

English Martyrs' Newsletter

MOST HOLY TRINITY
31ST 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

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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 31st May Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm Monday to Friday at 9.30am Saturday at 9.30 & 11.30 First Holy Communion and 6.00pm (Vigil)	CONFESSIONS From Sunday 31st May Sunday 30 mins before 9.00am, 11.30am & 5.00pm Masses Monday to Friday 15 mins before Mass Saturday at 5.30pm.	
	EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: On Friday from 10.00am to 4.45pm. This will be followed by First Reconciliation for First Holy Communion Children and will begin at 5pm in the Church. AS A RESULT, THE 6.45pm MASS FOR PEACE WILL NOT BE CELEBRATED.		

DUE TO OUR TWO FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES ON SATURDAY 6TH JUNE, THERE WILL BE NO 10.00am MASS THAT DAY AND CONSEQUENTLY, NO CONFESSIONS AFTER. CONFESSIONS WILL BE HEARD AS NORMAL FROM 5.30pm SATURDAY EVENING.

DRAWN INTO THE LIFE AND LOVE OF THE TRINITY

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity draws us into the very heart of our faith: a God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. A communion of perfect love. In today's Gospel, Jesus reveals the depth of that love: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..." (John 3:16). God's love is not distant or abstract; it is personal, life-giving, and constantly poured out for us.

We come to know and experience this love. In the Eucharist, Christ gives Himself to us completely. At every Mass, we are not simply remembering Jesus, but truly encountering Him; Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. The Lord who gave His life for the salvation of the world continues to feed His people with divine life. In receiving the Eucharist worthily and with faith, we are strengthened to become more loving, merciful, and faithful disciples.


In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we encounter the tender mercy of God. So often we carry the burden of sin, weakness, and failure, yet the Father never ceases to welcome us back. Through confession, Christ heals and restores us, freeing us from what separates us from God and from one another. Reconciliation is a personal encounter with the mercy and love of God, who desires our healing and holiness.

The Trinity is not simply a mystery to be explained, but a life into which we are invited. Through prayer, the sacraments, and daily conversion, God continually draws us closer to Himself so that we may live in His love and reflect it to 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

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:	MOST HOLY TRINITY (31/05)	CORPUS CHRISTI (07/06)
	First: Exodus: 34: 4b-6. 8-9 Psalm: Daniel 3: 52-56. Second: 2 Corinthians: 13: 11-14. Gospel: John: 3: 16-18.	First: Deuteronomy 8: 2-3. 14b-16a. Psalm: 147; 12-15, 19-20. Second: 1 Corinthians 10: 16-17. Gospel: John: 6: 51-58.


	<p>BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS FOR MAY: We extend our best wishes to everyone born in the month of May, who will be blessed after the Post Communion Prayer at all Masses this weekend. May God bless all their endeavours.</p>
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	<p>FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 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.</p>
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	<p>EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING(S) WILL BE ON: Wednesday 3rd June at 10.30am in Bethlehem Chapel</p>
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	<p>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 cornflakes, weetabix, instant potato mash, tinned fruit, squash, sugar, shower gel 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.</p>
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	<p>SAVE THE DATE: EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS FORMATION DAY: 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.</p>
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	<p>YOUTH GROUP: On Saturday June 13th the Youth Group will be starting up again 7:15pm – 8:15pm in the parish hall. This is for all young people aged 11 – 17 who wish to grow in their understanding of our Catholic faith and in their relationship with Jesus, whether you have been confirmed or not. If you were not part of this confirmation group but would like to attend the youth group, please contact Meghan or the parish office to get a permission form.</p>
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ALPHA FORMATION UPDATE 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. The next session is on Wednesday, June 3rd from 6.45pm at English Martyrs Parish Hall. For more information about Alpha, please contact Godly Sowah: godlysowah.nii@googlemail.com.

CONGRATULATIONS

- to Olivia Pearce and Tyreece Vaughan who are getting married this weekend. We welcome and congratulate their baby, Francesca, who will be baptised in the same ceremony
- to Dominic & Sany Fernandes who will be celebrating their 25th Wedding Anniversary on Friday 5th June. We wish them all the best and a long and happy life.

BELOVED - Join the "Beloved" Online Retreat on Saturday, 27 June 2026 (12 noon–4 PM BST) on Zoom, led by Catholic speaker David Wells. Explore the joy of knowing ourselves beloved by God through our baptism by spending time in of personal reflection and sharing prayerfully with others. For registration and information: www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION - ORGANISED BY STUDENTS

The Catholic University Students of Reading wish to invite us to the Corpus Christi procession which they have organised on June 7th. The procession will be at 2pm and will start at St William of York, pass through the university campus, and finish at Our Lady of Peace. See Poster on Noticeboard for more details.

