

# English Martyrs' Newsletter



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026

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 **EMERGENCY ONLY** CONTACT NUMBER: 07495 711537

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 9am to 3pm

All calls/emails are monitored. Email: [office@englishmartyrsrdg.com](mailto:office@englishmartyrsrdg.com)



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## 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> 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>	<b>TO DONATE TO OUR PARISH:</b> 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 FROM Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January</b> Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm Monday to Friday at 9.30am Saturday at 10.00am and 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	<b>CONFESSIONS From Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January</b> 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.
	<b>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: On Friday 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.</b>	

## RESPONDING TO JESUS' INVITATION WITH TRUST

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus begins His public ministry with a simple yet demanding invitation: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." He then walks along the Sea of Galilee and calls ordinary people, fishermen with nets in their hands and routines in their lives, to follow Him. Remarkably, Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John respond immediately. They leave behind their nets, their boats, even their father, and follow Jesus.


This passage reminds us that following Jesus is not first about having everything figured out; it is about trust. The disciples do not receive a detailed plan or explanation. They hear a voice, recognise an authority filled with love, and choose to step forward. Their response challenges us to ask: what nets am I holding onto? Nets are not always bad things; they can be our work, habits, comforts, or fears, but they can become obstacles if they keep us from moving when Jesus calls.

Matthew also tells us that Jesus goes about "teaching, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease." To follow Jesus means more than admiration from a distance; it means walking with Him in His mission. As baptised members of the Church, we are called to be missionary disciples, allowing Christ to shape our lives so that His light can reach others through us.


Jesus still walks along the shores of our lives today. He still calls. May we, like the first disciples, have the courage to listen, to let go, and to follow Him, trusting that whatever we leave behind is nothing compared to the life He offers.


# 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:-	2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	First: Isaiah: 9: 1b-4 Psalm: 27(26); 1-4.13-14. Second: Corinthians: 1: 10- 13, 17 Gospel: Matthew: 4: 12-23.	First: Zephania: 2:3; 3: 12-13. Psalm: 14(145); 6-10. Second: Corinthians: 1: 26-31. Gospel: Matthew: 5: 1- 12.


	<p><b>BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS FOR JANUARY</b> We extend our best wishes to everyone born in the month of January, who will be blessed after the Post Communion Prayer at all Masses this weekend. May God bless all their endeavours.</p>
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	<p><b>RCIA/JOURNEY IN FAITH.</b> This week, group members reflected on their experience of the Rite of Election last Sunday in their different roles as new catechumens, sponsors and supporters. They had valued the sense of the congregation's welcome and support in their journey towards the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter. This fitted well with our reflections on this Sunday's Gospel describing the call of the first disciples and what it means to follow the Lord in our daily lives as baptised Christians. A small group who cannot attend evening meetings met on zoom last Saturday to continue their preparation by watching, and discussing, a short film by Fr Stephen Wang: The Christian Creed.</p>
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	<p><b>MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY.</b> We again welcomed 7 overnight guests, who arrived on foot and by cycle. Several new volunteers quickly picked up the routines, guided by both guests and others in the teams. The Aubergine Chilli, Chicken Casserole and Lemon Tart were greatly appreciated. Draughts and Jenga games were played, with some volunteers being talked through their first chess games by a guest. Conversations were wide-ranging. Some guests settled early, others chatted till lights out, but all slept peacefully. One early riser left before 7am, but all others enjoyed the breakfasts and hospitality on offer. Thank you to all volunteers, to donors and for your prayers. Total Donations to date are: £185. You can also donate on the Dona Machine in the colonnade/hall if you wish.</p>
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	<p><b>EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE.</b> NEXT MEETINGS WILL BE ON: Wednesday 28th January at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel</p>
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	<p><b>TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE &amp; FOODBANK</b> This week we are short of Long life milk whole and semi skimmed, hot dogs, peanut butter, Baked beans, sugar, tinned potatoes, porridge, cooking oil, washing up liquid, toilet rolls, tinned mackerel, Squash and apple and orange juice. Thank you so much for your continued support</p>
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	<p><b>HANGING ON GRACE</b> A journey through various forms of prayer. The Zoom link will remain the same throughout the course: - <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89522128102?pwd=XoDhG99AJZFIFhSejylxhyI9QTv60Z.1">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89522128102?pwd=XoDhG99AJZFIFhSejylxhyI9QTv60Z.1</a> Meeting ID: 895 2212 8102 Passcode: 981456 Sessions start at 7:15pm UK Time on Tuesdays 13th Jan: Week 1- Introduction to Prayer 20th Jan: Week 2 - Praying with the Scriptures (You will need a bible for this session). 27th Jan: Week 3 - Praying with the Psalms 3rd Feb: Week 4 - The Prayer of Silence 10th Feb: Week 5 - The Prayer of Intercession 17th Feb: Week 6 - Journaling Prayer &amp; Spontaneous Prayer NO SESSION on 24th Feb 3rd March: Week 7 - The Prayer of Thanksgiving &amp; Praise (OPTIONAL). Register on link below To register for these sessions, visit <a href="https://bit.ly/HangingontoGrace2026">https://bit.ly/HangingontoGrace2026</a></p>
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**HEADTEACHER VACANCY:**  
Christ the King Catholic primary school Reading, are seeking to appoint a headteacher for September 2026.  
The details can be found at <https://www.christthekingreading.co.uk/staff-vacancies/>

