

English Martyrs' Newsletter



22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
30TH 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
Assistant Priest: Fr. Ambrose Chou achou@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/	<u>MASS TIMES FROM Sunday 30th August</u> Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm Monday at 10.00am (Bank Holiday) Tuesday to Thursday at 9.30am Friday at 9.30am and 6.45pm Saturday at 10.00am and 6.00pm (Vigil)	<u>CONFESSIONS From Sunday 30th August</u> 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.	
	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: On Friday from 10.00am to 5.00pm. Praise and Worship as usual until 5:45pm then at 6.00pm The Angelus, Rosary and Benediction. Mass for Peace is at 6.45pm.		

LIVING FULLY FOR JESUS

In Matthew 16:21-27, Jesus speaks honestly about the path that lies before Him and calls His disciples to follow Him by taking up their cross. His words challenge us to look beyond the things that the world tells us will bring happiness and to ask instead: *How can I live fully for Jesus?*

Following Christ is not simply about knowing about Him; it is about allowing His presence to shape our everyday lives. Scripture gives us the foundation for this journey. When we read the Gospels, we encounter Jesus Himself, His words, His compassion, and His call to discipleship. Taking time each day to reflect on Scripture can help us recognise where He is leading us.

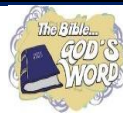
Prayer deepens this relationship. In the quiet of prayer, we can bring our hopes, worries and decisions before God, while also learning to listen for His voice. Prayer helps us to trust Jesus, especially when following Him requires sacrifice or courage.

The sacraments give us the grace and strength to live this calling. In the Eucharist, we are nourished by Christ and united with Him and one another. In Reconciliation, we experience God's mercy and receive a fresh beginning. Jesus reminds us that our true life is found not in gaining everything the world offers, but in giving ourselves to Him.

Through Scripture, prayer and the sacraments, may we grow each day in faith, love and trust, and discover the joy of living fully for Christ.

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:	22 nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (30/08)	23 rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (06/09)
	First: Jeremiah 20: 7-9. Psalm: 63(62); 2-6.8-9. Second: Romans 12; 1-2. Gospel: Matthew 16; 21-27.	First: Jeremiah 20: 7-9. Psalm: 63(62); 2-6.8-9. Second: Romans 12; 1-2. Gospel: Matthew 16; 21-27.
	EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING(S) WILL BE ON: Wednesday 2 nd September at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel.	
	BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS FOR AUGUST We extend our best wishes to everyone born in the month of August, 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 4 th September, 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.	
	TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK We are supporting approximately 45 households, weekly, with food and household products. Many thanks to your very generous donations. This week we are short of tinned hot dogs/meatballs, tinned mackerel, tinned fruit, peanut butter, jam, toothpaste and wet wipes. 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.	
	FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME All parents who have enrolled their children onto this year's First Holy Communion programme are invited to an Information Evening on Friday 25 th September at 6.00pm in the Church, following Benediction. You are warmly welcome to join us for Benediction beforehand.	
	YOUTH GROUP/CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME Youth confirmation begins Sunday 18 th October, 6.00pm - 7:15pm. This is for all young people (school years 7 to 13) wishing to be confirmed in 2028 as well as those who have already been Confirmed . Enrolment forms can be found in the colonnade. Contact Meghan for more information at Meghan.dimbylow@englishmartyrsrdg.com	
THE GIFTS THAT GOD GIVES TO US The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. For if man exists it is because God has created him through love, and through love continues to hold him in existence. (CCC 27) POPE LEO TEACHES: Subsidiarity and the Common Good (Magnifica Humanitas 68-72) Subsidiarity means decisions should be made at the lowest appropriate level, respecting individuals, families and communities while supporting the common good. In the digital age, powerful technology companies must also be accountable, transparent and participatory, while governments ensure fairness, safeguards and meaningful community involvement.		
BAPTISM - Welcome to Baby Boakye who receives the Sacrament of Baptism this Saturday 29 August at 11.30 am. Please keep baby Boakye and his family in your prayers at this special time.		
BAPTISM PREPARATORY COURSES FOR 2026: Please register your interest with the parish office. <i>Catechists: Tony Maina & Saffiatu Bangura</i> The next sessions will be in September and November 2026. Attendance is compulsory prior to Baptism taking place.		



Rest In Peace

Funeral arrangements for Florence Bardos RIP has now been confirmed. Her body will be received into Our Lady & St. Anne's on Thursday 3rd September at 4pm. The funeral Mass will take place on Friday 4th September at 11.00am.

A memorial Mass will be held for John Conroy RIP on Saturday 05 September at 1.30 pm at English Martyrs Church

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.

PROJECT TO SUPPORT UPGRADE OF OUR AUDIO-VISUAL CENTRAL CONTROL UNIT

This September, Livingstons Hearing & Vision Care is supporting our church's audiovisual development project through a special hearing-care initiative. Members of the church, their families and friends can book a comprehensive 90-minute advanced hearing assessment for £100. The assessment includes an ear-health examination, detailed hearing testing, middle-ear testing and speech testing in both quiet and background noise. Your results will be clearly explained, together with personalised clinical advice and recommendations. The full £100 assessment fee will be donated to the church's audiovisual development project. If hearing aids are recommended, you will also have the opportunity to trial suitable private hearing aids free of charge, with no obligation to purchase. Appointments must take place during September 2026 at Livingstons Hearing & Vision Care, 14 Norcot Road, Tilehurst. To book, call 0118 304 9779 and mention the church newsletter.

