

English Martyrs' Newsletter

FEAST OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

28TH 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 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 28th June Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm Monday to Thursday at 9.30am Friday at 9.30am and 6.45pm Saturday at 10.00am and 6.00pm (Vigil)	CONFESSIONS From Sunday 28th 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.
		EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: On Friday from 10.00am to 5.00pm. Praise and Worship as usual until 5:45pm then Benediction/Angelus and at 6pm the Rosary is said. Mass for Peace is at 6.45pm.	

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

Jesus asks His disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” Many answers are offered. Yet Jesus goes further: “But who do you say that I am?” (Matthew 16:15). This question is deeply personal. It challenges us to move beyond second-hand knowledge of God and into a living relationship with Christ. Peter’s response, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God,” was not the result of public opinion but of divine revelation and personal encounter.

Our journey of faith follows the same path. We may begin by knowing what others say about God but spiritual formation calls us deeper. Through sacramental conversion, we come to know Christ for ourselves. In our Baptism, we were united with Him. In Reconciliation, we encounter His mercy. In the Eucharist, we receive His very life. Through these sacraments, God is no longer an idea or a distant figure; He becomes the Lord who transforms our hearts.

Saints Peter and Paul were both converted by encounters with Christ. Though different in personality and mission, each allowed God's grace to reshape his life completely. Their witness reminds us that faith is not simply inherited, it must be personally embraced.

This Sunday, may we hear Christ’s question anew and respond not with borrowed words, but with the conviction born of encounter: “You are my Lord and my 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:	Ss PETER AND PAUL (28/06)	14 th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (05/07)
	First: Acts 12; 1-11. Psalm: 34(33); 2-9 Second: Timothy 4: 6-8. 17-18. Gospel: Matthew 16: 13-19.	First: Zachariah 9; 9-10. Psalm: 145(144); 1-2. 16-19. Second: Romans 6: 3-4. 8-11. Gospel: Matthew 11: 25-30.
	RCIA/JOURNEY IN FAITH: 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 is running at the moment.	
	BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS FOR JUNE: We extend our best wishes to everyone born in the month of June, who will be blessed after the Post Communion Prayer at all Masses this weekend. May God bless all their endeavours.	
	PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS: As part of our First Friday devotion on 3 rd July, let us say together the prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus at 8:30pm. This can be done individually or as a family using either the cards we distributed or the online version on our website homepage.	
	EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING(S) WILL BE ON: Monday 29 th June at 7.30pm in Room 2 and Wednesday 1 st July at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel	
	ENGLISH MARTYRS SUMMER FOODBANK Begins this weekend 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 any <i>non perishable</i> food items which can be dropped off in the food basket in the colonnade adjacent to the entrance to the church. 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.	
	PRAYER GARDEN We thank Chris Ferreira and all those who have transformed our prayer garden into a beautiful space for outdoor prayer. We now have a lovely grotto where we can say our rosary outdoors and ponder the beauty of God's creation with the lovely flowers in the grotto. We hope to station more chairs where people can sit to meditate and pray.	
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, complete it and return 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.		
BAPTISM PREPARATORY COURSES FOR 2026: Please register your interest with the parish office. <i>Catechists: Tony Maina & Saffiatu Bangura</i> July dates will be Tuesdays 7 th and 14 th and Saturday 18 th July. There will be no sessions in August. Attendance is compulsory prior to Baptism taking place.		
BAPTISMS: Welcome to Baby Amelia Holt who receives the Sacrament of Baptism this Saturday 27 th June. Please keep baby Amelia and her family in your prayers at this special time.		

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

The mission entrusted to the Church prompts her to address the real suffering of the men and women of our time. It stems from evangelical charity, which impels the Church to draw near to the wounds of humanity whenever they surface with greater severity. (Magnifica Humanitas, 21).

DOCTRINAL INPUT

Confession comprises of two equally essential elements:

The act of man who undergoes conversion by the action of the Holy Spirit through contrition, confession and satisfaction. God's action through the intervention of the Church, who forgives in the name of Jesus Christ and determines the manner of satisfaction, prays for the sinner and does penance with him (CCC 1448)



Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

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.

Margaret Eleanor Welham RIP, whose funeral will be on Tuesday 14th July 2026 at 11.00 am at English Martyrs followed by a burial at Pangbourne Hill Cemetery at 12.15 pm.

Mr James (Jim) Antony McGiveron RIP. Funeral service will be held at Reading Crematorium South Chapel on Monday 13th July 2026 at 1.00pm.

