

English Martyrs' Newsletter

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

1ST MARCH 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

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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 March Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm Monday to Thursday at 9.30am Friday at 6.30am, 9.30am and 7.30pm Saturday at 10.00am and 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	CONFESSIONS From Sunday 1st March 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. Stations of the cross at 7.00pm and Mass for Peace is at 7:30pm.	

THIS IS MY CHOSEN SON; LISTEN TO HIM

On the Second Sunday of Lent, we are invited up the mountain of the Transfiguration where we encounter Jesus Christ, revealed in glory. His face radiant and His garments dazzling white. Beside Him stand Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets.

Why does the Church place this moment before us in Lent? Because the road to Calvary can only be walked with the memory of glory. Jesus strengthens His disciples before His Passion; He gives them a glimpse of who He truly is so they will not lose heart when suffering comes.





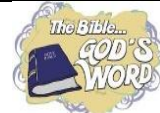




Lent is our ascent up the mountain. Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we step away from noise and distraction. In silence, we encounter Christ. And in that encounter, we find strength; not merely to admire Him, but to listen to Him. "This is my chosen Son; listen to Him." The Father's command echoes across the centuries into our own restless hearts.

When we truly listen to Jesus, fear loosens its grip. Trials do not disappear, but they are transformed. The light of Christ does not remove the cross; it reveals that the cross leads to resurrection.

May this Lent become a sacred encounter renewing our courage to follow Him wherever He leads.

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 IN LENT	3 rd SUNDAY IN LENT
	First: Genesis: 12: 1-4a Psalm: 33(32); 4-5. 18-19.20.22. Second: Timothy: 1: 8b-10. Gospel: Matthew: 17: 1-9.	First: Exodus: 17: 3-7 Psalm: 95(94); 1-2. 6-9. Second: Romans: 5: 1-2. 5-8. Gospel: John: 4: 5-42.
	NAME BADGE SUNDAY Another opportunity to meet and greet fellow parishioners by name and develop a better sense of community within the parish.	
	PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS: As part of our First Friday devotion on 6 th March, let us say together the prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus at 8:30pm. This can be done individually or as a family using either the cards we distributed or the online version on our website homepage.	
	MONDAY 23rd FEBRUARY. Perhaps because of the warmer weather, we had only six guests overnight this week. One guest took over two hours to walk to EM, moving his tent, belongings and bike from a site in town. Before and after the delicious cottage pie and/or pasta bake and the tasty pudding, guests could relax and games of chess, Uno, and Jenga were played, crosswords were tackled. Two guests had work on Tuesday. A generous hot breakfast fortified our guests to face the new day. We are so grateful to our cooks, hosts, overnights, donors and those praying for our guests, staff and volunteers.	
	EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE. NEXT MEETING(S) WILL BE ON: Wednesday 4 th March at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel and Thursday 5 th March at 7.30pm in Room 2.	
	BAPTISM Welcome to Lilianna Sendal who receives the Sacrament of Baptism this Saturday 28 th February. Please keep Lilianna and her family in your prayers at this special time.	
	LENT FOOD BANK We shall resume our Lent Food bank this weekend. Please, kindly bring only food items which are non-perishable as we will keep the items for the five weeks of Lent. Thank you for your generosity.	
	STATIONS OF THE CROSS FRIDAY 6th MARCH @ 7.00pm Group Leading: S.V.P. Organiser(s): Chris Ferreira & Stephen Hogg	
	FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION: Our next session will take place on Friday 6 th March at 6.00pm in the church hall. In this session, the children will be exploring the season of Lent— and how it helps us prepare our hearts for Easter.	
IN-PERSON SAFEGUARDING TRAINING There will be a DBS Safeguarding Training Session in the Main Hall on Saturday 7 th March between 1pm and 4pm with a short tea break. All DBS cleared volunteers have to undertake this training unless they have done it online. See Poster in the colonnade for more details.		
REST IN PEACE Please pray for the souls of: Paddy Davis RIP. Funeral will be at Our Lady & St Anne Church on Wednesday 4 th March at 1.00pm Daniel Crowley RIP whose funeral will be here at 11.15am on Monday 2 nd March Arthur Ryan RIP who died on 4 th February. Funeral service at Reading Crematorium (South Chapel) on 6 th March at 1.45pm. Please also keep their loved ones in your prayers.		

C.A.F.O.D

READING PARISHES COMMUNITY WALK ON 7TH MARCH

This is further information on this Big Lent Walk advertised in recent Newsletters. It is a 5 mile walk starting at 9.30am at St James Church (RG1 3FD) and finishing at approximately 1.30pm at Our Lady & St Anne's in Caversham (RG4 5AB). It includes a (first) pitstop at English Martyrs Church at about 10.30am. All ages and levels of fitness are welcome. More information, including details of the route and a BYO picnic lunch are shown on a poster on the notice board in the Colonnade. It also shows a QR code to access a funding page that walkers may wish to use to donate to CAFOD's Big Lent Walk fund.



CAFOD's BIG LENT WALK can also be walked by individuals over the 40 days of Lent. CAFOD Fundraiser and parishioner Paula Wild is planning to walk 200km over 40 days. If you would like to sponsor her then please use this link [Paula's fundraising page is fundraising for CAFOD.](#)

LENT FAITH SHARING

The in-person session began successfully on Thursday 26th at 7:30p.m in the hall and will continue next Thursday, same time. Bring more people with you. There are still copies of the resource "We Dare To Ask" sold at £3. Copies are in the Colonnade.

The ONLINE OPTION will take off this Monday 2nd March at 7:30p.m. You can join by clicking the following link: [Click here to join the meeting](#) or going to the Parish Calendar on our Website and clicking on "Ongoing Formation". At moment, the link says 7p.m but this session will start at 7:30p.m. Also, you can join by using the following Teams login details:

Meeting Name: Ongoing Formation". Meeting ID: 397 486 525 516; Passcode: z2sLwB

PARENT AND BABY GROUP

That started beautifully on Thursday 26th at 10:30am. The children who came were visibly happy with lots of toys to play with in a safe and friendly space and the parents interacted so well. There was an amazing display of children's items in the mini market. This will continue every Thursday at 10:30am in the hall. Please, invite even non-Catholic parents with children aged 0 - 3 years old.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will now resume after half-term and we are inviting parents to register their children (4-8 years) 10-15 minutes in the hall before Mass. Once Catechists reach the number of children they can safely take, they will ask Parents who register later to join the session to ensure Adult – child ratio is kept.

Consent forms will also be given to parents who have not completed one. This is a requirement that must be observed. We are still in need of more Adults to support this important activity

VOLUNTEER TO MANAGE HEATING OF CHURCH/HALL/MEETING ROOMS

We are grateful to Malcom Livingston who has managed the heating of our church, hall and meeting rooms for quite a few years. Now, Malcom is not too well and so cannot continue. We would appreciate if anyone can help to look after this important service in our parish community. Relevant orientation will be given.

Please, contact the Parish office if you can help.

VOLUNTEER TO PARISH MAINTENANCE TEAM

Our parish is currently setting up a Maintenance Team that will oversee repair works on our parish buildings. We need someone with good knowledge and contacts of building companies to support this team. Please, contact the parish office if you can help.

PARKING

It is always good to see a full church. However, at busy services there have been problems in the car park. So please bear in mind the following:

- Do NOT double-park so as to block another vehicle in. People sometimes need to leave urgently, possibly before the end of the service. They should not be trapped and forced to wait until the double-parker emerges.

- Do NOT park by (or on) the kerb near the Liebenrood Road gate. This severely restricts the road width.

In the event of an emergency these behaviours might also block access for an ambulance or a fire engine.

If you arrive to find the car park full, there is free parking all along the west side of Liebenrood Road, and in the Prospect Park car park (only 200 m from the church).

Please let common sense and courtesy prevail!

MASS INTENTIONS: SATURDAY 28th FEBRUARY TO SUNDAY 8th MARCH 2026

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

<i>Saturday 28th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>Philomena Shiels RIP</i>
<i>Sunday 1st March</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	<i>11.30am</i>	<i>Frank Clancy RIP</i>
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>Dickson & Roseline Fernandes, Thanksgiving.</i>
<i>Monday 2nd</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Patrick Herbert RIP</i>
	<i>11.15am</i>	<i>Requiem of Daniel Crowley RIP</i>
<i>Tuesday 3rd</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Miguel Salvador Rodrigues RIP</i>
<i>Wednesday 4th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Michael Heneghan RIP</i>
<i>Thursday 5th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Jack & Mary Knox RIP, and Michael & Nellie Moran RIP.</i>
<i>Friday 6th</i>	<i>6.30am</i>	<i>John McSorley RIP</i>
	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Alicja Wisniewska RIP</i>
	<i>7.30pm</i>	<i>Paul & Chandra Livingston RIP</i>
<i>Saturday 7th</i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Nazario Tilman De Andrade RIP</i>

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

<i>Saturday 7th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>Andzej Pogozelski RIP</i>
<i>Sunday 8th</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Anne Tudor RIP</i>
	<i>11.30am</i>	<i>Philomena Kirrane Intention</i>
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>

CURRENT JOB VACANCIES IN PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE

English Martyrs Parish Finance Administrator (P/T 8 hours a week) - Closing Date 2nd March
 Click on link for all current vacancies [Careers - Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth](#)

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.

PARISH STATISTICS IN 2025 FOR ENGLISH MARTYRS PARISH

BAPTISMS 31
RECEIVED INTO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH 2
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 42
CONFIRMATION 9
MARRIAGE 6
THOSE RECEIVING THE EUCHARIST AT HOME 20
FUNERALS 27

PLEASE KEEP THE DATE

Walsingham Pilgrimage being planned for English Martyrs Parish on 4th July 2026. We had a great day last year - please join us this year. Details to follow. We hope this will be a joint Pilgrimage with St Joseph's Tilehurst.

DOUAI ABBEY PROGRAMME - SPRING & SUMMER 2026

See Notice in the Colonnade for details of all upcoming events

MARY'S MEALS

On Sunday mornings we have refreshments after Mass and many of you make a donation. This money is collected for Mary's Meals. This week we have donated the sum of £445.45. One school meal costs 10p and £19.15 will feed a child for an entire school year. This means that we have donated 4454 meals and fed over 23 children for a school year. And that is since September..... Thank you all so much.