATE:

Our parish will run a Lenten formation both in-person and on-line. We shall use a resource titled "WE DARE TO ASK". *WE DARE TO ASK* is both a resource for small group faith-sharing, and also for individual meditation, and features five sessions on the theme of our Baptismal Vocation. Each session includes scripture, prayers, and a reflection with questions. As we prepare to renew our baptismal promises at Easter, let us explore the depth of what baptism truly means.

In-person sessions (Thursdays in Parish Hall), and online sessions (Mondays on zoom).

More details to follow. See the notice board for Poster.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Currently we don't have sufficient numbers of catechist to support children's liturgy and therefore:

Children aged 5-8 years old are welcome to attend Children's liturgy. Children who are 4 years old can attend with an adult. No Entry into the hall is permitted once children's liturgy has started.

All children who attend Children's Liturgy guardians/parents need to complete a Children's liturgy consent form and return it to a Children's liturgy catechist.

Blank Children's liturgy consent forms can be found on the table outside the Bethlehem Chapel.

If you are interested in helping at Children's Liturgy at the 9am, 11:30am or 5pm Mass on Sunday, please contact: childrensliturgy@englishmartyrsrdg.com for more information.

REST IN PEACE Please pray for the souls of:

Ronald Hussey RIP, whose funeral will be here at 11.15am on Tuesday 3rd February.

James Hurley RIP, whose funeral service is at West Berkshire Crematorium on Wednesday 4th February.

Helena Kennedy RIP, whose funeral will be here at 12.45pm on Tuesday 17th February

Chandra Livingston RIP, whose funeral will be here at 11.15am on Wednesday 18th February

Please keep their loved ones in your prayers.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS: SATURDAY 31st JANUARY TO SUNDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2026

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

<i>Saturday 31st Jan (Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 1st February</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Jose Vicente Gonsalo Lourenco RIP</i>
	<i>11.30am</i>	<i>Celina Pearce RIP &</i>
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	<i>Jenneh Massaquoi RIP</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>Milko Delyanim RIP</i>
<i>Monday 2nd</i> <i>THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD, feast</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Louie Fearn's RIP</i>
<i>Tuesday 3rd</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Derek Taplin RIP</i>
	<i>11.15am</i>	<i>Requiem Mass for Ronald Hussey RIP</i>
<i>Wednesday 4th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Michael Conneelly RIP</i>
<i>Thursday 5th</i> <i>St Agatha, memorial</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Connor's Intentions</i>
<i>Friday 6th</i> <i>St Paul Miki & Companions, memorial</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Amelia Olivera &</i> <i>Gregor Gonsalo Lourenco RIP</i>
	<i>6.45pm</i>	<i>Eddie Gallagher RIP</i>
<i>Saturday 7th</i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Tessie Donahue RIP</i>

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

<i>Saturday 7th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>Jimmy Hurley RIP</i>
<i>Sunday 8th February</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Carmina Falcao RIP</i>
	<i>11.30am</i>	<i>Karen Gallagher RIP</i>
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>

IMPROVING LIGHTING AROUND THE CHURCH

Work on improving lighting all around our Church premises will begin this week. Hopefully, we will soon enjoy a brighter Church premises when it gets dark.

HOPE INTO ACTION

Volunteers needed! Could you offer an hour a week to provide friendship and support to people experiencing homelessness in Reading? English Martyrs, St James and St William of York RC Churches are working together with Hope into Action to offer real, life-changing support to people experiencing homelessness here in Reading. One of the most meaningful ways we do this is through our Friendship and Support Team; a group of volunteers who walk alongside the tenants in our Hope into Action homes, offering companionship, prayer, encouragement and practical help.

If you feel drawn to supporting someone as they rebuild their life, or if you'd simply like to explore what the role involves, please get in touch with Mary Lewis at reading@hopeintoaction.org.uk. You can also register with her for our next Hope Volunteer Training Day on Saturday 21st February. Your time, your listening ear, and your kindness can make a profound difference.

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST PROJECT: APOLOGETICS PROJECT

This landmark project is produced by the Archdiocese of Southwark. The project will consist of 52 videos, posted every Monday on YouTube. To provide assurances for the viewer that the information is from a trusted source, each video will feature a Catholic priest. Free worksheets (available at rcaos.org.uk/worksheets) will also be produced alongside each video to enable parishes, schools, youth groups and families to use them as part of their faith formation.