

English Martyrs' Newsletter



12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



21ST JUNE 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

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 21st June Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm Monday to Friday at 9.30am Saturday at 10.00am and 6.00pm (Vigil)	CONFESSIONS From Sunday 21st June 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 6.00pm. From 5.00pm, Praise and Worship will feature music, scripture reading, guided reflection, a time of silence and concluding with Benediction.		

PROCLAIMING CHRIST BY OUR LIFE

Jesus repeatedly tells His disciples, "Do not be afraid." He knows that following Him will not always be easy. There will be moments when our faith is challenged, when living according to the Gospel places us at odds with the values of the world and when speaking about Christ feels uncomfortable. Yet Jesus assures us that we are deeply loved by the Father, who knows us intimately and values us beyond measure.


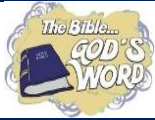




As Catholics, we are not left to face these challenges on our own. Each time we gather for Mass, we encounter Christ in His Word and, most especially, in the Eucharist. Receiving the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ strengthens us with His own life and grace. The Eucharist is not simply a personal source of comfort; it is a call to mission. Having received Christ, we are sent forth to bear witness to Him in our homes, workplaces, schools and communities.

To proclaim Christ does not always mean speaking loudly or publicly. Often, it means living with integrity, showing kindness, offering forgiveness, defending the dignity of others, and remaining faithful in prayer. These everyday acts become powerful testimonies to the presence of Christ in our lives.

Jesus calls us to acknowledge Him before others. Nourished by the Eucharist, we can do so with confidence rather than fear. As we go forth from the altar, may we be strengthened to live as missionary disciples, joyfully proclaiming Christ by our words and actions, trusting always in the Father's loving care.

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:	12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (21/06)	13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (28/06)
	First: Jeremiah 20; 10-13. Psalm: 69(68); 8-10.14.17.33-35 Second: Romans 5: 12-15. Gospel: Matthew 10: 26-33.	First: 2 Kings 4; 8-11. 14-16. Psalm: 89(88); 2-3. 16-19. Second: Romans 6: 3-4. 8-11. Gospel: Matthew 10: 37-42.
	EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING(S) WILL BE ON: Wednesday 24 th June at 10.30am in Bethlehem Chapel	
	TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK We are supporting approximately 40 households with food and household products. This week we are short of tinned tuna, tinned spaghetti hoops, tinned tomatoes, packet soup, peanut butter, ketchup, long life juice and squash. 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.	
	ENGLISH MARTYRS SUMMER FOODBANK This will begin next weekend 27 th /28 th June and will continue until the weekend of 18 th /19 th July. Distribution of the food parcels will take place on 23 rd /24 th July. We are looking for donations of pasta, pasta sauce, tuna, canned ham, oil, rice, canned sweetcorn plus any other <u>non perishable</u> food items. Please, drop your donations in the food basket by the entrance of the church in the colonnade. NO CLOTHES/SHOES, PLEASE.	
	CONFIRMATION 2028 Anyone wishing to be confirmed in 2028 will need to sign up by August 21 st 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.	
	YOUTH GROUP: Saturdays from 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.	

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

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 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.

BAPTISM PREPARATORY COURSES FOR 2026:

Please register your interest with the parish office. *Catechists: Tony Maina & Saffiatu Bangura*
 Future sessions will be on Tuesday 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=1NCTKg2f4C5AO6XItHZWYEg7Rjbg0R.1> or contact ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for more information and to receive link.

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

The Church is present in the world as a sign of unity for the entire human family; with a vocation of listening, dialogue and service, and of being responsive to everything concerning the lives of contemporary men and women (Magnifica Humanitas 19).

DOCTRINAL INPUT

Sin is above all else an offence against God and a rupture of communion with him and at the same time it damages communion with the church. Conversion entails both God's forgiveness and reconciliation with the Church (CCC 1440). Only God forgives sins, Christ has entrusted the exercise of power of absolution to the apostolic ministry (the priesthood) (CCC 1441-1442)



Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of John Conroy RIP, who passed away in Ireland on Wednesday, 17th June, and Maureen Allaway RIP, whose funeral will be held on Thursday 2nd July 2026 at 1.00 pm at English Martyrs, followed by burial at 3.00pm at Henley Road. May God grant their families 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.

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 16th to July 30th. 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 19th. 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 29th and leaves on July 19th. 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 6th July to 10th July (for Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage) and 13th July to 15th of July for an important event.

Wedding: Congratulations to Isata Suma and Michael Okudolo who are getting married this weekend. We wish them all the best for their future and a happy and fulfilling life.

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 THIS WEEKEND for *DAY FOR LIFE*.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND for *PETER'S PENCE* – supporting the holy father in his outreach ministry, especially to the poor.

MASS INTENTIONS: SATURDAY 20th TO SUNDAY 28th JUNE 2026**12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<i>Saturday 20th (Sunday Vigil)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>Joseph Mascarenhas RIP For a Fruitful Centenary Healing Retreat</i>
<i>Sunday 21st</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>People of the Parish Chris and Les Coxwell Private Intentions For a Fruitful Centenary Healing Retreat</i>
	<i>11.30am Live Streamed</i>	<i>Lee Armstrong RIP For a Fruitful Centenary Healing Retreat</i>
	<i>2.30pm</i>	<i>Vietnamese Mass</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>Emelda Lum RIP For a Fruitful Centenary Healing Retreat</i>
<i>Monday 22nd</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Senani Perera Private intentions</i>
<i>Tuesday 23rd</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Emelda Lum RIP</i>
<i>Wednesday 24th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Patrick Joyce RIP</i>
<i>Thursday 25th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Emelda Lum RIP</i>
<i>Friday 26th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Ida Mesquita Thanksgiving</i>
<i>Saturday 27th</i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Louie Fearn's RIP</i>

13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

<i>Saturday 27th (Sunday Vigil)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>Matthew Gale RIP</i>
<i>Sunday 28th</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Fr Innaiah's Intentions</i>
	<i>11.30am Live Streamed</i>	<i>Eileen Knox RIP</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish / 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.