

English Martyrs' Newsletter

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

17TH MAY 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

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

12F

PARISH SAFEGUARDING MINISTERS/CONTACT DETAILS/ROLES

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 17th May Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm Monday to Thursday at 9.30am Friday at 9.30am and 6.30pm (Fr. Richard 40 th Anniversary) Saturday at 10.00am: and 6.00pm (Vigil)	CONFESSIONS From Sunday 17th May 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 featuring music, scripture reading, guided reflection, a time of silence and concluding with Benediction.		

KNOWING GOD THROUGH THE SACRAMENTS

John's Gospel invites us into the intimate prayer of Jesus to the Father. As Jesus prepares for his Passion, he speaks of eternal life as this: "to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." Knowing God is not simply understanding ideas about him; it is entering into a living relationship of love. The Sacraments are the principal means by which Christ gives us this gift.

In Baptism, we are adopted as God's beloved children and welcomed into the family of faith. In the Eucharist, Jesus continues to reveal himself, giving us not only grace but his Body and Blood, truly and substantially. Each time we receive Holy Communion, we are drawn more deeply into the life of God.

In Reconciliation, we encounter the mercy of Christ who restores us when sin has wounded our relationship with him. Through the Sacraments, Jesus remains close to his people, sanctifying us and teaching us how to live as his disciples.

In today's Gospel, Jesus prays for those the Father has entrusted to him. That prayer includes us. We are not alone in our journey of faith. Christ continues to guide and protect his Church through the Sacraments, where heaven touches earth in ordinary signs made holy by grace.

As we gather in parish life, may we approach the Sacraments with renewed faith and gratitude, trusting that through them we truly come to know the heart of God.

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:	7 th SUNDAY OF EASTER (17/05)	PENTECOST (24/05)
	First: Acts: 1: 12-14. Psalm: 27(26); 1.4. 7-8. Second: Peter: 4: 13-16. Gospel: John: 17: 1-11a.	First: Acts: 2: 1-11. Psalm: 104(103); 1ab.24ac. 16.20. Second: Peter: 3: 15-18. Gospel: John: 14: 15-21.
	RCIA/JOURNEY IN FAITH: Next Tuesday, 19th May, is the final meeting for this Group. Since Easter, our new Catholics have heard from some of our parishioners about the many different ways they live out their baptismal vocation and serve the Lord in the Church and in the local community. It has been inspiring to hear about the generous work many do for those in need in our local area. Some of our new parishioners are already taking on new roles in parish life. Journey in Faith will begin again in September. Anyone who is interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith, can speak to our parish priest, contact the Parish Office at office@englishmartyrsrdg.com or join the parish Alpha programme which began this week .	
	BAPTISM Welcome to Yu Ching Celine Wong who receives the Sacrament of Baptism this Saturday 23rd May 2026. Please keep Yu Ching Celine Wong and family in your prayers at this special time.	
	EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING(S) WILL BE ON: Wednesday 20 th May at 10.30am in Bethlehem Chapel	
	TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK We are supporting approximately 40 households with food and household products. Many thanks for your very generous donations. This week we are short of weatabix, corned beef/spam, baked beans, mackerel, long life milk, long life orange/apple juice and packet soup. 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 21st May 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.	
VISIT OF THE RELIC OF ST EDMUND CAMPION: This will take place on Tuesday 26 th May at the 9:30a.m Mass. We shall have the opportunity to say some prayers to St Edmund Campion and also venerate his relics.		
FR GASTON IS ON RETREAT THIS WEEK IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FROM 18 th TO 22 nd MAY.		
SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND TO SUPPORT THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION NETWORK.		
RELAUNCH OF ALPHA FORMATION in our Parish last Wednesday was a success, attracting 20 guests and over 20 facilitators. The evening featured a deliciously presented meal and an inspiring formation video that prompted reflections and discussions. Participants engaged in four discussion groups, fostering community and connection among attendees. The next session is on Wednesday 20 th May. Guests expected to arrive at 6:45p.m for registration. Those who gave their names and emails but have not received any email from the Alpha Team, might need to contact godlysawah.nii@googlemail.com to confirm their email.		
CONFIRMATION: Congratulations to our 42 candidates who will receive Confirmation this Saturday at 11 a.m. during a Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Philip. We are glad to welcome Bishop Philip to our Parish. We pray for our candidates, their sponsors and families.		

