

English Martyrs' Newsletter



CORPUS CHRISTI

7TH 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

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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)

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| 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 7th 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 7th June Sunday 30 mins before 9.00am, 11.30am & 5.00pm Masses Monday to Friday 15 mins before Mass Saturday 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. | |

THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF THE EUCHARIST

The Feast of Corpus Christi invites us to pause before the greatest gift Christ has left His Church: His true presence in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is not simply a symbol or a memory of Jesus; it is Jesus Himself; Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. A gift given to us in love.

Every time we approach the altar, we are invited into a deeper communion with Christ. The Eucharist nourishes our soul. In a world filled with noise, distraction, anxiety, and restlessness, Jesus comes quietly in the Blessed Sacrament to bring peace to our hearts. He strengthens us, heals us and transforms us into His likeness. The Eucharist teaches us that the spiritual life is not sustained by our own strength alone. Just as the body needs food, the soul needs divine nourishment. Christ feeds us with Himself so that we may persevere in faith, grow in holiness, and live with love toward others.

Before the Eucharist, we learn silence and trust. We learn how to remain with the Lord who remains with us. Time spent in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament slowly shapes the heart, helping us to become more patient, humble, merciful, and attentive to God's voice.




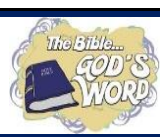





The Eucharist also reminds us that we are never alone. Christ walks with His people as he enters into the ordinary realities of our lives (our joys, struggles, fears, and hopes) and accompanies us from within. We are invited to allow Christ to dwell in every part of our daily life.

As we celebrate Corpus Christi, may we renew our love for the Mass, and approach the Blessed Sacrament with reverence and gratitude as we rediscover the transforming power of Christ truly present in the Eucharist. May the Lord deepen within each of us a hunger for holiness and a desire to remain close to Him who gives Himself completely for our salvation.

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: | CORPUS CHRISTI (07/06) | 11 th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (14/06) |
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|  | First: Deuteronomy 8: 2-3. 14b-16a. Psalm: 147; 12-15, 19-20. Second: 1 Corinthians 10: 16-17. Gospel: John: 6: 51-58. | First: Exodus 19; 2-6a. Psalm: 100(99); 1-2.3.5. Second: Romans 5: 6-11. Gospel: Matthew 9:36-10:8. |
|  | NAME BADGE SUNDAY Another opportunity to meet and greet fellow parishioners by name and develop a better sense of community within the parish. | |
|  | FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Please, let us keep in our prayers our children who will be receiving their First Holy Communion this weekend and their families. We wish them all the best for their future. | |
|  | EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING(S) WILL BE ON: Wednesday 10 th June at 10.30am in Bethlehem Chapel | |
|  | 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, tinned spam/ham, pasta sauce, tinned fruit, instant coffee, long life milk and sugar. 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. | |
|  | 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, 13 th 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. | |
|  | YOUTH GROUP: On Saturday June 13 th 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. | |
|  | CONFIRMATION NEWS 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 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. | |
|  | PARISH AFTERNOON TEA 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 18 th 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." | |

FATHER RICHARD wishes to convey his sincere thanks to everyone who was involved in his 40th Ordination anniversary Mass and celebrations. He would also like to extend his gratitude for all the support, help and prayers he has and continues to receive from us all.

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, 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

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 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.

BAPTISM - Welcome to Baby Carlos Ezekiel Goncalo who receives the Sacrament of Baptism this Sunday 7th June 2026. Please keep baby Carlos and his family in your prayers at this special time.

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.

DOCTRINAL INPUT: POPE LEO'S MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS; BUILDING TOGETHER

The rebuilding of the wall in Nehemiah shows us that community is reborn, not through the initiative of one man, but through the shared responsibility of all with God at the centre and focuses on rebuilding relationships before rebuilding with structures. (Magnifica humanitas, 8)



Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Alison Elizabeth Fletcher. Her funeral will be held on Monday 15th 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.

MASS INTENTIONS: SATURDAY 6th TO SUNDAY 14TH JUNE 2026**CORPUS CHRISTI**

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| <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>Ian & Eva Khan thanksgiving</i> |
| | <i>Live Streamed</i> | <i>Antonia Beatice For God's protection</i> |
| | <i>5.00pm</i> | <i>People of the Parish</i> |
| <i>Monday 8th</i> | <i>9.30am</i> | <i>Eileen Knox RIP</i> |
| <i>Tuesday 9th</i> | <i>9.30am</i> | <i>Joao Da Luz RIP</i> |
| <i>Wednesday 10th</i> | <i>9.30am</i> | <i>Emelda Lum RIP</i> |
| <i>Thursday 11th</i> | <i>9.30am</i> | <i>Emelda Lum RIP</i> |
| <i>Friday 12th</i> | <i>9.30am</i> | <i>Mary O'Shea RIP</i> |
| <i>Saturday 13th</i> | <i>10.00am</i> | <i>Kathleen Goughan RIP</i> |
| 11th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | | |
| <i>Saturday 13th (Sunday Vigil)</i> | <i>6.00pm</i> | <i>Felix John Dias RIP</i> |
| <i>Sunday 14th</i> | <i>9.00am</i> | <i>Ebenezer Quarthey RIP (12th Anniversary)</i> |
| | <i>11.30am</i> | <i>People of the Parish</i> |
| | <i>Live Streamed</i> | |
| | <i>5.00pm</i> | <i>Dickson & Roseline Fernandes Thanksgiving</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.

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.