

# English Martyrs' Newsletter

## PENTECOST SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026





**ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH,**  
64, LIEBENROOD ROAD, READING, RG30 2EB:  
Registered Charity No. 1199568  
Parish website: [www.englishmartyrsrdg.com](http://www.englishmartyrsrdg.com)  
Livestream link on You Tube:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCulqb5ncxASpguMmd\\_0MNtA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCulqb5ncxASpguMmd_0MNtA)

**PARISH EMERGENCY ONLY CONTACT NUMBER: 07495 711537**  
Parish Priest: Fr. Gaston Forbah [gforbah@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:office@englishmartyrsrdg.com)

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### PARISH SAFEGUARDING MINISTERS/CONTACT DETAILS/ROLES

Gavin Knight: [safeguarding2@englishmartyrsrdg.com](mailto:safeguarding2@englishmartyrsrdg.com) (DBS applications/updating of DBS parish register)  
Ernestina Amanfo: [safeguarding3@englishmartyrsrdg.com](mailto:safeguarding3@englishmartyrsrdg.com) (Safeguarding compliance in all parish activities)

<b>SCHOOLS:</b>		<b>TO DONATE TO OUR PARISH:</b>	
English Martyrs Catholic Primary Dee Road, Reading RG30 4BE. 0118 937 5466 Executive Headteacher: Mr Jamie Carroll Head of School: Mr Anton Dworzak <a href="https://www.englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk/home">https://www.englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk/home</a>		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 <a href="https://www.hughfaringdon.org/">https://www.hughfaringdon.org/</a>	<b>MASS TIMES FROM Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May</b> Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm Monday at 10.00am (Bank Holiday) Tuesday to Friday at 9.30am Saturday at 10.00am: and 6.00pm (Vigil)	<b>CONFESSIONS From Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May</b> 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.	
		<b>EUCHARISTIC 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.</b>	

### EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH THE SACRAMENTS

Pentecost reminds us that the Church was not born from human strength or planning, but from the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. The frightened disciples became courageous witnesses because they opened their hearts to God's presence. The same Spirit given to them is given to us today, especially through the sacraments, where God continually pours His grace into our lives. In Baptism and Confirmation, we are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and strengthened to live as disciples of Christ, not only in extraordinary moments but also in the ordinary rhythm of our daily lives.

To live our faith docile to the Holy Spirit means learning to listen before we act, to pray before we decide, and to trust God even when the path is uncertain. The Holy Spirit speaks quietly through Scripture, through prayer, through the teachings of the Church, and through the grace we receive in the Eucharist and Reconciliation. He inspires patience when we are frustrated, compassion when we are tempted to judge, and courage when living the Gospel becomes difficult.





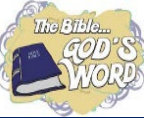


Pentecost challenges us to move beyond a faith that is practised only on Sundays. The Spirit desires to shape our conversations, our work, our family life, and our choices each day. Nourished by Christ in the Eucharist and renewed through the mercy of Confession, we are continually strengthened by the Holy Spirit to live lives of holiness and service. When we allow the Spirit to guide us, the fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, kindness, and self-control—become visible in our lives and offer a witness to others.

As a parish community, Pentecost invites us to pray constantly: "Come, Holy Spirit." When we surrender ourselves to His guidance, our parish becomes not simply a place we attend, but a living sign of Christ's presence in 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 / 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](mailto: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:	PENTECOST SUNDAY (24/05)	MOST HOLY TRINITY (31/05)
	First: Acts: 2: 1-11. Psalm: 104(103); 1ab.24ac. 29b-31. 34. Second: Corinthians: 12: 3b-7. 12-13. Gospel: John: 20: 19-23.	First: Acts: 2: 1-11. Psalm: 104(103); 1ab.24ac. 16.20. Second: Peter: 3: 15-18. Gospel: John: 14: 15-21.
	<b>RCIA/JOURNEY IN FAITH:</b> 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 <a href="mailto:office@englishmartyrsrdg.com">office@englishmartyrsrdg.com</a> or join the parish Alpha programme which is running at the moment.	
	<b>FIRST HOLY COMMUNION</b> Please keep our children and their families in your prayers as they prepare to receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday 6th June. They will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Friday 5th June at 5.00pm, a beautiful moment of grace as they get ready for this special day.	
	<b>BAPTISM</b> Welcome to Yu Ching Celine Wong who receives the Sacrament of Baptism this Saturday 23rd May 2026. Please keep baby Yu Ching Celine Wong and family in your prayers at this special time.	
	<b>EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE</b> NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING(S) WILL BE ON: Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am in Bethlehem Chapel	
	<b>TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE &amp; FOODBANK</b> We are supporting approximately 40 households with food and household products. Many thanks for your very generous donations. This week we are short of weetabix, baked beans, instant potato mash, pasta sauce, pot noodles, tinned tomato, toothpaste and shampoo. 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.	
	<b>SAVE THE DATE: EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS FORMATION DAY:</b> Our annual Formation Day, to include prayer, reflection and mutual support for all Eucharistic Ministers in the parish will take place on Saturday, 13th June beginning with Mass at 10.00am, followed by a meeting in the parish hall. The morning will conclude with a light lunch at 12.30pm. It is important that all Eucharistic Ministers try to attend this annual day.	
<b>VISIT OF THE RELIC OF ST EDMUND CAMPION:</b> This will take place on Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> 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.		
<b>ALPHA FORMATION UPDATE</b> Since launching Alpha 2026 at our parish on 13th May, we have been blessed with a wonderful turnout of guests joining us to explore foundations of the Christian faith through deep discussions, great meals, and newly formed friendships. Collectively, we have reflected on the true purpose of life, who Jesus Christ is, and the empirical evidence of His existence and mission. 39 of us members joined together in fellowship during session 1 and 2. As Alpha is designed for guests to join at any stage, we warmly invite parishioners, friends, and those of any faith or none to come along. Upcoming sessions will explore topics such as prayer, how God guides us, and growing in a deeper relationship with Him. All are welcome every Wednesday evening from 6.45pm at English Martyrs Parish. For more information about Alpha, please contact Godly Sowah: <a href="mailto:godlysowah.nii@gmail.com">godlysowah.nii@gmail.com</a> .		
<b>RUBY JUBILEE OF FATHER RICHARD'S ORDINATION:</b> On behalf of the entire parish, we wish to express our profound joy and gratitude to God for the ministry of Fr Richard, who celebrates forty years in the Priesthood this Pentecost Sunday. Hearty congratulations to you, Fr Richard, for your persistent devotion to your ministry throughout this period. Our Parish has greatly benefited from your selfless ministry.		