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.

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

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

BAPTISM PREPARATORY COURSES FOR 2026:

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

ONLINE CATECHIST FORUM: READING PASTORAL AREA

Starting on Thursday June 25th, 7:00pm – 8:30pm, there will be an online forum for all catechists in Reading with Farvin Gonsalves, a seminarian in our diocese. The evening will include a time of formation, group discussion and resource spotlight before ending with Night Prayer. All Catechists are welcome to join via Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/93450493618?pwd=1NCTKg2f4C5AO6XItHZWYeg7RjbgOR.1> or contact ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for more information and to receive link.

SOME POINTS FROM POPE LEO XIV'S RECENT ENCYCLICAL: MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS

Faith, Human Dignity, and the Challenge of Technology. We are encouraged to promote communion, charity, and solidarity so that modern society does not become divided and isolated through the use of technology without wisdom or moral responsibility. (paragraph 2).

We are encouraged to respond to the advancement of technology with wisdom, justice, and compassion. True progress, Pope Leo teaches, is measured by how well we protect human dignity and serve the common good (paragraphs 4-5).



Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Christina Conneely. Her body will be received into the Church at 6pm on Tuesday 2nd June and her funeral will be on Wednesday 3rd at 12 noon. May God grant her family comfort.

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 30th MAY TO SUNDAY 7TH JUNE 2026**MOST HOLY TRINITY**

<i>Saturday 30th (Sunday Vigil)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>Peter Sheppard RIP</i>
<i>Sunday 31st</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Michael Sarjent RIP & deceased members of Sarjent & Tanner families RIP</i>
	<i>11.30am</i> <i>Live Streamed</i>	<i>Margaret Dewar RIP - 1st anniversary</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Monday 1st June</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>John Lourenco Fernandes & Micaela Travasso RIP</i>
<i>Tuesday 2nd</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Emelda Lum RIP</i>
<i>Wednesday 3rd</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Bill Canning RIP</i>
	<i>12.00pm</i>	<i>Requiem of Christina Conneely</i>
<i>Thursday 4th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Rosalica Goes RIP</i>
<i>Friday 5th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Dominic & Sany Fernandes (Thanksgiving 25th Wedding Anniversary) and Emelda Lum RIP</i>
<i>Saturday 6th</i>	<i>9.30am & 11.30am</i>	<i>First Holy Communion Masses</i>

CORPUS CHRISTI

<i>Saturday 6th (Sunday Vigil)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>Joseph Fernandes RIP</i>
<i>Sunday 7th</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Mary Dolan RIP</i>
	<i>11.30am</i> <i>Live Streamed</i>	<i>Ian & Eva Khan thanksgiving</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>

FR. LEO ODOMEJA, PARISH PRIEST AT ST JOHN BOSCO, WOODLEY WRITES...

St John Bosco Roman Catholic Church in Woodley is holding a sponsored walk on Sunday 14th June to raise money for the repair of its church roof. Participants and sponsors are invited to take part. The walk, which starts at 11.30, is being held in the adjacent playing field at St Dominic Savio school. People of all ages are welcome to participate, and the length of circuits will be organised in age-specific categories. Alternatively, the church is happy to receive direct money donations. The target for Phase One fund raising is £250,000, of which £99,000 has so far been raised.

St John Bosco is keen to encourage as many people as possible to become involved. Donations can be made using the QR code provided on the poster [here](#). If you or your children are interested, please contact Woodley parish via this dedicated email address roofproject@stjohnbosco.co.uk or Fr. Leo Odomeja or Mrs. Debs Gibson on 0118 969 3423 to register or to obtain more information.

MESSAGE FROM ANNE DAVIES, FORMER ORGANISER OF THE PARISH BOOKSTALL.

'In the few weeks before Covid the bookstall put on a little stall encouraging reading the Bible, because it was the Year of the Word. We had copies of a reading plan to read Matthews Gospel in one year and also borrowed a few books. As a result of Covid, one thing led to another and eventually the stall closed down and moved into storage. We asked for people to collect any loans but two remained uncollected and are now residing in my home in Hull. They are: Raymond E Brown "An introduction to the New Testament", Joseph Fitzmyer and Roland E Murphy, printed 1997. No owners name inscribed but it has a Gift Aid sticker suggesting someone had bought it in a charity shop.

"The Jerome Biblical Commentary", by Raymond E Brown, well-worn, paper cover (very tattered!) printed 1968. No owners name or bookmarks.'

If the owner(s) of these books would like them back, please contact Les or Chris Coxwell, otherwise we will suggest that Anne donates them to her new Parish's library.