

English Martyrs' Newsletter



23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
6TH SEPTEMBER 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/	MASS TIMES FROM Sunday 6 th September 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 6 th September 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 6.00pm. From 5.00pm, Praise and Worship will feature music, scripture reading, guided reflection, a time of silence and concluding with Benediction.	

WALKING TOGETHER IN TRUTH AND LOVE

In today's Gospel (Matthew 18:15–20), Jesus speaks to us about something that is often difficult: how we respond when relationships are hurt or broken. His words remind us that faith is not lived alone. We belong to one another as members of the Body of Christ, and therefore we are called to care enough to seek healing when something goes wrong.

Jesus does not encourage us to gossip, hold grudges, or quietly allow resentment to grow. Instead, he invites us to approach one another with honesty, humility, and love. "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone." This is not about winning an argument or proving ourselves right. It is about restoring a relationship and helping one another return to the path of life.

This Gospel also challenges us to ask: when we have hurt someone, are we willing to listen, apologise, and seek forgiveness? Reconciliation requires courage from everyone involved. Yet we never undertake this work alone. Christ is present in the midst of his people, especially when we gather in his name.

Jesus gives us a beautiful promise: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." In our families, parish, friendships, and communities, Christ is with us, calling us to become people of peace.

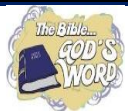
This week, perhaps we can take one small step towards reconciliation: offer forgiveness, seek forgiveness, or pray for a relationship that needs healing. When we choose truth spoken with love, we make room for Christ to dwell more deeply among us.

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:	23 rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (06/09)	24 th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (13/09)
	First: Ezekiel 33: 7-9. Psalm: 95(94); 1-2. 6-9. Second: Romans 13; 8-10. Gospel: Matthew 18; 15-20.	First: Sirach: 27:30 – 28:7 Psalm: 103(102); 1-4. 9-12. Second: Romans 14; 7-9. Gospel: Matthew 18; 21-35.



EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING(S)
WILL BE ON: Monday 7th September at 7.30pm in Room 2 and Wednesday 9th September at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel.



TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK We are supporting approximately 45 households, weekly, with food and household products. Many thanks for your very generous donations. This week we are short of weetabix, cereals for kids, tinned hot dogs, baked beans, rice, sugar, shower gel, shampoo, washing up liquid. 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 25th 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 18th 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



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 17th September 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."

CATECHISM Although man can forget God or reject him, He never ceases to call every man to seek him, so as to find life and happiness. But this search for God demands of man every effort of intellect, a sound will, "an upright heart", as well as the witness of others who teach him to seek God. (CCC 30)

SOLIDARITY Solidarity is expressed when each person, both individually and collectively, takes part in the life of the community by staying informed, engaging with others, making their voice heard and contributing to public decisions and choices while also assuming real responsibility. (Magnifica Humanitas 73)

BAPTISM - welcome to babies Victoria, Oliver and Joseph who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend. Babies Victoria and Oliver will be Baptised on Saturday 5th September and baby Oliver will be Baptised on Sunday 6th September.
Please keep Victoria, Oliver and Joseph & their families in your prayers at this special time.

BAPTISM PREPARATORY COURSES FOR 2026:

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

DIOCESAN CATECHIST DAY – PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE

Saturday 10 October | 9:30am–1:30pm | St Bede's, Basingstoke

Whether you are a parish catechist, sacramental preparation leader, RCIA team member, children's liturgy volunteer, youth catechist, or involved in any ministry of faith formation, you are warmly invited to the Portsmouth Diocese Catechists' Formation Day. We will be joined by Fr Emmanuel Mansford of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and Dr Káren North from St Mary's University Twickenham as we come together from across the Diocese for a morning of prayer, inspiration, and practical formation as we reflect on our shared mission to form missionary disciples. The day will start with Mass before we move into our sessions, there will also be a time for prayer and reflection as well as hearing from each other before we finish the day with a shared lunch (provided as part of the day). To register your interest please go to <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/RFGR0zEzDh> or email Meghan on ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SPECIAL MASS ON SUNDAY 20th SEPTEMBER CELEBRATED BY BISHOP PHILIP WILL NOW COMMENCE AT 11.00am AND NOT 10.00am AS PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED.

FRIDAY ADORATION - Help needed. If you are available, could you please add your name to the list left on the colonnade table.

CLEANERS - volunteers are needed with cleaning the church to join the group on Tuesdays.

If you could help please inform the office or be in the church after the 09.30 am Mass on Tuesdays.

NEXT WEEKEND there will be a second collection on behalf of Home Missions.

**THE FIRST OF FOUR AUTUMN WEEKEND MASS COUNTS FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS
WILL BE UNDERTAKEN NEXT WEEKEND.**

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 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.

MASS INTENTIONS: SATURDAY 5th TO SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2026**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>
<i>Monday 7th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Pat Barnet RIP</i>
<i>Tuesday 8th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>John Commins RIP</i>
<i>Wednesday 9th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Pauline Nash RIP</i>
<i>Thursday 10th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Soul of Rosalica Goes RIP</i>
<i>Friday 11th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Roseleen Doyle RIP</i>
<i>Saturday 12th</i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Santiago da Costa & Tomacinha</i> <i>Fernandes 48th Wedding anniversary</i>

24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

<i>Saturday 12th (Sunday Vigil)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>Deceased members of the</i> <i>Nanayakkara Family</i>
<i>Sunday 13th</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i> <i>Angela Wills's Birthday intentions</i>
	<i>11.30am</i> <i>Live Streamed</i>	<i>A thanksgiving for the gift of Clover's</i> <i>life and for comfort at her passing</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>Thanksgiving from Dickson and</i> <i>Roseline Fernandes</i>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SATURDAY VIGIL ROSARY GROUP

We are grateful to those who have been leading the rosary at 5:30p.m on Saturdays before the 6p.m Vigil Mass. We are in need of more people who can volunteer to join the rota for leading the Holy Rosary at this time. If you can help, please, contact the parish Office or the email:
englishmartyrsmarianmission@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

FORMS FOR VOLUNTEERING AT OUR PEAK CENTENARY CELEBRATION.

There are some printed forms at the back of the church which we can pick to indicate if we will like to order copies of our Centenary Journal. Also, we need volunteers to provide finger food on Friday 18th for refreshments after the 6p.m Mass and Cakes on Sunday 20th after the Centenary Mass. You can also indicate on the forms if you will like to support with setting up and clearing after the event on 18th and that on 20th.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's liturgy will resume on Sunday 13th September at the 9a.m, 11:30a.m and 5p.m Masses. We are still in need of more volunteers to support this important activity, which helps our children to participate more actively in our Sunday celebration of the Liturgy. Please, if you can, contact the parish office.

RCIA/ JOURNEY IN FAITH INFORMATION MEETING Are you an adult who would like to know more about the Catholic Faith? Or a baptised Catholic seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation? Maybe, you are a regular parishioner who would like to deepen your own understanding of your Faith? Whatever your situation, you will be very welcome to bring your questions to an informal information meeting on Thursday 10th at 7.30 pm in the parish Centre, where you can find out more about our parish Journey in Faith (RCIA) which will begin again on Thursday 24th September. You can also speak to one of our priests or email

rcia@englishmartyrsrdg.com