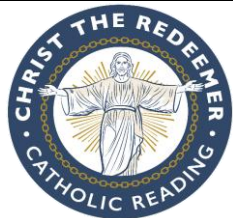


English Martyrs' Newsletter



30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
25TH 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/updates 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 25 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 25 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.		

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

In Matthew 22:34–40, Jesus reminds us that the greatest commandments are to love God with all our heart, soul and mind, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. These words invite us to reflect on how we can grow closer to God and share his love with those around us. The six Holy Habits offer us practical ways to nurture our faith and live out these commandments each day.

Through Sunday Mass and daily prayer, we make space for God in our lives, bringing him our joys, worries and hopes. Spending time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament helps us rest in his presence and remember that we are deeply loved by him. As our relationship with God grows, we are encouraged to share that same love with others, especially those who feel lonely or forgotten.

Keeping Friday as a day of penance and charity reminds us to look beyond ourselves and respond compassionately to those in need. Confession gives us the opportunity to seek God's mercy, learn from our mistakes and find the strength to forgive others. Joining a small faith group allows us to journey together, encourage one another and grow in understanding of God's word.

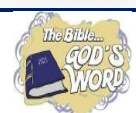
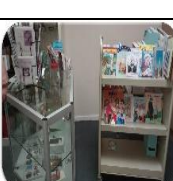
Ultimately, these Holy Habits are not simply tasks to complete, but opportunities to deepen our relationship with God and one another. Jesus calls us to a faith rooted in love, expressed through kindness, patience, generosity and forgiveness. As we grow in God's love, may we become a source of comfort, hope and compassion to everyone we meet, recognising Christ in each person we encounter.

CATECHISM (CCC 53)

The divine plan of Revelation is realised simultaneously "by deeds and words which are bound up with each other" and shed light on each other. God communicates himself to man gradually. He prepares him to welcome by stages the supernatural Revelation that is to culminate in the person and mission of the incarnate Word, Jesus 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:		30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (25/10)	FEAST OF ALL SAINTS (01/11)
	First: Exodus: 22: 21-27 Psalm: 18(17) 2-4, 47,51ab. Second: Thessalonians 1; 5c-10. Gospel: Matthew 22; 34-40.	First: Revelation: 7:2-4. 9-14. Psalm: 24(23): 1-6. Second: 1 John 3; 1-3. Gospel: Matthew 5: 1-12.	
	A WELCOMING PARISH TO FAMILIES: Thank you for bringing your whole family to Mass. The family is the domestic Church. The family is where the faith is first handed down. It is so beautiful to see you join other families at our Masses.		
	EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING(S) WILL BE ON Monday 26 th October 7.30pm Room 2 and Wednesday 28 th October at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel.		
	BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS FOR OCTOBER: We extend our best wishes to everyone born in the month of October, who will be blessed after the Post Communion Prayer at all Masses this weekend. May God bless all their endeavours.		
	BOOKSHOP AND REPOSITORY UPDATE. We are pleased to announce that starting from Sunday 1st November the bookstall will be open after the 5pm Mass every week rather than twice a month. We will continue to open after the 9.00am Mass until about 11.15 but at the moment are unable to open after the 6pm Saturday vigil Mass because of a lack of volunteers. Also, from the 1st November we will be selling our Christmas stock of cards and other seasonal items. In addition, we have a good selection of second -hand religious books that can be taken for a small donation to CAFOD. We are located in Room 3 at the rear of the Parish Hall on the right hand side.		
	YOUNG ADULT CATHOLICS – Social Evening (For ages 20 – 35) We had an amazing turnout for our first social meet up on the 25th of September. We are happy to announce that our Young Adults Socials will take place on the first Friday of each month after 6:45PM evening mass. The next social will be on 6th November in the church hall from 7:30PM after the mass. Whether you're new to the parish or looking to meet other Catholics who share the faith your age, you are very welcome to join us. For any further enquiries, please reach out to:		
	CONFIRMATION Certificates will be handed out at the 11:30am Mass on November 15th. The youth group/confirmation will also start on this day after the 5pm Mass (ending at 7:15pm) for all people who have signed up for confirmation in 2028.		
	APF/ MISSIO It's time to open the red boxes again. For those of you who do not have a promoter could I ask you please to hand your box into the office by the 8th December? Any money received after this date cannot be included in the 2026 accounts. The autumn magazines are available in the Colonnade.		
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-BPsjWqtSnqkZFUMjdWVEVONDVXRzU4VIRVnRRSVE4STQ0OC4u			
GROWING IN UNITY (For a Synodal Church, 1) Every new step in the life of the Church brings us back to Jesus and the first disciples; when they met the risen Jesus, they experienced his love and mercy. In the same way, when we listen to one another and share our faith, we become more aware of his presence among us and through the Holy Spirit, Jesus brings us together, helping us to respect our differences and grow in unity.			
BLESSING OF GRAVES SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER: Henley Road Cemetery 2.30pm.			

BAMENDA SUNDAY Next weekend is Bamenda Sunday, a celebration of a partnership between our two dioceses where we learn, pray and support each other. An important part of the link has been the support we have sent over the years. Your generosity has made a huge impact on the lives of many of the poorest and most vulnerable people in Bamenda, and it most sincerely appreciated by them. You can read how your donations have supported Caroline and Stephen in the Bamenda Sunday newsletter. Please give as generously as your contributions really do transform lives. Follow this link or use the QR code to see the different donations options and gift aid if you can. Thank you.
Click on [read](#) to see a copy of the latest Bamenda Newsletter.

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.

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 PARISH EVANGELISATION DAY:

Saturday October 31st, 10am – 1:30pm, Christ the King, Northumberland Avenue, Reading, RG2 8NR
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. The "Parish Cell System" (often called PECs) focuses on transforming parishes into active, missionary communities through small, home-based groups (cells) focused on fellowship, prayer and scripture. 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. Lunch will be provided as part of the day. Please register by email Meghan on ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or using the link: <https://forms.office.com/e/JGgE7zeuun> as this helps us with ensuring we have enough food and have catered for people's needs. We ask people to register by Tuesday 27th October.

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.

NIGHT OF LIGHT - VIGIL ALL SAINTS CELEBRATION Saturday 31st October from 5.30 - 8.00 pm
5.30 pm – Children's Rosary in Main Church : 6.00 pm - All Saints Vigil Mass
7.00 pm - 8.00 pm - Hot dogs, sweets, games & sparklers in the hall. Saints & Angels fancy dress welcome

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 6.00pm, and Mass at 7.00pm, 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.

MASS INTENTIONS: SATURDAY 24th OCTOBER TO SUNDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2026**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>2.30pm</i>	<i>Vietnamese Mass</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>Rosalica Goes RIP</i>
<i>Monday 26th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Birthday blessing Miranda George</i>
<i>Tuesday 27th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Louie Fearn RIP</i>
<i>Wednesday 28th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Anna Rita Fernandes RIP 3rd anniversary</i>
		<i>Lydia Fernandes thanksgiving</i>
	<i>7.00pm</i>	
<i>Thursday 29th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Maria Castle RIP</i>
<i>Friday 30th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Wellbeing of D'Souza family and friends</i>
<i>Saturday 31st</i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Valentim do Rogo thanksgiving</i>

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

<i>Saturday 31st (Sunday Vigil)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>Mary O'Neill RIP</i>
<i>Sunday 1st November</i>	<i>9.00am</i>	<i>Rose Doyle RIP</i>
	<i>11.30am</i>	<i>People of the Parish. John Fagan RIP</i>
	<i>Live Streamed</i>	
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>Joao de Luz RIP</i>

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 clothes 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.