

English Martyrs' Newsletter



29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
18TH OCTOBER 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 18 th October Sunday at 9.00am, 11.30am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday at 9.30am Saturday at 10.00am and 6.00pm (Vigil)	CONFESSIONS From Sunday 18 th October Sunday 30 mins before 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.	

RENDER TO GOD WHAT BELONGS TO GOD

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 22:15–21), the Pharisees try to trap Jesus with a question about paying taxes to Caesar. Jesus responds: "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." Jesus reminds us that we have responsibilities both as citizens and as people of faith. We are called to act honestly, contribute to the common good, and treat others with justice and respect. The Gospel invites us to look deeper and ask ourselves: what truly belongs to God?

The coin bears Caesar's image, but we are made in the image and likeness of God. Our lives, our gifts and our ability to love are entrusted to us by our Creator.

Giving to God what is God's means allowing our faith to shape how we live each day.

It is easy to become absorbed in the demands and distractions of daily life, leaving little room for God. Yet our faith is not confined to Sunday worship; it should be reflected in everything we do.

This week we may ask ourselves: Am I giving God the time, trust and love that belong to him? Do I recognise his image in others?

CATECHISM (CCC 51-52)

It pleased God, in his goodness and wisdom, to reveal himself and to make known the mystery of his will. His will was that men should have access to the Father, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit, and become sharers in the divine nature. God, who "dwells in unapproachable light", wants to communicate his own divine life to the men he freely created, in order to adopt them as his sons in his only-begotten Son.

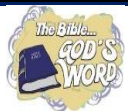
A WELCOMING PARISH TO FAMILIES: It is always beautiful to hear the voices of babies during our Mass and to see families accompanied by little ones. This gives us hope for the future. Jesus loves little children, so bring them always. We cherish their voices and their presence. Don't feel uncomfortable even when they cry because God loves every sound they produce.

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:	29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (18/10)	30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (25/10)
	First: Isaiah: 45: 1, 4-6 Psalm: 96(95) 1, 3-5. 7-9. Second: Thessalonians 1; 1-5b. Gospel: Matthew 22; 15-21.	First: Exodus: 22: 21-27 Psalm: 18(17) 2-4, 47,51ab. Second: Thessalonians 1; 5c-10. Gospel: Matthew 22; 34-40.



EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING(S)
WILL BE ON Wednesday 21st October at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel.



TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK – OCTOBER HARVEST FESTIVAL

We are supporting approximately 45 households weekly, with food and household products. October is Harvest Festival month. We would be most grateful for food donations as they are crucial to sustaining us throughout the year. The items we typically need are cereal, long life milk/juice, cooking oil, tinned meat (corned beef, spam, meatballs, hot dogs), tinned fish (tuna, mackerel, sardines), baked beans, tinned vegetables, tinned potatoes, instant mash, spaghetti hoops, pasta, pasta sauce, ketchup, tinned fruit, tea, coffee, shampoo, shower gel, dishwashing liquid and toilet rolls. Many thanks for your generosity. May God bless you!



YOUTH GROUP/CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

The next English Martyrs Young Adults meeting will be on Friday November 6th after the 6:45pm mass in the church hall. English Martyrs Young Adults is for all young adults in the parish aged 20-35.

CONFIRMATION:

We are sorry for any confusion, but the confirmation certificates will now be handed out at the 11:30am Mass on November 15th. The youth group/confirmation will also start on this day for all people who have signed up for confirmation in 2028.



RCIA/ JOURNEY IN FAITH This large group continued to consider the death and Resurrection of Jesus through the Apostles Creed and *Who is Jesus?* a video from Fr Stephen Wang (now Bishop). Some Enquirers have tried reading the whole Gospel of Mark via audio and found this gave them a new understanding.
(Try https://youtu.be/Kt4rWLVAW5g?is=96mRb_EfTTZM4OzL for all 4 Gospels read by David Suchet). We broke into small groups to reflect on the Sunday readings and the Creed together. Meetings continue on Thursday evenings from 7.30 – 9 pm. For further information: rcia@englishmartyrsrdg.com or speak to one of our priests



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 22nd October 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."

