

English Martyrs' Newsletter

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

12TH APRIL 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: Shyamalie McArthur. 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

Vacancy: 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 12 th April Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm Monday to Friday at 9.30am Saturday at 10.00am and 6.00pm (Sunday Vigil)	CONFESSIONS From Sunday 12 th April Sunday 30 mins before 9.00am, 11.30am & 5.00pm Masses Monday to Friday 15 mins before Mass Saturday after 10am Mass and at 5.30pm.	
	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: On Friday from 10.00am to 5.00pm. From 5.00pm, Praise and Worship featuring music, scripture reading, guided reflection, a time of silence and concluding with Benediction.		

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH MERCY

Divine Mercy Sunday invites us to rediscover a truth that can be easy to forget: God's mercy is not distant or abstract, but it is personal, constant, and meant for us. We come to know this mercy not by being perfect, but by allowing ourselves to be loved in our imperfection.

In the Gospel, the risen Christ returns to His disciples not with anger, but with peace. He shows His wounds and offers forgiveness. This is how God reveals His love. He does not ignore our sins but he transforms them through mercy. When we bring our failures, fears, and doubts to Him, we do not encounter rejection, instead we encounter compassion.

We come to know God's mercy most deeply through trust. Jesus says, "Trust in me." Trust opens the door for grace to enter our hearts. It means believing that God's love is greater than our worst mistakes and that His desire to forgive is stronger than our tendency to fall.


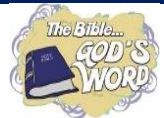




The sacraments, especially Reconciliation and the Eucharist, are powerful encounters with this mercy. In confession, we hear the words of absolution spoken directly to us. In the Eucharist, we receive Jesus Himself, the very source of mercy. And we can know God's mercy by sharing it. When we forgive others, show kindness, and serve those in need, we become living signs of His love.

Divine Mercy is not just a devotion for one Sunday; it is a way of life. The more we trust, receive, and give mercy, the more we come to know the depth of God's love for us.

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 / X (formerly 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:	2 nd SUNDAY OF EASTER	3 rd SUNDAY OF EASTER
	First: Acts: 2: 42-47. Psalm: 118(117); 2-4. 13-15. 22-24. Second: Peter: 1: 3-9 Gospel: John: 20: 19-31.	First: Acts: 2: 14. 22-33. Psalm: 16(15); 1-2. 5. 7-11. Second: Peter: 1: 17-21. Gospel: Luke: 24: 13-35.
	EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING(S) WILL BE ON: Monday 13 th April 7.30pm in Room 2; Wednesday 15 th April at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel.	
	TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK We are supporting approximately 40 households with food and household products. Many thanks to your very generous donations. This week we are short of weetabix, tea bags, instant coffee, long life juice, baked beans, cooking oil, tinned corned beef/spam/hotdogs, white rice, adult toothpaste and washing-up liquid. Financial donations can be made to CDP Reading St Joseph. Sort Code: 30-93-04. Account No: 00885992. Please include as a reference, 'Foodbank'. Many thanks.	
	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 23 rd April 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."	
	FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION: Next Session: Friday 17 th April at 6.00pm in the Church Hall In this session, the children will be learning about the Eucharist, helping them grow in understanding of this beautiful sacrament as they prepare to receive Jesus for the first time.	
	DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: 2.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 3.00pm - Divine Mercy celebration led by Fr. Richard.	

MARRIAGE SUPPORT:

From relationships that are 'Just in a Rut', needing some refreshment or more serious issues - If you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. We have helped thousands of couples get their relationship back on track as they rediscovered hope and trust in the marriage.

To find out more visit: www.retrouvaille.org.uk or Tel: +44 7973 380443

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL is seeking two Foundation Governors to join their Governing Body. If you would like to find out more, please contact the school office to arrange a chat with Mr Carroll or Mr Dworzak. Alternatively, find out more at: <https://www.casoportsmouth.org.uk/applying-to-be-a-governor/> or apply directly by completing this form:

<https://portsmouthdiocese.sharepoint.com/:w/s/CASOWebsiteDocumem>

Divine Mercy Sunday Feast 2026 Celebrations at St Andrews Church, Washington Drive, Cippenham, Slough SL1 5RE on 12th April 2026 at 2:30 pm. The service will be led by Mgr Sean Healy and will include Enthronement of the Image of Merciful Jesus, Mass, Talk, Chaplet, Adoration and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome to celebrate this glorious feast. Please call millie on WhatsApp 07957 594646 for more information.

PROJECTS UPDATE: BURGLARY AND SMOKE ALARMS

For some time now, our burglar alarm has been playing up and interrupting important events in the Parish. We have now agreed that the Halo company that provides our CCTV will take over provision of our burglary and smoke alarm. They are coming in to do work on these this coming Thursday. We hope this will put an end to the sudden going off of our burglar alarm. Many thanks to our newly formed Maintenance Team, led by Stephen Hogg, who are following this up.

MARRIAGE RETREAT JUNE 12th to 14th : ISLE OF WIGHT

This retreat is for engaged and married couples, wanting to strengthen the marital relationship rooted in the love of God. Arrive: Friday 12th. Depart: Sunday 14th. Children are welcome - child care can be arranged. Accommodation provided at centre. Price: £150 for cost of stay. Donations needed to support running event.

