

English Martyrs' Newsletter



16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
19TH JULY 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/updates 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 19 th July Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 3.00pm NO 5.00pm MASS Sunday 19th Monday to Friday at 9.30am Saturday at 10.00am and 6.00pm (Vigil)	CONFESSIONS From Sunday 19 th July Sunday 30 mins before 9.00am & 11.30am 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.	

CULTIVATING AN ENVIRONMENT FOR LIFE IN CHRIST

Jesus tells us that "the kingdom of heaven is like yeast that is mixed into the flour until all of the flour was leavened." Hidden from view, the leaven works quietly, yet its effect is complete. It transforms the dough from the inside out. This is an image of Christ at work within our lives.

Through Baptism, Christ plants the seed of his own divine life in our souls. Like leaven, his presence may be unseen but is never inactive. He can transform every part of our lives so that we may become more like him. Leaven only works when the conditions are right. If it is neglected or placed in an unsuitable environment, it cannot bring about the transformation for which it was made.

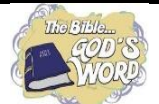
The sacramental life of the Church provides the environment in which the life of Christ flourishes. In the Eucharist, Christ continually nourishes us with his own Body and Blood. In Reconciliation, he removes the obstacles that hinder his grace. Through prayer, Scripture, and the life of the Church, our hearts become receptive to the quiet work of the Holy Spirit. Little by little, Christ's life expands within us, shaping our thoughts, our desires, and our actions.

Only then can we become leaven for the world. A heart transformed by Christ cannot help but influence those around it. With patience instead of anger, mercy instead of judgement and hope instead of despair. The Kingdom grows not only through extraordinary deeds, but through ordinary people who allow Christ to live and grow within them. As we remain close to him in the sacramental life, may the hidden leaven of his grace continue to transform us, until his love rises through us to renew 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:	16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (19/07)	17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (26/07)
	First: Wisdom 12; 13. 16-19. Psalm: 86(85); 5-6. 9-10. 15-16a. Second: Romans 8: 26-27. Gospel: Matthew 13: 24-43.	First: Kings 3; 5-6a. 7-12. Psalm: 119(118); 57.72.76-77.127-128. Second: Romans 8: 28-30. Gospel: Matthew 13: 44-52.
	EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING(S) WILL BE ON: Wednesday 22 nd July at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel	
	ENGLISH MARTYRS SUMMER FOODBANK Ends this weekend 18 th /19 th July; although donations of non perishable food items can still be placed in the food basket in the colonnade adjacent to the entrance to the church (NO CLOTHES/SHOES), before distribution of the food parcels takes place on 23 rd /24 th July. Thank you for your generosity and kindness in helping those who are not so well off.	
	BOOKSTALL NEWS We will be changing our bookstall opening times from August onwards. We will open as usual on Sunday mornings after the 9am Mass until approx. 11.10am and starting on August 2 nd we will also be open on the first and last Sundays of each month after the 5.00pm Sunday Mass. Sadly, we will not be able to open after the 6.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass unless a new volunteer comes forward. So if you think you can help by opening for about half an hour after this Mass once or twice a month please contact Chris Coxwell at chris.coxwell@ntlworld.com Help after any of the other Masses would also be appreciated.	
WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY – SUNDAY 26th JULY This year's World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly reminds us that no older person should feel forgotten. Pope Leo XIV's theme is "I will never forget you" (Isaiah 49:15), inviting us to show God's love through simple acts of kindness and friendship. Could you make a difference to an older person this week? <i>Visit an elderly relative, neighbour or parishioner, especially someone who lives alone or is housebound.</i> <i>Spend time listening to their stories and sharing a conversation over a cup of tea.</i> <i>Offer practical help such as shopping, collecting a prescription, gardening, or putting out the bins.</i> <i>Invite an older person to join you for Mass or offer them a lift if transport is difficult.</i> <i>Take a card, flowers or home baking as a simple sign that they are remembered.</i> <i>Pray with them, or simply let them know they are in your prayers.</i> <i>Encourage children and grandchildren to visit their grandparents and learn from their wisdom and experience.</i> Small gestures of kindness can make an enormous difference. Let us ensure that every older person in our parish knows they are valued, loved and never forgotten.		
POPE LEO XIV's MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS; (ON SAFEGUARDING THE HUMAN PERSON IN THE TIME OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE) Created in God's image, every person is called to live in loving relationship with God, one another and creation. Jesus Christ reveals the fullness of our humanity through his self-giving love and invites us to help build God's Kingdom. Because every person is created and loved by God, each possesses an inalienable dignity that must always be respected and promoted.(Magnifica Humanitas 48-50) DOCTRINAL INPUT The vocation to marriage is written in the very nature of man and women as they came from the hand of God (CCC 1603). God created man out of love and also calls him to love, the mutual love of man and woman becomes an image of the absolute and unfailing love with which God loves man (CCC 1604) BAPTISM PREPARATORY COURSES FOR 2026: Please register your interest with the parish office. <i>Catechists: Tony Maina & Saffiatu Bangura</i> There will be no sessions in August and next sessions will be in September and November 2026. Attendance is compulsory prior to Baptism taking place. BAPTISM - Welcome to baby Shiloh (Ada) who receives the Sacrament of Baptism this Weekend. Please keep baby Shiloh (Ada) and her family in your prayers at this special time.		

