

English Martyrs' Newsletter

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

5TH 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 5 th April Easter Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm Easter Monday at 10.00am Tuesday to Friday at 9.30am Saturday at 10.00am and 6.00pm (Sunday Vigil)	CONFESSIONS From Sunday 5 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.		

INVITED TO ACTIVELY STEP BACK INTO THE EASTER STORY

Easter is not just one important feast. It's the reason we have Sunday Mass at all. Every Sunday-every single one-is a "little Easter," a weekly mini-celebration of the resurrection. That's why Catholics are called to worship every Sunday: we're not just fulfilling a rule-we're stepping into the story again. Every time we hear "This is my body, given up for you," we're reminded: this is real. It happened. And it's happening still.


The resurrection isn't a metaphor or a feel-good myth. It's the moment Jesus crushed death underfoot and turned a torture device-the Cross-into a throne of glory. That's why Easter doesn't end on Easter Sunday. It explodes into eight full days (the Octave) and stretches into fifty days of joy. It's not just about one morning at the tomb. It's about what it means for all our mornings, and all our tombs.


Easter tells us that love wins, not by avoiding suffering, but by going through it and coming out the other side radiant with glory. It reminds us that no matter how dark the world gets, the stone will be rolled away. And when we gather at the altar every Sunday, when the priest breaks the bread and lifts the chalice, we're stepping right back into that story; not as observers, but as participants. We are the Easter people, and Alleluia is our song.

May the Joy of this Easter bring about a new beginning in our parish so that those who encounter us will go away more enlivened with love, joy and peace.

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:	EASTER SUNDAY	2 nd SUNDAY OF EASTER
	First: Acts: 10: 34a. 37-43. Psalm: 118(117); 1-2.16-17.22-23. Second: Colossians: 3: 1-4. OR Corinthians5:6b-8 Gospel: John: 20: 1-9.	First: Acts: 2: 42-47. Psalm: 118(117); 2-4. 13-15. 22-24. Second: Peter: 1: 3-9 Gospel: John: 20: 19-31.

	NAME BADGE SUNDAY Another opportunity to meet and greet fellow parishioners by name and develop a better sense of community within the parish.
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	EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING(S) WILL BE ON: Wednesday 8 th April at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel.
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	TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK Donations to this foodbank resume on & from Easter Sunday.
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	BOOKSTALL/REPOSITORY will be open at the usual times. Don't forget that as well as our normal stock, we also have a number of second- hand books that can be taken for a small donation to CAFOD or Life.
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	WEDDING Please, pray for Rosemarie McDonagh and John McDonagh, who were married last Saturday 28th March. May they have a fruitful and happy marriage.
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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. In a Catholic primary school, Foundation Governors are specifically appointed by the Bishop to ensure that the school's religious character is preserved and developed. They serve as a link between the Parish, the Diocese, and the school, ensuring that Catholic values remain at the heart of everything they do. 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.casopportsmouth.org.uk/applying-to-be-a-governor/> or apply directly by completing this form: <https://portsmouthdiocese.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/CASOWebsiteDocumem>

	Life in the Spirit is being run again in the Portsmouth Diocese starting on Thursday 23rd April. There are seven sessions with the last one being on the 18th June, due to Ascension Day and half-term. The Holy Spirit Day will also be at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke on 23rd May, the Eve of Pentecost, a brilliant time to receive an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. These sessions are being held online, but there are also live sessions at St Bede on the relevant dates. For more details and to register, please see https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/0ntyh8dxTF6b72BXv1LByg or use the QR code on the right.	
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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

GOING INTO HOSPITAL: If you or a loved one has to go 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.

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)

Parishioners from all parishes are invited to join together for an outing on Saturday 20th June to see 'THE LIFE OF CHRIST', details as shown on the poster in the colonnade.

Ticket prices are: Adult £40.00: Child (3-18 yrs) £20.00: Family ticket; (2 adults, 2 children) £110.00
Groups of 30 or more can enjoy a 15% discount on ticket prices. Bookings would need to be done by the end of May so please contact Mel on 0118 996 7208 as soon as you can.

Note: Other dates are also available for the discount.

Travel to & from the event is still to be finalised but do consider car sharing as a viable option.

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

EASTER OFFERING FOR OUR CLERGY

The Easter Collection is traditionally given to the priests of our Parish.

It is an opportunity for parishioners to give thanks to God for the ministry of our priests Fr Gaston & Fr. Innaiah. Please use the yellow envelopes that were provided over the Palm Sunday Weekend (and are still available at rear of the church) to make your donation and particularly if you are able to gift aid your gift. You can also pay through the 'Contactless Machines' in the Colonnade and the Hall.



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.

NEW PARISH MAINTENANCE TEAM: We are pleased to announce the formation of a new Parish Maintenance Team to coordinate all maintenance within our parish. The Team is led by Stephen Hogg, with the other members being Dennis Crimmins, Peter McDonald, Graham Finch, Phil D'Arcy, Jacob Ceperko, and Cyprain Ndah.

A WORD OF GRATITUDE: I would love to thank everyone in our Parish for our prayer Lenten Journey. Our Lenten observances at the level of the Parish went hitch-free and I trust that we are already reaping the spiritual benefits. I especially thank all those who sacrificed time and resources to plan and execute the Lenten activities. I thank all who have worked so hard especially to ensure a smooth Holy Week celebration. Every little input into the life of the Parish goes a long way to make a difference. Please, do not be afraid to get involved. Fr Gaston Forbah Afah.

RESPONSE FROM FR GASTON ON HIS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: I wish to thank all the parishioners for your love and prayers shown to me as I celebrated the first decade of my priestly ministry last weekend and on Monday. The turnout, especially on Monday, was huge and very encouraging. May God bless you all and grant your hearts' desires. Please continue to pray for your priests and pray for more priests.

MASS INTENTIONS: SATURDAY 4th TO SUNDAY 12^h APRIL 2026**EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

<i>Saturday 4th (Easter Vigil)</i>	<i>8.30pm</i>	<i>Pedro Rodrigues RIP Joseph Perera RIP</i>
<i>Easter Sunday 5th</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Tony Howard RIP</i>
	<i>11.30am</i> <i>Live Streamed</i>	<i>John Lourenco Fernando RIP Micaela Travasso RIP</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Easter Monday 6th (Bank Holiday)</i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Chris and Ferdynand Bojda RIP</i>
<i>Tuesday 7th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Kevin Commins RIP</i>
<i>Wednesday 8th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Tom Sheehan RIP</i>
<i>Thursday 9th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Annie Kate, Thomas, Martin, William & Tommie Walsh RIP</i>
<i>Friday 10th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Dickson and Hannah Fernandes Thanksgiving</i>
<i>Saturday 11th</i>	<i>10.00am</i>	
2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER		
<i>Saturday 11th (Sunday Vigil Mass)</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>Live Streamed</i>	<i>Joao Da Luz RIP</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>Theotonia Goes 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**

We are currently looking to get good-quality chairs to replace those currently in the hall, which have been in use for quite a while and are now due for replacement.

We recently received an anonymous donation of £500 for which we are very grateful.

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

READERS FORMATION AND TRAINING

All members of the Readers Ministry in our Parish are reminded of their annual formation and training on Saturday 11th April beginning with Holy Mass at 10am and continuing in the hall with formation, discussion, and training.