

English Martyrs' Newsletter



19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9TH AUGUST 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: CLOSED. REOPENS WEDNESDAY 19th AUGUST @ 9.00am.
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 9 th August 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 9 th August 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.	
		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.	

TAKE HEART, IT IS I

In Matthew 14:22–33, Peter steps out of the boat at Jesus' invitation. While his eyes remain fixed on the Lord, he walks across the water. But as soon as he notices the strength of the wind and the height of the waves, fear takes over and he begins to sink. It is a story that speaks powerfully to our own lives.

We all experience storms; worries about family, health, work, or the future. It is easy to become overwhelmed by what surrounds us and lose sight of the one who is always beside us. Yet Jesus does not leave Peter struggling. Immediately He reaches out His hand, reminding us that His love is always greater than our fears.

Perhaps this Gospel also invites us to ask: *What helps me keep my eyes on Jesus?* The Six Holy Habits are simple practices that help us remain close to the Lord each day. Daily prayer keeps our hearts turned towards Him. Reflecting on the Scriptures allows us to hear His voice amid the noise of the world. Faithful participation in Sunday Mass nourishes us with His Word and His Body, strengthening us for whatever lies ahead. And when we serve others with love, we discover Christ already present in those we meet.

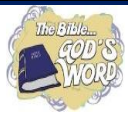
These habits do not remove the storms from our lives, but they help us recognise that we never face them alone. As we keep our gaze fixed on Jesus, he gives us the courage to step out in faith, to trust him more deeply, and to become witnesses of his hope in our families, our parish, and our community.

May we hear His gentle words again today: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." With our eyes fixed on Christ, we can walk confidently wherever He calls us.

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:	19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (09/08)	THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY (16/08)
	First: 1 Kings 19.9a. 11-13a. Psalm: 85(84); 9ab. 10-14. Second: Romans 9. 1-5. Gospel: Matthew 14: 22-33.	First: Revelation 11:19a; 12; 1-6a.10ab. Psalm: 45(44); 10-12. 16. Second: R1b Corinthians 15; 20-27. Gospel: Luke 1: 39-56.



EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING(S)
WILL BE ON: Monday 10th August at 7.30pm in Room 2 and Wednesday 12th August at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel.



TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK We are supporting approximately 40 households with food and household products. generous donations. This week we are short of tinned corned beef/spam, tinned tuna, tinned potatoes, instant mash potatoes, sugar, shower gel, shampoo and conditioner. 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.



VOLUNTEER DRIVERS REQUIRED

The SVP urgently need volunteer drivers (male or female) for Food Centre deliveries in the Reading area. If you have a car, estate or small van and can spare a few hours a week for a very worthwhile cause, please contact Jack Ewins for more details on Mobile 07734 499190.
Email jackewins9@gmail.com Membership of the SVP is not necessary



PROCESSIONAL CANDLES Dear parishioners we are trying to raise funds to replace our broken and worn-out Processional Candles. The total cost is £650.00 to replace all four. If you can help with a donation, please put it into the box in the wall in the colonnade behind the church door. There is a sign up to show you exactly where. If each parishioner donated £1.00, we could reach our target. So please if you can help, make a donation to enable us to replace our Processional Candles.

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

Those who with God's help have welcomed Christ's call and freely responded to it are urged on by the love of Christ to proclaim the Good News everywhere in the world, handing it on by professing the faith, by living in fraternal sharing, and by celebrating it in liturgy and prayer (CCC 3)

ENCYCLICAL (MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS 59)

Recognising that every man and woman possesses an inalienable dignity, together with rights that no human power can betray or nullify, requires us to shape the way we live. For a Christian it involves us going beyond the narrow confines of one's own interests and committing oneself, within the limits of one's ability, to the common good.

BAPTISM PREPARATORY COURSES FOR 2026:

Please register your interest with the parish office. *Catechists: Tony Maina & Saffiatu Bangura*
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.

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.

CENTENARY PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Let us pray for a safe journey to Lourdes for those who are taking part in our second Centenary Pilgrimage which runs from Monday 10th to Friday 14th August 2026. We still have the opportunity to drop our intentions in the basket in front of the Altar. This will be removed on Sunday evening after the 5.00pm Mass.

DEPARTURE TIME FOR LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: The Coach leaves the Parish at 4:30a.m on Monday morning. Please, arrive at least 15 minutes before. Pilgrims can park their cars at the rear car park

ORGAN RESTORATION PROJECT – UPDATE

Preliminary work began on the pipes which were dismantled, repaired and refitted, but did not put the organ out of action. However, the next major phase of the project will begin in January 2028 which will render the organ out of use till July/August 2028 when the work would have been completed. Photos of work carried out so far can be seen on our website. www.englishmartyrsrdg.com and click on the photo of the organ.

