

English Martyrs' Newsletter

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

15TH 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:		TO DONATE TO OUR PARISH:	
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		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 15th February Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm Monday, Tuesday & Thursday at 9.30am Wednesday at 6.30am, 9.30am and 7.00pm Friday at 6.30am and 9.30am Saturday at 10.00am and 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	CONFESSIONS From Sunday 15th 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 6.00pm. From 5.00pm, Praise and Worship will feature music, scripture reading, guided reflection, a time of silence and concluding with Benediction.	

INTERIOR CONVERSION

Matthew 5:17–37 challenges us to move beyond a surface understanding of faith and into a deeper conversion of heart. Lent is this movement from external observance to interior transformation. It is not enough to avoid wrongdoing; Christ calls us to examine the roots of anger, resentment, dishonesty, and divided loyalty within us. When Jesus speaks about anger being as serious as murder, or lust as adultery of the heart, He reminds us that sin begins internally. Lent invites us into that honest self-examination. Where do I harbour grudges? Where do my words wound? Where is my “yes” not truly yes? These teachings are not meant to overwhelm us, but to awaken us to the seriousness of discipleship.

Jesus also emphasises integrity: “Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’” Lent is a time to simplify, to live truthfully before God without excuses or half-measures. Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we ask God to purify our intentions so that our outward actions reflect an inward commitment.

This Gospel reminds us that holiness is not about minimum requirements but about wholehearted love. As we prepare for Lent, we are invited to allow Christ to fulfil the law within us, reshaping our hearts, healing our relationships, and drawing us closer to the righteousness that flows from love rather than obligation.

ENGLISH MARTYRS PARENT AND BABY GROUP




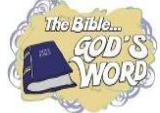




“PROVIDING A SPACE TO NURTURE PARENTS AND CHILDREN”

Exciting news. English Martyrs Parish is to start a Parent and Baby Group. If you have any young children - aged 0-3 years old, please come and join us with your child(ren) for coffee and a chat. The children will be provided with toys and playmats. We also hope to develop a Baby Mini Market place to help support each other. We will begin on Thursday, 26th February, from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. and will continue weekly, at the same time on Thursdays.

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:	6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	1 st SUNDAY IN LENT
	First: Sirach: 15: 15-20 Psalm: 119(118); 1-2.4-5.17-18.33-34. Second: Corinthians: 2: 6-10. Gospel: Matthew: 5: 17-37..	First: Genesis: 2: 7-9. 3:1-7 Psalm: 51(50); 3-6. 12-14. 17. Second: Romans: 5: 12-19. Gospel: Matthew: 4: 1-11.
	<p>RCIA/JOURNEY IN FAITH. This week, the group reflected on the Nicene Creed in which they will declare their belief at the Easter Vigil. We also discussed the Ten Commandments in the light of Jesus' call in this Sunday's Gospel to go deeper than the letter of the Law. Fr Innaiah then offered a presentation on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This weekend, at the 9 am Mass, our Catechumens and Candidates and their sponsors will be sent with the prayers of our parish community to the Rite of Election in Portsmouth Cathedral. There, they will be presented to Bishop Philip along with many other Catechumens and Candidates from across our diocese.</p>	
	<p>MONDAY 9th FEBRUARY. We were given the excellent news that two of our former guests at B4N have now been housed. 10 guests enjoyed the evening meal choices of vegetarian lasagne or sausage and onion pie, followed by sticky toffee pudding. Chess and dominoes were the popular games this week. We had 8 guests overnight, with one leaving early for work. An excellent breakfast was served. Thank you to all our volunteers: cooks, evening hosts, overnighters, the breakfast team, donors and those praying for guests, staff and volunteers.</p>	
	<p>EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE. NEXT MEETING(S) WILL BE ON: Wednesday 18th February at 10.30am in <u>ROOM 2</u> and Thursday 19th February at 7.30pm in Room 2.</p>	
	<p>CAN YOU HELP ? CIRDIC, the Reading Churches' Drop In Centre, is urgently looking for help serving lunches to Homeless and disadvantaged people on Tuesdays, alongside some fellow parishioners. If you can offer help from 11.30 to 2pm – even if only once a fortnight, we would love to hear from you. Contact the parish office or angela.wills@btinternet.com Help especially needed this week on Tuesday 17th February.</p>	
	<p>PARISH AFTERNOON TEA 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. The event is being held in the Parish Hall on Thursday 19th February 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.</p>	
	<p>BAPTISM Una Maria Elizabeth Reynard who receives the Sacrament of Baptism this Saturday 14th Feb. Leo Baran who receives the Sacrament of Baptism this Sunday 15th February. Please keep Una & Leo and their families in your prayers at this special time.</p>	
	<p>FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Our session will take place on Friday 20th February at 6.00pm. In this session, we'll be helping the children get ready to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation - discovering what happens, what it means, and why it is such an important step in their journey towards First Holy Communion.</p>	
<p>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.</p>		

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

CENTENARY CORNER

CENTENARY JOURNAL: VOICES OF THE PARISHIONERS

Would you like to contribute to our Parish Centenary Journal? Consider responding to the following question in not more than 75 words: *"HOW HAS ENGLISH MARTYRS PARISH SUPPORTED OUR SPIRITUAL AND SOCIAL LIFE?"* Send your reply to office@englishmartyrsrdg.com

It will be nice if you include a passport-size photo and your full name. If, for any reason, you prefer to be anonymous, that is fine.

