

# English Martyrs' Newsletter



11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 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)

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 <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 14<sup>th</sup> June</b> Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm Monday to Friday at 9.30am Saturday at 10.00am and 6.00pm (Vigil)	<b>CONFESSIONS From Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June</b> Sunday 30 mins before 9.00am, 11.30am & 5.00pm Masses Monday to Friday 15 mins before Mass Saturday at 5.30pm.
	<b>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: On Friday from 10.00am to 6.00pm. From 5.00pm, Praise and Worship will feature music, scripture reading, guided reflection, a time of silence and concluding with Benediction.</b>	

## FROM THE HEART OF JESUS TO THE HEART OF THE WORLD

In this Sunday's Gospel, we are given a glimpse into the heart of Jesus. As He looks upon the crowds, He is moved with compassion because they are "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." Before Jesus calls His disciples to action, He first sees, understands, and loves those who are in need.

This same compassionate gaze rests upon each one of us. Jesus knows our struggles, worries, and hopes. He does not look at us with disappointment or indifference, but with the loving concern of the Good Shepherd. When we recognise that we are known and loved by Christ, our hearts are changed. We begin to see ourselves and others through His eyes.


From that place of encounter, Jesus calls His disciples to share in His mission. He sends them out to bring healing, hope, and the Good News of God's kingdom. Today, that call is given to us. In our homes, workplaces, schools, and parish community, we are invited to be salt and light for those around us.

Being salt and light does not always mean doing extraordinary things. Often it is found in simple acts of kindness, patience, encouragement, and service. It is seen when we listen to someone who is struggling, welcome a newcomer, forgive an offence, or speak about our faith with gentleness and joy.


As we reflect on this Gospel, may we first receive the compassion of Jesus for ourselves, and then respond generously to His call. Strengthened by His love, may we become signs of His presence, bringing light, hope, and peace to all whom we meet.


# 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:	11th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (14/06)	12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (21/06)
	First: Exodus 19; 2-6a. Psalm: 100(99); 1-2.3.5. Second: Romans 5: 6-11. Gospel: Matthew 9:36-10:8.	First: Jeremiah 20; 10-13. Psalm: 69(68); 8-10.14.17.33-35 Second: Romans 5: 12-15. Gospel: Matthew 10: 26-33.

	<p><b>EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE</b> NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING(S)  <b>WILL BE ON: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30am in Bethlehem Chapel</b></p>
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	<p><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 tinned corned beef/spam/ham, cooking oil, ketchup, instant coffee, long life milk, sugar and toilet rolls. 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><b>CONFIRMATION NEWS</b>                      The next confirmation for our parish will be in 2028. Anyone wishing to be confirmed in 2028 will need to sign up by August 21<sup>st</sup> 2026. Weekly confirmation sessions will start in September 2026 for anyone who is in year 7 or above and wishes to be confirmed in 2028. Sign up forms are available in the colonnade and can be handed into the parish office.</p>
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	<p><b>PARISH AFTERNOON TEA</b> 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 18th June 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."</p>
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**BAPTISM** - Welcome to Baby Azari Adenekan who receives the Sacrament of Baptism this Saturday 13th June and Baby Lorenzo Antonio who receives the Sacrament of Baptism this Sunday 14th June. Please keep baby Azari and Baby Lorenzo and their families in your prayers at this special time.

**DEFIBRILLATOR** There is an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) in the colonnade, which anyone can use. It speaks instructions as soon as it is opened. There is also a 'prep kit' in the AED box, containing scissors, razor, gloves, mask, wipes etc. And our AED is on *The Circuit*, a national online database, so that other people in the neighbourhood can locate the nearest device in an emergency. We all hope never to have to use it, but everyone should know where it is, just in case! It might save someone's life.

**BELOVED** - Join the "Beloved" Online Retreat on Saturday, 27th 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](http://www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk)

**GIFT AIDING YOUR PARISH DONATIONS**  
 The Parish is encouraging all taxpayers in our community who have a Direct Debit or Standing Order to sign up to Gift Aid their donations to the Parish if they have not done so already. There are green Gift Aid forms in the rack in the Colonnade. Please take one and complete the form before returning it to the Parish Office. This is an easy way for the Parish to reclaim money from the Government on the taxes you have already paid.

### **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.

### **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.

### **ONLINE CATECHIST FORUM: READING PASTORAL AREA**

Starting on Thursday June 25<sup>th</sup>, 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=1NCTKg2f4C5A06XItHZWYeg7Rjbg0R.1> or contact [ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) for more information and to receive link.