RUBY JUBILEE OF FR RICHARD'S ORDINATION: We will celebrate this milestone as a parish on Pentecost Sunday, May 24th. The main anniversary Mass will be the 11:30am, which Fr Richard will celebrate. This will be followed by refreshments during our Pentecost international lunch.

CONGRATULATIONS to Les and Chris Coxwell who will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Friday 22nd May. We wish them all the best and a long and happy life.

ENGLISH MARTYRS MARIAN MISSION

During May, take just 1 minute a day with Our Lady. Pause at any time in your day and pray one Hail Mary slowly and intentionally for your family, the parish, or someone in need. This tiny daily act helps us grow closer to Jesus through Mary, even when we're busy. No time for a full Rosary? Try just 5 minutes. Pray one decade of the Rosary while walking, commuting, or in the evening. You can do this alone, as a family, or even once a week; whatever fits your routine. Mary meets us where we are and gently leads us to her Son, Jesus. If you have the time, pray a full Rosary a day or as many days a week as you can. You can pray a decade at different times during the day, to make it even more manageable. We will send out a formation talk on Mary through our parish communication channels each week of May.

HEALING RETREAT AT ENGLISH MARTYRS

We shall be having a healing retreat, facilitated by Fr. Joseph Edattu from the Divine Retreat Centre, which will take place on Friday 26th June in our Church. It will run from 5.00pm to 9.00pm. Let us continue to celebrate our century of faith and pray for a future filled with hope.

**D
BARN
N
C
E**



Friday 19th June 2026.
7:00pm to 10:30pm
ENGLISH MARTYR'S CHURCH
PARISH HALL,
64 LIEBENROOD ROAD,
READING RG30 2EB

A night of fun and frolic for all ages
in aid of "Cathedral Renovation
and the Upgrading of English
Martyrs Audio Visual System.

Dance along to the expert calling of
Aldrickham Band.



ADULTS £15.00 ; CHILD (5-12) £10.00
Under 5's Free
(Ticket price includes sit down meal)



Children should be supervised at all times.
(Cowboy attire welcome)

For Tickets and information contact Mel & Jack
Email: Noronhamel@hotmail.com Tel: 0118
996 7208

You are warmly
INVITED
to our
**PENTECOST
LUNCH**
AT ENGLISH MARTYRS CHURCH

One Spirit, Many Nations, One Church

24TH MAY
 1.00PM – 3.00PM

Bring a plate of
food to share

ALL ARE INVITED
to come in your national dress
or colours that represent
your countries flag.

THIS YEAR WE WILL ALSO BE
Celebrating
FR RICHARD'S
40TH
ORDINATION
ANNIVERSARY

COME TOGETHER • CELEBRATE • GIVE THANKS
♥ *All Are Welcome!* ♥



Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of
all the faithful departed.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS: SATURDAY 16th SUNDAY 24th MAY 2026**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

<i>Saturday 16th (Sunday Vigil)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>All Altar Servers who are taking Exams and Chrisley Da Costa birthday intention</i>
<i>Sunday 17th</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Margaret & Alena Houston RIP</i>
	<i>11.30am</i> <i>Live Streamed</i>	<i>People of the Parish Josefina Fernandes RIP</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>Joaquina Souza & Domingos Salvador Fernandes RIP</i>
<i>Monday 18th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Intention of Fr Innaiah Maddineni</i>
<i>Tuesday 19th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Emelda Lum RIP</i>
<i>Wednesday 20th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Emelda Lum RIP</i>
<i>Thursday 21st</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Emelda Lum RIP</i>
<i>Friday 22nd</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Lindy George's Birthday blessing</i>
	<i>6.30pm</i>	<i>Fr. Richard 40th Ordination Anniversary</i>
<i>Saturday 23rd</i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Eileen Knox RIP</i>
PENTECOST		
<i>Saturday 23rd (Sunday Vigil)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>Lucy & Patrick (Paddy) McGullon RIP</i>
<i>Sunday 24th</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Anna Josepha Olivera RIP</i>
	<i>11.30am</i> <i>Live Streamed</i>	<i>Fr Richard Maniak's Ruby (40th) Anniversary</i>
	<i>2.30pm</i>	<i>Vietnamese Mass</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>Bridget McNulty and deceased members of the Carey McNulty & Delaney families RIP</i>

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL has vacancies for *Two Foundation Governors*.
For more information, please see poster on notice board in colonnade or email the clerk to Governors at:
clerk@englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk