

English Martyrs' Newsletter

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

8TH 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/updates 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 8th March Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm Monday, Tuesday & Thursday at 9.30am Wednesday at 9.30am and 6.30pm Friday at 6.30am and 9.30am Saturday at 10.00am and 6.00pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	CONFESSIONS From Sunday 8th 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 6.00pm. From 5.00pm, Praise and Worship will feature music, scripture reading, guided reflection, a time of silence and concluding with Benediction.	

JESUS OFFERS US LIVING WATER

In the Gospel of St John 4:5–42, we encounter Jesus at the well with the Samaritan woman; a meeting that becomes a turning point not only for her, but for her entire town.

Tired and thirsty from His journey, Jesus asks for a drink. Yet it is He who offers the greater gift: “living water.”

At first, the woman thinks only of physical thirst. Like her, we often focus on our immediate needs (success, approval, comfort) drawing again and again from wells that never truly satisfy. But Jesus speaks of water that becomes “a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The living water He offers is His very life: the grace of the Holy Spirit poured into our hearts, cleansing, renewing, and sustaining us.

To drink this living water is to believe in Him, to open our hearts honestly as the Samaritan woman eventually does. Jesus reveals that He knows her story completely, yet He does not turn away. Instead, He invites her into true worship “in Spirit and truth.” In that encounter, shame gives way to mission. She leaves her water jar behind, symbol of her old thirsts, and runs to tell others, “Come see a man who told me everything I have done.”

When we drink deeply of Christ through prayer, the Sacraments, and Scripture, we too are transformed. Our hearts are satisfied, and our fear loosens its grip. Like the woman at the well, we become witnesses. The living water we receive is never meant to be kept; it overflows for the life of the world.

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:	3 rd SUNDAY IN LENT	4 th SUNDAY IN LENT
	First: Exodus: 17: 3-7 Psalm: 95(94); 1-2. 6-9. Second: Romans: 5: 1-2. 5-8. Gospel: John: 4: 5-42.	First: Samuel: 16: 1b. 6-7. 10-13 Psalm: 23(22); 1-6. Second: Ephesians: 5: 8-14. Gospel: John: 9: 1-41.
	<p>RCIA/JOURNEY IN FAITH. The group are now preparing more intensively to receive the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil. This week, we explored Sunday's Gospel story of the Samaritan Woman whose own encounter with Jesus leads her to share her new-found faith in Jesus with all her neighbours. We also watched and discussed Bishop Barron's film on the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Seeing our parishioners reverently receiving the Holy Eucharist at Mass is also a great encouragement to our Elect and Candidates for Confirmation. Please add your assurance of prayer and support for them all in our parish Book of the Elect which is available in the centre of the church.</p>	
	<p>MONDAY 2nd MARCH. This week we had 7 guests for dinner and 6 who stayed overnight. Sudoku was added to the evening mix, with a volunteer guiding a new player in how to tackle the puzzles. Our guests were well fed with delicious Keema and Aloo curries, followed by apple crumble and custard. A quiet night, snoring apart, and the breakfast team served up the very popular full English Martyrs' hot breakfast to help our guests face the varied challenges of a new day. Thank you to all our volunteers and those praying for our guests, staff and volunteers.</p>	
	<p>EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE. NEXT MEETING(S) WILL BE ON: Wednesday 11th March at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel.</p>	
	<p>LENT FOOD BANK Please, bring only food items which are non-perishable as we will keep the items during Lent. Thank you for your generosity.</p>	
	<p>STATIONS OF THE CROSS FRIDAY 13th MARCH @ 7.00pm Group Leading: Filipino Community Organiser(s): Sen Buhay</p>	
	<p>CHILDREN'S LITURGY On Sunday 8th March 2026, from 9 am-11:30 am, Gavin Knight, our safeguarding minister, will be available to undertake DBS ID and documentation checks. If you are interested in supporting children's liturgy, please attend with a valid ID, such as your passport, driving licence, or a utility bill dated within the last three months. If you do not have the DBS forms, please do not worry, as they can be provided. Please note that all parents whose children attend children's liturgy must complete a consent form to allow their child to attend. Consent forms will be available to complete before Mass this week.</p>	
<p>DBS CHECKS Gavin will also be available on Sunday, 8th and Sunday 15th from 9 am - 11:00 am to undertake DBS ID verification and documentation checks. Please attend on either date, should you wish to take part in any activities or groups within the church that require DBS checks. Required ID: 3 forms. At least one must have your home address on, and one with full name and date of birth such as: Passport, Driving licence, Utility bill less than 3 months old and not a download, Bank/credit card statement. Not a download, Current Council Tax bill, National Insurance number. Addresses going back 5 years. No mobile phone statements. If you've had a change of name, proof of the change. i.e. birth/marriage certificate or deed poll letter. ORIGINALS ONLY, NO COPIES.</p>		

