

# English Martyrs' Newsletter

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

5<sup>TH</sup> JULY 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 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)

**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)

<b>SCHOOLS:</b>		<b>TO DONATE TO OUR PARISH:</b>	
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 5<sup>th</sup> July</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 5<sup>th</sup> July</b> 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.	
		<b>EUCHARISTIC 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>	

**FINDING REST IN JESUS**

Our life can often feel like a race without a finish line. We carry responsibilities at home, at work, in our families, and within our parish communities. Even our spiritual lives can sometimes become another list of things to accomplish. In the midst of this, Jesus offers us a beautiful invitation: *"Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest."*

The rest that Jesus promises is not simply a break from activity or a holiday from life's demands. It is the deep peace that comes from knowing we are loved, accepted, and held by God. Jesus reminds us that His Father reveals the mysteries of the Kingdom not to those who rely on their own strength or wisdom, but to those who approach Him with humble and trusting hearts.

When Jesus invites us to take His yoke upon us, He is not placing another burden on our shoulders. Rather, He is asking us to walk beside Him. A yoke joins two together, and Christ carries the greater weight. As we learn from Him who is "gentle and humble of heart" our fears, anxieties, and weariness are transformed by His grace. This invitation is especially meaningful in a world that measures our worth by our achievements. Jesus measures us instead by His love. Before we do anything for Him, we belong to Him.



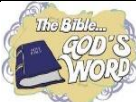



This week, may we set aside a few moments each day to rest in the Lord's presence through prayer, silence, or the Eucharist. As we place our burdens into His hands, may we discover anew the truth of His promise: "You will find rest for your souls."

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 Bishop Philip has appointed a New Priest to our Parish, which will be effective from 8th September. We welcome Fr. Ambrose Chou, from Jersey, who will be joining English Martyrs Reading as Assistant Priest. We are so glad to have another priest serving in our parish. Please, keep Father Ambrose in your prayers.

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](mailto: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:	14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (05/07)	15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (05/07)
	First: Zechariah 9; 9-10. Psalm: 145(144); 1-2. 16-19. Second: Romans 6: 3-4. 8-11. Gospel: Matthew 11: 25-30.	First: Isaiah 55; 10-11. Psalm: 65(64); 10-14. Second: Romans 8: 18-23. Gospel: Matthew 13: 1-23.
	<b>RCIA/JOURNEY IN FAITH.</b> 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 <a href="mailto:office@englishmartyrsrdg.com">office@englishmartyrsrdg.com</a> or join the parish Alpha programme which is running at the moment.	
	<b>EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE</b> NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING(S) WILL BE ON: Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel	
	<b>ENGLISH MARTYRS SUMMER FOODBANK</b> Runs until the weekend of 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> July. Distribution of the food parcels will take place on 23 <sup>rd</sup> /24 <sup>th</sup> July. We are looking for donations of any <u>non perishable</u> food items. These can be dropped off in the food basket in the colonnade adjacent to the entrance to the church. <b>NO CLOTHES/SHOES, PLEASE.</b>	
	<b>CONFIRMATION 2028</b> 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.	
	<b>YOUTH GROUP:</b> 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. <b>NO MEETING THIS SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY.</b> <b>FINAL MEETING BEFORE SUMMER BREAK IS ON SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY.</b>	

## 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. *Catechists: Tony Maina & Saffiatu Bangura*  
 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.

**ADULT BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** Next Sunday July 12<sup>th</sup>, at the 5.00pm Mass, Emmanuella Nbo Omenma Young and Princess Onyinyechukwu Ebi Young will receive the sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Holy communion) while Matilda Awele Esedebe will receive Confirmation. Please, keep them in your prayers.

## POPE LEO X1V's MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS; (ON SAFEGUARDING THE HUMAN PERSON IN THE TIME OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)

The Church “does not claim to possess a monopoly on truth,” because truth is not a territory to be defended, but a good to be shared. This is not a truth that fears diversity, but instead welcomes and guides it. It does not eliminate conflicts, but transforms them, reuniting that which history tends to scatter. (Magnifica Humanitas 26).

## DOCTRINAL INPUT

Holy orders is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time. (CCC 1536) The ministerial priesthood is at the service of the common priesthood (of the faithful) and is directed at the unfolding baptismal grace of all (CCC 1547)



## Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Margaret Eleanor Welham RIP, whose funeral will be on Tuesday 14th July 2026 at 11.00 am at English Martyrs, followed by 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 1.00 pm.

Mrs Sharon Marion Kiely RIP. Funeral service will be at English Martyrs on 15th July 2026 at 11.30 am, followed by Cremation at Reading Crematorium, South Chapel.

John Commins passed away recently. Funeral arrangements to follow.

**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 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:** 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 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY.)

### **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.

### **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 19<sup>th</sup> July in the Office from 9.45am - 12 midday or later if need be.
- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**READING PASTORAL AREA CLERGY MEETING:** Our Clergy of Reading PA will meet for their Monthly meeting on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> July in St James Church.

**CLERGY TRAINING ON ESTATES AND DATA.** Fr Gaston will be attending this training on Thursday, 9th July in Southampton from morning till afternoon.

**OUR SEMINARIAN ADAM TRZEBINSKI** will be accompanying the Portsmouth Diocesan Pilgrimage from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July. Let us pray for their safe journey and a fruitful experience.

**MASS INTENTIONS: SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> TO SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JULY 2026**

**14<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<i>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> (Sunday Vigil)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Bridie O’Gorman RIP</i>
	<i>11.30am</i>	<i>Gladys &amp; Hilary Umeh Wedding Anniversary</i>
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	<i>Antonia Beatrice – for God’s protection</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>Emelda Lum RIP</i>
<i>Monday 6<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Nicola Nikolaeva RIP</i>
<i>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Private Intention for Marie</i>
<i>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Jim Kelly RIP</i>
<i>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Jeronimo Nazareth RIP</i>
<i>Friday 10<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Gamini Perera RIP</i>
<i>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Christina Conneely RIP</i>

**15<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<i>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> (Sunday Vigil)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>Pauline Kirby (nee McGullian) RIP</i>
<i>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Martin Coll RIP</i>
	<i>11.30am</i>	<i>Joao Da Luz RIP</i>
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	
	<i>2.30pm</i>	<i>Vietnamese Community Mass</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish / Gamini Perera 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.

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND FOR THE APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA ( STELLA MARIS)**

**SAVE THE DATE:** Our Parish Afro-Caribbean Community will celebrate Black History Month on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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.



**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 **1<sup>st</sup> 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.