ASSIST THE PARISH TO CLAIM 25% SURPLUS ON YOUR DONATIONS: Please, kindly spend a few minutes to complete the online gift Aid form to enable the parish get additional 25% of your donation from the HMRC if you are a current tax payer. Simply use the link below to complete the form.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=aXEQD-Bnr06EKJ6fBel0q4Rua0kQk-BPsjWqtSnqkZFUMjdWVEVONDVXRzU4VIRVNkRRSVE4STQ0OC4u>

ADORE RETREAT: Our Parish will be hosting a retreat organised by the ADORE GROUP on Saturday 24th October. This retreat is open to everyone in the parish. It will begin with Mass at 10a.m, followed by confessions, rosary, refreshments, talks, worship, eucharistic adoration and intercession.

A QUIZ NIGHT IN AID OF HOPE INTO ACTION READING will be held on Wednesday 11th November at 7.30 pm in English Martyrs Church Hall in the week leading up to World Day of the Poor. All are welcome. No Entrance fee, Free soft drinks and snacks. Please donate what you can to participate.

LISTENING, SHARING AND GROWING TOGETHER

In our parish, we are all part of God's family. God wants us to listen to one another, pray together and help everyone feel welcome. Our Bishop has asked parishes to think about how we listen to each other and to the Holy Spirit. We would love to hear what you, your friends, and family think.

You can send your thoughts on email to the parish office this week – or, better still, join a conversation with other parishioners at 7.30 pm in the parish hall on EITHER Monday 19th OR Tuesday 20th or online on Wednesday 21st.

BAPTISM PREPARATORY COURSES FOR 2026:

Please register your interest with the parish office. Catechists: Tony Maina & Saffiatu Bangura
Sessions will take place on Tuesdays 10th and 17th November and Saturday 21st November 2026.
Attendance is compulsory prior to Baptism taking place.

REST IN PEACE Please pray for the repose of the soul of Margaret Lewis RIP, whose funeral will take place in our church on Tuesday 20th October at 11:30a.m.

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.

AFRO CARIBBEAN NIGHT The Afro-Caribbean Community in our Parish will be hosting an event on the 24th October in the Parish Hall. This will be marked by Delicious Food, Great Music Raffles & Fun. Tickets Adult- £15. Child (10 - 18 years) £10. Please contact Tony on 07776 328060 or Saffie on 07886 082217 for tickets. More details on the notice board.

DIOCESAN PARISH EVANGELISATION DAY: You are warmly invited to join us for a morning as we explore how parish groups, one of our Diocese's Six Holy Habits, can deepen our faith and impact our parishes as they become welcoming places for all. Join us on Saturday 31st October for an inspiring day of teaching, prayer, practical formation, and fellowship at the Portsmouth Diocese Parish Evangelisation Formation Day. This day will be held at Christ the King (408 Northumberland Ave, Reading RG2 8NR), 10:00am – 1:30pm on Saturday 31st October. Lunch will be provided as part of the day. Please register using the link: <https://forms.office.com/e/JGgE7zeuun> or email Meghan ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk .

HOMELESSNESS: PUTTING FAITH INTO ACTION *"Love one another as I have loved you."* (John 13:34)
Homelessness includes not only rough sleeping but also hidden homelessness and insecure housing. As Christians, we are called to respond with compassion, practical help and friendship. How can you help? Find out how you can support *Hope into Action Reading*, which works with English Martyrs and other local churches to provide homes and friendship for people experiencing homelessness. Find out more or volunteer at: <https://www.hopeintoactionreading.org.uk/>

EXTRAORDINARY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS IN THE PARISH

When Eucharistic ministers are commissioned, they are reminded that preparation for liturgy must extend into their daily life; all they do should reflect their commitment. Eucharistic ministers should strive to be worthy of the privilege of serving the people of God and be an example of prayerfulness and reverence towards the Blessed Sacrament.