Summary of Parish History: Many thanks to Chris Maude who has kindly offered to summarise the 4 Volumes of our Parish History, which will go into our Centenary Journal.

REST IN PEACE Please pray for the souls of:

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

Paddy Davis RIP who died on 4th February. Funeral details to be confirmed

Daniel Crowley RIP whose funeral will be here at 12.45pm on Monday 2nd March

Arthur Ryan RIP who died on 4th February. Funeral Service at Reading Crematorium (South Chapel) on 6th March at 1.45pm.

Please also keep their loved ones in your prayers.

C.A.F.O.D

THE 2026 BIG LENT COMMUNITY WALK

Please consider joining the Reading Parishes Big Lent Walk on Saturday, March 7th to help raise vital funds for CAFOD to fight global poverty and support communities overseas. You would join like-minded members of other Reading parishes for a community walk of about 6 miles for a global cause, your every step and every £1 raised bringing us closer to a better world. So please save the date! Full route details and schedules will be provided soon.

LENT FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL

The Lent Family Fast Day is Friday 27th February. This Lent, please endeavour to live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and donating what you save, you can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought. You can donate using the CAFOD envelopes available at the Masses on the weekend of 21st and 22nd February or by accessing the virtual envelope at cafod.org.uk/envelope.

Alternatively, you can call 0303 303 3030 or text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

CAFOD thank you for your generosity for blessing others with your support.

NEW ENGLISH MARTYRS CAFOD REPRESENTATIVE

We are grateful to Richard Tudor, who has served as our Parish CAFOD Representative so dutifully for several years, and has now decided to step down. Richard has faithfully kept the parish up to date with all their initiatives and has also helped prepare the parish for the Lent and Harvest Family Fast days. With this preparation, our Parish has excelled in the respective Collections.

We are pleased to announce that Chris Ferreira has graciously agreed to take over this role and will be supporting us in the upcoming Lent family fast day by speaking at all Masses next weekend - February 21st/22nd.

LENT FAITH SHARING OPPORTUNITIES

We now have copies of the resource (We Dare to Ask), which has been prepared to help us deepen our understanding of our witnessing as Baptised Catholics. A copy costs £3, payable at the Dona Machines or in cash, to be placed in the cash box behind the door leading into the Church from the Colonnade.

As we announced earlier, these resources are useful for group discussions, so we are organising both in-person (Thursdays) and online (Mondays) sessions from 7:30 p.m. to about 8:30 p.m., or a little after. It would be wonderful to join other parishioners in reflecting on how we can live out our baptism more fruitfully. The sessions will run for the five weeks of Lent, starting on the week commencing 23rd February.

MASS INTENTIONS: SATURDAY 14th TO SUNDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 2026**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<i>Saturday 14th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>John Fernandes & Natalina Gomes (Wedding Anniversary, Thanksgiving)</i>
<i>Sunday 15th February</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Vito Francis Araujo & Helena Lourenco RIP</i>
	<i>11.30am</i>	<i>Margaret O'Shea RIP</i>
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	
	<i>2.30pm</i>	<i>Vietnamese Mass</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>Ethelreda Davis RIP</i>
<i>Monday 16th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Robert Corrigan RIP</i>
<i>Tuesday 17th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Pat Campbell RIP</i>
	<i>12.45pm</i>	<i>Requiem of Helena Kennedy RIP</i>
<i>Wednesday 18th ASH WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>6.30am</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Tessie Donohue RIP</i>
	<i>11.15am</i>	<i>Requiem of Chandra Livingstone RIP</i>
	<i>7.00pm</i>	<i>Mary Fogarty RIP</i>
<i>Thursday 19th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Charlotte Connell RIP</i>
<i>Friday 20th</i>	<i>6.30am</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Malcolm Livingston Intention</i>
<i>Saturday 21st</i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Tess Donohue RIP</i>

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

<i>Saturday 21st (Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>Eden's Private Intentions</i>
<i>Sunday 22nd</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Chandra Livingston RIP</i>
	<i>11.30am</i>	<i>Margaret O'Shea RIP</i>
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>Thanksgiving</i>

VACANCY AT ENGLISH MARTYRS PARISH**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR – PART TIME 21 HOURS PER WEEK**

The role is part-time, 7 hours per day on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

For further information including the job description, please contact office@englishmartyrsrdg.com.

Ideally the successful candidate will commence employment in early March.

The closing date for submission of applications is Monday 23rd February 2026

ASH WEDNESDAY (FIRST DAY OF LENT)

Lent Begins on Wednesday 18th with Ash Wednesday celebration. This is a day of fasting and abstinence.

The [Code of Canon Law](#) establishes in Canon 1252 that fasting is obligatory from the age of 18 through the age of 59. Abstinence from meat is obligatory from the age of 14.

The [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#) explains in No. 2043 that abstaining from meat and fasting on the days established by the Church “ensures the times of ascesis and penance which prepare us for the liturgical feasts and help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart.”

We will have three Masses during which Ashes will be distributed: 6:30am, 9:30am and 7.00pm.

CURRENT JOB VACANCIES IN PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE

Click on link for all current vacancies [Careers - Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth](#)