### **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.

### **SAVE THE DATE: CENTENARY MARRIAGE RETREAT – SEPTEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> 9:30am.**

We are glad to announce an upcoming exciting event for couples, young and senior – ENGLISH MARTYRS CENTENARY MARRIAGE RETREAT. This will be facilitated by an amazing team with extensive experience in marriage support. Those who are still contemplating marriage are also invited. More details to follow.

### **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 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

**PRESENTATION OF OUR PARISH 2025 YEAR END ACCOUNTS:** This will take place next weekend at all Masses. We continue to thank everyone for their generosity to our parish.

**NEW FINANCE OFFICER:** We are pleased to announce that we have a new Finance Officer for our Parish, in the person of Frankie Atherstone. Frankie attends the 5.00pm Mass and is involved in several ministries in our Parish, including Children's Liturgy, Reader, and Alpha Formation. Frankie will begin working once she has received all relevant access details from the HR and the Diocesan Finance and Communication Teams. Let us keep Frankie in our prayers.

**THANK YOU COLLECTION FOR FR INNAIAH:** We will have a thank you second collection for Fr Innaiah next weekend 30/31<sup>st</sup> May. We continue to thank Fr Innaiah for all his hard work in our parish.

**DONATION FOR NEW CHAIRS IN PARISH HALL:** As announced some time back, we have had two donations for the purchase of more presentable and stronger chairs for our hall to replace the current ones, which are becoming increasingly unsafe. We once more thank the Anonymous Donor who gave £500 and Fr Richard, who, together with the Polish Community, raised £214. We have now bought 60 chairs, which cost over £2000. We need to get a total of 120 chairs. Any donation is welcome. If you would like to donate for one chair, you can pay £40 via the donation machine, by our bank account in the newsletter (reference – hall chairs) or by cash through the parish office. Thanks in advance for making our parish a more beautiful and safe place of prayer and fellowship.

**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** 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. Cost £40.00 pp.

### **BAPTISM PREPARATORY COURSES FOR 2026:**

Please register your interest with the parish office. *Catechists: Tony Maina & Saffiatu Bangura*  
Future sessions will be on Tuesdays 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June and Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June.  
July dates will be Tuesdays 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July. There will be no sessions in August.  
Attendance is compulsory prior to Baptism taking place.

**MASS INTENTIONS: SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> MAY 2026**

**PENTECOST SUNDAY**

<i>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> (Sunday Vigil)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>Lucy &amp; Patrick (Paddy) McGullon RIP</i>
<i>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Anna Josepha Olivera RIP</i>
	<i>11.30am</i>	<i>Fr Richard Maniak's Ruby (40th) Anniversary</i>
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	
	<i>2.00pm</i>	<i>Vietnamese Mass</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>Bridget McNulty and deceased members of the Carey McNulty &amp; Delaney families RIP</i>
<i>Monday 25<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Kendrick &amp; Frenzy – 1st Wedding anniversary</i>
<i>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Dr Samuel, Margaret-May and members of the Nfoegwei and Tantoh Families - RIP</i>
<i>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Emelda Lum RIP</i>
<i>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Augusto Fernandes RIP</i>
<i>Friday 29<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Elsamma Dominic RIP</i>
<i>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Germina Do Rogo Thanksgiving</i>

**MOST HOLY TRINITY**

<i>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> (Sunday Vigil)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>Peter Sheppard RIP</i>
<i>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup></i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Michael Sarjent RIP &amp; deceased members of Sarjent &amp; Tanner families RIP</i>
	<i>11.30am</i>	<i>Margaret Dewar RIP - 1st anniversary</i>
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>

**DOCTRINAL SECTION: SACRAMENTS**

The sacraments offer a real encounter with Jesus Christ through which we are strengthened to live our faith each day.

- The sacraments “give the grace they signify” (CCC 1127).
- Through Baptism and Confirmation, we receive the Holy Spirit, who guides and strengthens us to witness to Christ with courage (CCC 1302–1305).
- In the Eucharist, we are nourished spiritually and united more deeply with Christ and His Church (CCC 1324).



**CATHOLIC LEGACY WEEK**, 24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May, is a time when Parishes and Catholic charities such as CAFOD celebrate the work made possible in the life of the Church through gifts in Wills. Find out more about the week using QR code on the left or by visiting:

[www.cafod.org.uk/CatholicLegacyWeek](http://www.cafod.org.uk/CatholicLegacyWeek)



**Rest In Peace**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mrs Christina Conneely RIP and 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.