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 IN THE PARK: This Sunday 19th July, at 3.00pm in Prospect Park. All parishioners are welcome to come along to come along. Please bring your own chairs and a picnic. This year we will be joined by the group of students visiting our parish from Italy. Mass sheets/booklets will be available detailing hymns etc or if you are using a mobile device or tablet you can see a copy by visiting our website at: <https://englishmartyrsrdg.com> and clicking on the *Mass in the park – HYMN SHEET* link

(PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO 5.00PM MASS.)

ENGLISH MARTYRS PRAYER GARDEN

Thank you all for your interest and support with the Garden. It is wonderful that people wish to contribute and/or be involved in this project. If you wish to do this, please let Chris Ferreira know as she is aware of the overall plan and can let you know what is needed. We are aiming for a garden that is natural and appealing to the different senses, accessible and safe for all wishing to use it.

There are some new Prayer Intentions Boxes by the Grotto for us to drop the intentions we have brought to Our Lady. These intentions will be prayed for by some of our Parish Intercessors.

DBS DROP IN SESSION

Gavin Knight, our Safeguarding Representative, will be in church to meet anyone who needs DBS checks at the following dates/times:

- Sunday 19th July in the Office from 9.45am - 12 midday or later if need be.
- Sunday 2nd August in the Office from 9.45am - 12 midday only.

Documents to bring:

Passport, Driving Licence, Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or European Health Insurance card (EHIC).

Council tax statement that has been sent to your home address which is for this current year.

Bank statement/Utility Bill that has been sent to your home address and is less than 3 months old.

National Insurance number and addressees going back 5 years will also be required.



Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Mrs Kathleen Lennon RIP, whose funeral will be on Thursday 23rd July at 11.15 am .

Please also pray for the Souls of John Kearns and Ernie Rogers who passed away recently.

PARISH EVANGELISATION CELLS: CALLED TO MORE

Jesus' final command was not simply to gather for worship, but to "Go and make disciples."

Every baptised Catholic shares in this mission.

Over the coming weeks you'll be introduced to Parish Evangelisation Cells which are a simple way of helping each of us grow in faith, build community and share Christ naturally with those around us.

This vision echoes the Diocese of Portsmouth's call to become missionary parishes, where every person is formed and sent to witness through daily life.

Could God be inviting you to play a part in the renewal of your parish and the sharing of the Gospel?

To find out more go to www.pecsengland.com



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.

CONFIRMATION 2028

Anyone wishing to be confirmed in 2028 will need to sign up by August 21st 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.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS: SATURDAY 18th TO SUNDAY 26th JULY 2026**16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 18th (Sunday Vigil)	6.00pm	Gregory Nanayakkara RIP
Sunday 19th	9.00am	Bridget Awah Thanksgiving
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Tatiana Horkan & Family Intentions
	3.00pm	Mass in the Park People of the Parish
	5.00pm	NO MASS
Monday 20th	9.30am	Aloysius & Ena Noronha RIP
Tuesday 21st	9.30am	Annie Kate Walsh RIP/ Thomas Walsh RIP William & Tommy Walsh RIP Martin Walsh RIP Kathy Walsh intentions & Ann Walsh
Wednesday 22nd	9.30am	Santiago DaCosta - Birthday
Thursday 23rd	9.30am	Thomas & John O'Malley RIP
	11.15am	Funeral of Mrs Kathleen Lennon RIP
Friday 24th	9.30am	Pat McKeown intentions
Saturday 25th	10.00am	Netta Rankin Birthday

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 25th (Sunday Vigil)	6.00pm	Deceased Members of the McCormack & Martland Families RIP
Sunday 26th	9.00am	Les & Chris Coxwell Private intentions
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Deceased members of Rabuano families RIP
	5.00pm	People of the Parish

WELCOME TO OUR ITALIAN STUDENTS AND THE TGS TEAM

A very warm welcome to our Italian students and the TGS leadership team. We trust their Summer English Course and every other activity they will carry out within and without our Parish to the intercession of the English Martyrs. May their time be fruitful. Many thanks to everyone who is hosting the students and the TGS leader.

SAVE THE DATE: Our Parish Afro-Caribbean Community will celebrate Black History Month on Saturday 24th October at 7:15p.m in our Parish Hall. More details to follow.

SAVE THE DATE: We are planning to hold a marriage retreat on Saturday 26th September 2026 which will begin with the 10.00am Mass. This retreat is not only for married people, young and old, but also for single persons. More details to follow.

SECOND COLLECTIONS FOR OUR CENTENARY PEAK CELEBRATION

These will take place on the weekends of 15th/16th August and 5th/6th September. There will also be a button on the Dona Machine from this coming week and you can also use our online bank details (Parish Bank Details: A/C Name: CDP Reading English Martyrs. Sort Code: 30 – 93 – 04. Account No. 00885666) and put as reference "Centenary". This donation will help in the printing of our centenary journal, support refreshments and other logistical arrangements.