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: On Sunday 19th July, at 3pm, our parish will once again be celebrating Mass in Prospect Park. This is a great opportunity to witness to our faith to our friends and neighbours in our local community and to share with them our gratitude to God for 100 years of worship and service at English Martyrs church. All parishioners are warmly encouraged to come along, bring your own chairs and a picnic to continue the celebration after mass. In previous years, other park users have been happy to join in our hymns and to chat with us afterwards. We will also be joined by the group of students visiting our parish from Italy.

(PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO 5.00PM MASS ON SUNDAY 19TH JULY.)

SUMMER PLACEMENT: We are glad to welcome Adam Trzebenski back to the Parish for his Summer placement. Adam arrives on Monday 29th July. He will join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from Monday 6th to Friday 10th.

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM Booking has now been closed. Let us pray for the pilgrims who will carry out our Parish Centenary Pilgrimage to Walsingham next Saturday July 4th. You can drop your intentions in the basket in front of the Altar. These intentions will be taken along to the Pilgrimage.

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

BARN DANCE UPDATE Thank you all for supporting the Barn Dance that took place on June 19th in our parish hall. It was indeed an enjoyable event. From the sale of tickets, raffle tickets and odd additional donations, we raised £1,183 after deducting our donation to the Band. This huge success would not have been possible without so many volunteers, cooks, donation of Raffle prizes and finally those came and enjoyed the evening. 50% will go towards upgrading our parish audio visual system and 50% towards the 150th Anniversary projects of our Caral in Portsmouth.

URGENT APPEAL FOR MORE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION GOVERNORS FOR OUR EM PRIMARY SCHOOL

English Martyr's Primary School is in great need of Catholic Foundation Governors who can support the School's leadership, in keeping with Bishop Philip's Vision for our Catholic Schools. Please, if you feel you have got an educational background and would like to support the governance of our Primary School, kindly contact Fr Gaston through the parish office.

MASS INTENTIONS: SATURDAY 27th JUNE TO SUNDAY 5th JULY 2026

Ss PETER AND PAUL

<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</i>	<i>Eileen Knox RIP</i>
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish / Emelda Lum RIP</i>
<i>Monday 29th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Richard Thomson RIP</i>
<i>Tuesday 30th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Dr Samuel, Margaret-Mary and members of the Nforgwei & Tantoh Families RIP</i>
<i>Wednesday 1st July</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>The Soul of Rosalica Goes RIP</i>
<i>Thursday 2nd</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Intentions of the Fearn Family (Claude's 96th Birthday)</i>
	<i>1.00pm</i>	<i>Requiem for Maureen Allaway RIP</i>
<i>Friday 3rd</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Maria De Araujo RIP</i>
	<i>6.45pm</i>	<i>Mass for Peace</i>
<i>Saturday 4th</i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Ethel Cole RIP</i>

14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

<i>Saturday 4th (Sunday Vigil)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 5th</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Bridie O'Gorman RIP</i>
	<i>11.30am</i>	<i>Gladys & Hilary Umeh Wedding Anniversary</i>
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>Emelda Lum RIP</i>

ALPHA HOLY SPIRIT DAY On Sunday 5th July, our parish will run the Alpha Holy Spirit Day at Blessed Hugh Faringdon School which is a special day for those who have been taking part in the Alpha course. Beginning at 10:00am, guests will explore the person and work of the Holy Spirit through talks, small group discussions, prayer, and time for reflection. During the day, there will also be an opportunity for each guest to receive personal prayer, asking for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit and a deeper openness to His gifts and guidance in their lives. The day will conclude at 3:00pm with a Parish Mass.

Please keep everyone attending in your prayers. Pray that each guest will encounter the living Christ, be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and continue to grow in faith. Your prayerful support is a vital part of this ministry and a beautiful way of accompanying those exploring the Catholic faith.



**First Holy Communion Preparation
2026–2027**

Enrolment Now Open

There are a limited number of places available for our upcoming First Holy Communion programme.

To be eligible:

Children must be in Year 3 or above as of September 2026

**Families must be practicing members
of English Martyrs Church**

If you'd like to apply, please collect an enrolment form from either the Colonnade or the Parish Office. Return completed forms to **the parish office** by **1st August 2026**. Photocopy of Baptism certificate should be included if baptism took place in another church.

We look forward to accompanying your family on this special step in your *child's* faith journey.