### **POPE LEO X1V's MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS; BUILDING FOR THE COMMON GOOD**

Building anything founded on the common good implies building on a firm relationship with God. We need to recognise that the truth of his love calls us to life "in all its fullness" (Jn10:10) and communion with him. (Magnifica Humanitas 11)



### **Rest In Peace**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Alison Elizabeth Fletcher. Her funeral will be held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 1.30 pm at English Martyrs followed by burial at Henley Road Cemetery at 3.00 pm.

**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.

### **DOCTRINAL INSERT**

Through baptism, Eucharist and confirmation we receive the new life of Christ which we carry within ourselves. This new life can be weakened by sin (CCC 1420) The two Sacraments of healing (the Sacrament of Penance and Sacrament of Anointing the Sick) continue the work of healing and salvation, through the Church by the power of the Holy Spirit (CCC 1421)

**SUMMER HOLIDAY CLASSES FOR STUDENTS FROM ITALY:** The TGS staff will be bringing some students from Italy back to our parish this year for summer holiday classes from July 16<sup>th</sup> to July 30<sup>th</sup>. This time, it will be a much smaller number. It will be nice to have these students participate in the life of our parish during their stay.

**MASS IN THE PARK:** A reminder that our Summer Mass in the Park will take place at 3.00pm on Sunday July 19<sup>th</sup>. We will be joined by our visiting students from Italy who will be in Reading for their summer holiday Classes.

**SUMMER PLACEMENT FOR ADAM TRZEBINSKI:** We look forward to welcoming Adam Trzebinski, Seminarian for Portsmouth Diocese in Allan Hall, for his Summer Placement in English Martyrs. He arrives on June 29<sup>th</sup> and leaves on July 19<sup>th</sup>. During this time, he will visit our schools, the sick, support Altar Servers, the Junior and Senior Youth Groups as well as the Alpha Formation etc. He will be away from the Parish from 6<sup>th</sup> July to 10<sup>th</sup> July (for Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage) and 13<sup>th</sup> July to 15<sup>th</sup> of July for an important event.

**Wedding:** Let us pray for Michael Okudolo and Isata Suma, who will be convalidating their marriage in Church next Saturday. May God bless them and their family.

**MASS INTENTIONS: SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> TO SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2026****11<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<i>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> (Sunday Vigil)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>Felix John Dias RIP</i>
<i>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Ebenezer Quartey RIP (12th Anniversary)</i>
		<i>People of the Parish</i>
	<i>11.30am</i> <i>Live Streamed</i>	<i>Martha Lawrence Matimba RIP &amp; Emanuel Stephen Nondo RIP Antonia Beatrice – for God’s protection</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>Dickson &amp; Roseline Fernandes Thanksgiving</i>
<i>Monday 15<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>The Souls of Jose Gregrio Goes RIP and Ubalдина Fernandes RIP</i>
	<i>1.30pm</i>	<i>Funeral of Alison Elizabeth Fletcher RIP</i>
<i>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Emelda Lum RIP</i>
<i>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>The Souls of Filiciano Fernandes and Antoneta Fernances RIP</i>
<i>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Emelda Lum RIP</i>
<i>Friday 19<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Paddy Joyce RIP</i>
<i>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Brendan Hickey RIP</i>
<b>12<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>		
<i>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> (Sunday Vigil)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>Joseph Mascarenhas RIP</i>
<i>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>People of the Parish Chris and Les Coxwell Private Intentions</i>
	<i>11.30am</i> <i>Live Streamed</i>	<i>Lee Armstrong RIP</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>Emelda Lum RIP</i>

**STANDING WITH REFUGEES: A CALL TO ACTION**

A new campaign from Jesuit Refugee Service UK, Caritas Social Action Network and the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) invite Christians to stand with refugees and people seeking asylum. Inspired by the Gospel call to welcome the stranger, the campaign asks for support in three areas: restoring the right to seek asylum, ensuring dignity and protection within the asylum system, and ending immigration detention.

How can parishioners help?

- Write to your MP asking them to defend refugees and asylum seekers in Parliament.
- Pray for refugees by taking part in or organising a parish prayer vigil.
- Raise awareness by sharing information with family, friends and fellow parishioners.
- Contact your SVP or Caritas representative: SVP Stephen Hogg (07891 773379) or Caritas: Chris Maude (CMaude@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

As Christians, we are called to welcome, protect and accompany those seeking safety and a new beginning.

**BARN DANCE** Thank you to everyone who has bought tickets for the BARN DANCE. IT IS NOW SOLD OUT. If anyone has any particular food allergies, please email or phone/text Mel or Jack on 07886 538108 or [noronhamel@hotmail.com](mailto:noronhamel@hotmail.com) to let them know. Thank you all for your support.

**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.

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND 20<sup>TH</sup>/21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE** for the *Day for Life*.