PARISH EVANGELISATION CELLS: IMAGINE OUR PARISH

Imagine a parish where everyone feels welcomed, faith is shared naturally and more people discover their gifts for serving others. Imagine parishioners praying regularly for family and friends, encouraging one another and growing together as disciples.

This is the vision of Parish Evangelisation Cells; not replacing parish life or already established groups but strengthening the parish from within.

Our Parish Evangelisation Envisioning Evening is at 7:30pm on September 16th at St Joseph's Tilehurst. Come and hear how this vision is renewing parishes and discover how we might embrace it together here in Reading. To find out more go to www.pecsengland.com

SEASON OF CREATION 2026 "Living Water - Where the river flows everything will live. Ezekiel 47:9 From 1st September to 4th October, Christians throughout the world observe the Season of Creation: a time to give thanks to God for the gift of creation and to reflect on our responsibility to care for our common home. This year's theme, "Living Water", draws on Ezekiel's vision of water flowing from the sanctuary and bringing life wherever it goes. It reminds us that creation is God's gift, entrusted to our care.

As Catholics, our concern for creation begins not with politics, but with faith, gratitude and stewardship. We are called to care for the world around us and for our neighbours, especially those most affected by environmental damage. During this Season of Creation, why not make one simple commitment?

PRAY — giving thanks for creation and praying for those affected by droughts, floods and other disasters.

ACT — perhaps by reducing waste, using water wisely, encouraging wildlife, avoiding food waste or spending time appreciating God's creation. Small, faithful actions can be expressions of our Christian faith.

PEAK CELEBRATION OF OUR CENTENARY YEAR

HOW TO ORDER YOUR COPY(IES) OF THE CENTENARY JOURNAL AND VOLUNTEER TO SUPPORT CATERING.

It is now less than a month until Bishop Phillip and some of our previous parish priests return to join us in celebrating our centenary anniversary and plans are well underway to ensure the occasion is suitably celebrated. Our centenary publication is just about to go to the printers and will be available from 18th September.

We now need your help and ask if you could visit the parish website and click on the links to sign up and help with the celebrations on 18th and 20th September, and also if you would like to order a copy of the centenary publication.

More details will follow over the next few weeks.

To order the Centenary Publication: <https://forms.gle/PSVXemzn6MF2MGWp7>

To Volunteer your assistance with the catering: <https://forms.gle/AzAnTvFWHQWrMUv99>

FR RICHARD'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

We are delighted to announce that Fr. Richard will celebrate his 75th birthday on Saturday, September 12th. He will celebrate the 6.00pm Mass; after which there will be birthday refreshments. Let us keep praying for Fr. Richard who so kindly avails himself for service in our parish community.

WHATSAPP USERS

Thames Valley police are investigating a current trend of WhatsApp accounts that are being compromised by hackers calling and getting verification codes from the victim. It seems they are targeting church communities on social sites to hack into accounts. This has been forwarded to the diocese. In the mean time protect yourselves from WhatsApp scams by enabling two-step verification (2FA), never share your verification codes with anyone, avoid suspicious links, QR codes or attachments. Regularly check linked devices for unfamiliar logins.

THANK YOU to Giggio, Gianni and Marius for cleaning the outside of the church and the courtyard in readiness for the centenary celebrations. Their effort was very much appreciated and the results are amazing.

SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY:

Congratulations to Sanusi and Jammie Koroma who will have been married for 25 years on Monday 1st September. They will receive a special anniversary blessing after the homily at the 11:30am Mass. Please, keep them in your prayers.

MASS INTENTIONS: SATURDAY 29th AUGUST TO SUNDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2026**22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<i>Saturday 29th (Sunday Vigil)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>Deceased members of the McCormack & Martland Families RIP</i>
<i>Sunday 30th</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Tolentina Fernandes RIP</i>
	<i>11.30am</i> <i>Live Streamed</i>	<i>Kathleen Lennon RIP</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Monday 31st</i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Kathleen Carolan RIP</i>
<i>Tuesday 1st September</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Hugh Faringdon Burrett RIP</i>
<i>Wednesday 2nd</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Kathleen Lennon RIP</i> <i>Fr George Lyons RIP – 9th anniversary</i>
<i>Thursday 3rd</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>John Commins RIP</i>
<i>Friday 4th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Martin Powell RIP</i>
	<i>6.45pm</i>	<i>First Friday Mass for Peace</i>
<i>Saturday 5th</i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Emma Brown RIP</i>
	<i>1.30pm</i>	<i>John Conroy RIP Memorial Mass</i>

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

<i>Saturday 5th (Sunday Vigil)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>Caridade Sebastian Lobo RIP</i>
<i>Sunday 6th</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	<i>11.30am</i> <i>Live Streamed</i>	<i>Thomas Mansell RIP</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>Ritinha Bassiana Fernandes RIP</i> <i>Cruz Lazarus Leiteo RIP</i>

UNIVERSITY STUDENT IN NEED OF ACCOMMODATION TO RENT: A University student aged 18 and soon 19 is in search of an accommodation to rent. The student is a male and from a devout Catholic Family. Please, contact the parish office if you have an accommodation to rent or know anyone who has one.

ARRIVAL OF OUR NEW ASSISTANT PRIEST: We are glad to welcome Fr Ambrose Chou on Tuesday 1st September, who will join Fr Gaston and Fr Richard to serve our parish community. Let us keep Fr Ambrose in our prayers.