For more information, please contact us at: verbumdei.iow@gmail.com

CONFIRMATION GROUP restarts on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th April.

BARN DANCE Friday 19th June 2026. 7:00pm to 10:30pm in the Parish Hall. A night of fun and frolic for all ages in aid of Cathedral Renovation and the Upgrading of English Martyrs Audio Visual System.
ADULTS £15.00; CHILD (5-12) £10.00; Under 5's Free. (Ticket price includes sit down meal)

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

We are pleased to announce that on Saturday July 4th 2026, the Parishes of English Martyrs and St Joseph's, will join together in a Pilgrimage to Walsingham.

Coach departs English Martyrs Church at 5.30am and returns at approx. 9.00pm.

The price for the day will be £40.00. We request that a deposit of £10.00 is paid in order to confirm your place on the bus. The deposit can be paid through English Martyrs Church.

If you have any further questions, please contact Chris Ferreira (christabel1850@gmail.com) or Aline Philips (alinephillips1@aol.co.uk).

ADORE SPIRITUAL MINI-RETREAT 25TH APRIL 10.00-1.00 ONLINE. "SURRENDER TO LOVE." The Holy Spirit transforms us by helping us surrender to God's love. Mini retreat morning Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring talk from speaker Geoff Poulter, trainer in prophecy, healing and discipleship. Attend in person if possible at St. Joseph's, Christchurch, Dorset. Details at https://www.altonrenewal.com/this_month



Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Fernanda Da costa De Leça RIP - Her Requiem Mass will be held here at English Martyrs on Monday 20th April at 11.00am

Eileen Knox RIP. Her Requiem will be held here at English Martyrs on Tuesday 21st April at 1.30pm.

Please keep their loved ones in your prayers.

SECOND COLLECTION FOR FATHER RICHARD'S RUBY JUBILEE GIFT/CELEBRATION

As we look forward to celebrating Fr Richard's milestone in the Priesthood, we are considering presenting a parish gift that reflects our love and appreciation for Fr Richard's amazing ministry among us. We will be having a second collection next weekend, 18th/19th April, towards this.

25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF FEMINA FERNANDES AND NAZAREN DA SILVA

Congratulations to Femina and Nazaren who are marking a big milestone in their married life. The occasion of their 25th Wedding anniversary will be celebrated during the 10.00am Mass on Saturday 18th April.

There will be singing of three hymns, renewal of marriage vows, blessing of rings and a little word before the final blessing. Consequently, this mass may be a little longer than the usual Saturday morning Mass.

MASS INTENTIONS: SATURDAY 11th TO SUNDAY 19th APRIL 2026**2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)**

<i>Saturday 11th (Sunday Vigil)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 12th</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Mary Fahy RIP</i>
	<i>11.30am</i>	<i>Joao Da Luz RIP</i>
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	
	<i>2.00pm</i>	<i>Vietnamese Mass</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>Theotonia Goes RIP</i>
<i>Monday 13th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Fr George Curton RIP</i>
<i>Tuesday 14th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Mark Sylvester-Williams RIP</i>
<i>Wednesday 15th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Maria Vitoris Fernandes & Filip Ambrose Araujo RIP</i>
<i>Thursday 16th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Alan Williams RIP</i>
<i>Friday 17th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Eileen Knox RIP</i>
<i>Saturday 18th</i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Roque and Nazaren Da Silva 25th Wedding Anniversary</i>

3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER

<i>Saturday 18th (Sunday Vigil)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>Fransquinah Fernandes</i>
<i>Sunday 19th</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Eleanor Cox's Private Intentions</i>
	<i>11.30am</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>Ann Commins RIP</i>

RELAUNCHING ALPHA IN OUR PARISH

We are glad to introduce this year's Alpha 2026 programme in our parish. The Alpha course is designed to explore the foundations of the Christian faith in an open and relaxed environment with meals provided at each session. The course unpacks topics on who Jesus is, how to read the bible, develop a strong faith and much more. Our Parish Alpha will run weekly, from the 13th May to 15th July 2026 and is open to parishioners and those from all walks of life and faith. We are also seeking volunteers who would be willing to join the catering/meal coordinating team for the duration of this programme as well as any monetary donations towards the course. For more information on signing up to the Alpha course or volunteering, please email Godly Sowah:

godlysowah.nii@googlemail.com.

**PURCHASE OF NEW CHAIRS
IN OUR PARISH HALL**

As our current chairs in the hall are gradually falling apart, we need new chairs for safety reasons. We now have two donations towards the purchase of new chairs for our hall.

Anonymous Donor: £500.00

Fr Richard and the Polish Community during blessing of Food on Holy Saturday: £212.14

We welcome more donations towards this project. We are also hoping to receive about 13 chairs from the Reading Library.

**FR GASTON'S EASTER LEAVE:
SUNDAY 12TH TO SATURDAY
18TH APRIL.**

OXFORD PRO-LIFE DRINKS. Saturday 18th April | 7.00pm | The Victoria, (90 Walton St, Oxford OX2 6EB). Come along to relax with like-minded people and keep connected with the pro-life community in Oxford. New comers are especially welcome! Just turn up, and why not bring a friend? Visit our website for more info and to RSVP oxfordprolife.org.uk.