OUR LADY'S GARDEN IN ENGLISH MARTYRS PRIMARY SCHOOL

English Martyrs School is hoping to tidy and clean our Mary statue and improve the surrounding green area, which is in need of some TLC. If any parishioners with gardening experience would be willing to offer their time or advice, we would be most grateful. Even a small group of helpers would make a wonderful difference. Please email jwalsh@englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk



CAFOD's BIG LENT WALK can also be walked by individuals over the 40 days of Lent. CAFOD Fundraiser and parishioner Paula Wild is walking 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 is on Thursdays at 7:30pm in the parish hall. There are still copies of the resource "We Dare To Ask" on sale in the Colonnade price £3.00.

The ONLINE OPTION is on Mondays at 7:30p.m. You can join by clicking the following link: [Click here to join the meeting](#) or go to the Parish Calendar on our Website and click on "Ongoing Formation". Sessions start at 7:30pm. You can also join by using the following Teams login details:

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

PARENT AND BABY GROUP Every Thursday at 10:30am. The children can play with lots of toys in a safe and friendly space. There is also a display of children's items in the mini market. Parents with children between 0 and 3 years old are welcome to join us – regardless of religious belief.

VOLUNTEER TO MANAGE HEATING OF CHURCH/HALL/MEETING ROOMS

We are looking for someone who 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 ASSIST 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 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!

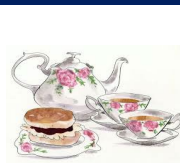
DONATION FOR THE CELEBRATION OF FR RICHARD'S RUBY JUBILEE

We are looking forward to celebrating a wonderful milestone of 40 years of Fr Richard Maniak's service in the Priesthood. Our parish will need to purchase a lovely gift for Fr Richard and organise celebrations to mark this important moment. Please, contribute towards this celebration by using our Dona Machines or directly to our Parish online banking details in the newsletter with reference being *Fr Richard*.

SUPPORT NICK GURR IN THE READING HALF MARATHON.

Our Parishioner Nick Gurr will take part in the Reading Half Marathon which takes place on 22nd March. He is running to support our beloved Hope Into Action team and projects.

We can sponsor Nick via the following link: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/nickgurr>



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 March 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."



SUNDAY 22ND MARCH - READING HALF MARATHON

Details of road closures and amendments to Mass arrangements, car parking etc., will be published next weekend.

MASS INTENTIONS: SATURDAY 7th TO SUNDAY 15th MARCH 2026

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>
<i>Monday 9th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Patrick Herbert RIP</i>
<i>Tuesday 10th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Tony Flaherty RIP</i>
<i>Wednesday 11th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Eugene & Mark Herbert RIP</i>
	<i>6.30pm</i>	<i>THANKSGIVING MASS For the Organ Restoration Project</i>
<i>Thursday 12th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>João Da Luz RIP</i>
<i>Friday 13th</i>	<i>6.30am</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Margaret Hutson RIP</i>
<i>Saturday 14th</i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Kathleen Brown RIP</i>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

<i>Saturday 14th (Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>Regson do Rego, Thanksgiving</i>
<i>Sunday 15th</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Maeve Nolan RIP</i>
	<i>11.30am</i>	<i>Norah O'Dowd RIP</i>
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	
	<i>1.30pm</i>	<i>Cameroonian Mass</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>Jamie Spreadbury RIP</i>

CURRENT JOB VACANCIES IN PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the souls of:

Anthony Howard RIP.
Funeral details to be confirmed.

Dennis Proctor RIP. His Funeral will be at English Martyrs on Thursday 19th March at 11.30am

Please also keep their loved ones in your prayers.

KEY DATES FOR PARISH EVENTS 2026

We have now published the key dates for Parish events for the rest of 2026. Please check the noticeboard in the Colonnade, our Website and our Parish Facebook page.

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DOUAI ABBEY PROGRAMME - SPRING & SUMMER 2026

See Notice in the Colonnade for details of all upcoming events

ADORE SPIRITUAL MINI-RETREAT 21ST MARCH 10.00-1.00 ON ZOOM.

"THE SPIRIT OF LOVE." The Holy Spirit transforms us by opening us to God's love. Mini retreat morning Includes Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prophecy, and Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit, There will be an inspiring talk by guest speaker Daniella Stephens, a dynamic young Catholic evangelist and conference speaker.

Register in advance at bit.ly/ADOREMAR2026
More information at www.altonrenewal.com

NEXT WEEKEND: THERE WILL BE A SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE CLERGY ASSISTANCE FUND