DBS CHECKS

Gavin Knight, our Safeguarding Representative, has done two drop in sessions for those who wanted to do the DBS checks. If you did not have the chance to meet him, you can still contact him by email: (safeguarding2@englishmartyrsrdg.com)

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.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING: All who need it are invited to attend the session on Saturday 22nd August from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm in the hall. Please, register your interest to attend with Gavin Knight to facilitate proper planning (safeguarding2@englishmartyrsrdg.com)

PARISH EVANGELISATION CELLS: LIVING THE SIX HOLY HABITS

The Diocese of Portsmouth invites us to grow through the Six Holy Habits, helping us become joyful missionary disciples. Parish Evangelisation Cells offer a practical way to live these habits together through prayer, Scripture, friendship, service and encouragement. As we grow closer to Christ, we naturally become more attentive to those around us who are searching for hope and meaning.

The aim isn't simply more meetings. It is transformed lives, stronger communities and parishes where faith is lived with confidence, generosity and joy. To find out more go to www.pecsengland.com

ALPHA FORUM FOR PARISHES IN PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE

MONDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER | 7:30 – 8:30PM | ONLINE

Has your parish run Alpha, or are you thinking about starting one? Join the Formation for Mission team for an online Alpha Forum designed to encourage, support, and connect parishes across the Diocese. This informal gathering is an opportunity to share experiences, learn from one another, explore best practice, and discover fresh ideas for running Alpha in your parish.

To register for the meeting please go to <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/0TNBkTR7z8> or email ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. A link will be sent out nearer the time.

DIOCESAN CATECHIST DAY – PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE

SATURDAY 10th OCTOBER | 9:30AM–1:30PM | ST BEDE'S, BASINGSTOKE

Are you involved in passing on the faith in your parish? Join catechists from across the Diocese for a morning of prayer, inspiration, and practical formation as we reflect on our shared mission to form missionary disciples. Inspired by Jesus' words, *"Go therefore and make disciples..."* (Matthew 28:19), we will explore how catechists can lead others to Christ, hand on the living faith of the Church, accompany people in conversion, and help build vibrant missionary parishes. Whether you are an experienced catechist or new to the ministry, you are warmly invited to attend.

To register your interest please go to <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/RFGROzEzDh> or email Meghan, Formation for Mission Team Leader at ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

SECOND COLLECTION: We shall have a second collection next weekend (15th/16th August) to support the peak celebration of our Centenary of Dedication of our Parish Church which will involve:

- Holy Mass on Friday 18th September at 6.00pm which will bring together priests who were once parishioners or who served in our Parish. The Mass will be followed by an international meal in our Parish Hall.
- A High Pontifical Holy Mass to conclude the centenary year on Sunday 20th September at 10.00am to be celebrated by Bishop Philip.
- Publication of our Parish Centenary Journal. This will be an inspiring and delightful read.

MASS INTENTIONS: SATURDAY 8th TO SUNDAY 16th AUGUST 2026**19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 8th (Sunday Vigil)	6.00pm	Christina Conneely RIP Shirley and Nevil Joseph's 25th Wedding Anniversary
Sunday 9th	9.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Edwin Thomas RIP
	5.00pm	Dickson & Roseline Fernandes Thanksgiving
Monday 10th	9.30am	Archbishop J H King RIP
Tuesday 11th	9.30am	Ralph Mascarenhas RIP
Wednesday 12th	9.30am	Derek Taplin RIP
Thursday 13th	9.30am	Hugh Farrington Burnett RIP Coloca 75th Birthday Thanksgiving
Friday 14th	9.30am	Robert Priddy RIP
Saturday 15th	10.00am	Joao De Luz RIP

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Saturday 15th (Sunday Vigil)	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 16th	9.00am	Mary Nabia Bangura Birthday
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Christine George RIP
	5.00pm	Jose Roque Fernandes RIP

GIFT AID DECLARATION FORMS:

We are grateful to those who have signed the new Gift Aid Forms but are still appealing to everyone to consider gift aiding your donations to the Church. This will yield a further 25% income for our parish when your taxes are paid. There are green forms in the Colonnade which can be filled in and put through the Parish Office letter box.

JOURNEY IN FAITH/ RCIA IN OUR PARISH

Are you an adult wondering about seeking Baptism in the Catholic Church? Perhaps you were baptised as a child and would now like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Are you simply interested in knowing more about the Catholic Faith of your partner or friends? Perhaps you are an adult Catholic who would like to deepen your understanding of your Faith.

Whatever your situation, you are warmly invited to one of our informal "Who is the RCIA/ Journey in Faith for?" meetings in the Parish Centre on either Saturday 5th September 11-12 noon or Thursday 10th September 7.30-8.30 . For more information, speak to one of our priests or email: rcia@englishmartyrsrdg.com.

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.

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.