# ENGLISH MARTYRS @ 100

## 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 and includes full board accommodation in a hotel close to the sanctuary, flights, transfers and a spiritual programme for the time I'm Lourdes.

More details are available in the colonnade.

**BOOKING FORMS AVAILABLE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE/COLONNADE & COMPLETED FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE PARISH OFFICE BY THIS WEDNESDAY, 28th JANUARY.**

### SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND FOR ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, PORTSMOUTH.



Our cathedral is situated in the most deprived part of the diocese. The parish collection covers just over half of the ordinary running costs of £5,000 per week. Please support the second collection this weekend. Never has this annual collection by parishes for the mother church of the diocese been more critical or needed. Thank you. Alternatively, you can donate online using the QR code on the left.

### 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 a resource for small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, featuring 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.

**ORGAN RESTORATION – UPDATE** Having reached our target amount, the fundraising campaign has now closed. A Big thankyou to all who donated and enabled us to reach our target. A Mass of thanksgiving will be held soon.

**WORLD LEPROSY DAY, SUNDAY 25th JANUARY 2026** Today we mark World Leprosy Day, a time to pray for and stand in solidarity with people affected by leprosy around the world. We remember the work of the John Bradburne Memorial Society, inspired by John Bradburne, who devoted his life to caring for those with leprosy at the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre in Zimbabwe. Please keep the people of Mutemwa in your prayers and consider supporting this vital work through prayer, awareness, or donation. [www.johnbradburne.com](http://www.johnbradburne.com), Tel: 07979 187498, Post: JBMS, PO Box 32, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 0YB, Email: [info@johnbradburne.com](mailto:info@johnbradburne.com).

### REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the souls of:

John Gorham RIP, whose funeral will be here at 12.30pm on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January.

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

James Hurley RIP, whose funeral service is at West Berkshire Crematorium on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**THE COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM** seeks help to purchase a property to accommodate their growing community and further their mission for the re-evangelisation of England.

Any amount, large or small, is greatly appreciated and the community assure you of their prayers.

See poster on the noticeboard in the colonnade for more details and information on how to donate.

**MASS INTENTIONS: SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> JANUARY TO SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> (Vigil Mass for Sunday)</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Mark Biggins RIP</b>
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Ann Commins RIP</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Margaret Dewar RIP</b>
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	
	<b>1.30pm</b>	<b>Cameroonian Mass</b>
	<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup></b> <i>St Timothy &amp; St Titus, memorial</i>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Dr Samuel, Margaret-Mary and members of the Nforgwei &amp; Tantoh families RIP</b>
<b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Henry Duggan RIP</b>
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup></b> <i>St Thomas Aquinas, memorial</i>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Manuel Xavier Do Rego RIP</b>
	<b>12.30pm</b>	<b>Requiem Mass for John Gorham RIP</b>
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Ciaran Mullin RIP</b>
<b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Nyla Nunes, Thanksgiving (12th Birthday)</b>
<b>Saturday 31<sup>st</sup></b> <i>St John Bosco, memorial</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Delaina Castelino, Thanksgiving</b>

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<b>Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> (Vigil Mass for Sunday)</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Jose Vicente Gonsalo Lourenco RIP</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Celina Pearce RIP</b>
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	
	<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>Milko Delyanim RIP</b>

**Keys Found - Please contact the Parish Office.**

**DOUAI ABBEY Programme of Workshops and Reflection days  
SPRING 2026 - See Noticeboard in Colonnade for details**

**Do you love to sing?**

The 11.30 Mass choir is looking for new members. If you can sing in tune and attend weekly practices on Thursday evenings, we'd love to hear from you.

To find out more, please talk to Tracey Gurr or Phil Gouge after Mass, or email us:  
tgurr@btinternet.com  
philgouge@hotmail.com



**VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

The Parish buys a Licence for copywriting song words & music and also the livestreaming of these. We are required to regularly log the hymns we use in church services (on a website). Ancet Rogrigues has been doing this important task until now, and we thank him sincerely for all his dedication and support with this task. However, we now need someone to take over this role. Please contact the Parish Office if you are willing to help. Thank you.