All Eucharistic ministers, including those new to the ministry, will be commissioned at the usual Mass they attend on the weekend of 7th/8th of November. Please keep our extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist in your prayers.

COMMISSIONING/RECOMMISSIONING OF READERS: We thank all our readers for their important ministry. They will all be commissioned/recommissioned at the weekend masses of 21st/22nd November.

Open morning at Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School on Monday 19th October 2026 from 09.00 am to 11.00 am. (10.00 am Headmaster's Address) - Fawley Road, Southcote RG30 3EP.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR VACANCY AT ST JAMES.

20hrs per week. Mon - Fri 9.30am – 1.30pm.

Applications close 27th October. [Click here to apply online](#) or send an up to date CV with a cover letter explaining your suitability for the role, to recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk with 'Reading Administrator' in the title.

MASS INTENTIONS: SATURDAY 17th TO SUNDAY 25th OCTOBER 2026**29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<i>Saturday 17th (Sunday Vigil)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish Amanda Rebello Thanksgiving</i>
<i>Sunday 18th</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Pedro Rodrigues RIP – 1st anniversary</i>
	<i>11.30am</i>	<i>Pedro Rodrigues RIP – 1st anniversary</i>
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	<i>Please mention Christy O'Malley RIP</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>Rosario Barreto RIP</i>
<i>Monday 19th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Martin Joseph Brandan Sheehan RIP 3rd year anniversary</i>
<i>Tuesday 20th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>John Smith RIP</i>
	<i>11.30am</i>	<i>Requiem of Margaret Lewis RIP</i>
<i>Wednesday 21st</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Paul Bartlett RIP</i>
<i>Thursday 22nd</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Janer Fernandcs and Mohsin Khan thanksgiving 10th anniversary</i>
<i>Friday 23rd</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Pauline Nash RIP</i>
<i>Saturday 24th</i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>ADoRE Renewal Day Patricia Hanrahan & Asten Smyth RIP</i>

30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

<i>Saturday 24th (Sunday Vigil)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 25th</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Norah O'Dowd RIP</i>
	<i>11.30am</i>	<i>Ann & John Commins RIP</i>
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	
	<i>2.00pm</i>	<i>Vietnamese Mass</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>Rosalica Goes RIP</i>

VISIT OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA.

On Wednesday 28th October our parish is privileged to host the relics of St Gerard Majella. This is part of a pilgrimage around the country to celebrate his 300th anniversary. The relics will be available for personal prayer from 6pm, and Mass at 7pm, followed by blessings with the relics. St Gerard is the patron of mothers, couples trying to conceive, those looking for work, and making a good confession. All welcome, and bring your intentions to this little saint.

THE SECOND COLLECTION taking place this weekend, will be for the Foreign Missions.

BEREAVEMENT MASS 2026

Our bereavement Mass for this year will be held on Saturday 28th November beginning at 10.00am. At this Holy Mass, we will pray for all our parishioners who died in the last year, and Family members will be called up to light a candle during the Mass. There will also be refreshments in the hall afterwards.

ANNUAL BAPTISM MASS: We will have the annual baptism celebration this year at our weekend Masses on 5th and 6th December. This is both for babies and the adults who received baptism at Easter. Please, bring your baptism candles. Bring the white clothe you used. All those baptised this year will process behind the offertory gifts during the different masses they will attend and receive a special blessing. There will be a baptism anniversary cake in the hall. Please, invite your godparents as well.

ANNUAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS: We will have a joint celebration of significant wedding anniversaries for this year at the weekend masses on 12th and 13th December. This will be for those who marked the following years in marriage: 1, 5, 10, 20, 25, 40, 50, 60 and any year above 60. There will be a special blessing during Mass and cutting of the anniversary cake after Mass.