

English Martyrs' Newsletter



27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
4TH 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/	<u>MASS TIMES FROM Sunday 4th October</u> Sunday at 9.30am, 11.30am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday at 9.30am Saturday at 10.00am and 6.00pm (Vigil)	<u>CONFESSIONS From Sunday 4th October</u> 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.		

WHAT FRUIT ARE YOU PRODUCING?

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the vineyard. The owner carefully prepares and tends the vineyard, entrusting it to others to care for it and produce fruit. Yet, when the time comes to gather the harvest, the tenants fail to give what is due.

The vineyard can remind us of our own lives. God has entrusted each of us with gifts, relationships, opportunities and time. Like a vineyard, these things need care and attention if they are to flourish. We are not simply called to receive God's gifts, but to allow them to bear fruit.

So perhaps the Gospel invites us to pause and ask: *What fruit am I producing?*

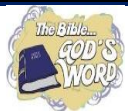
The fruit God desires is not necessarily something great or visible. It can be found in the small, everyday acts of love: a kind word when someone is struggling, patience when we are frustrated, forgiveness when we have been hurt, or making time for someone who feels lonely. These simple acts can become signs of God's love in the world.

At times, we may feel that we have little to offer. We may be tired, discouraged or uncertain. Yet God does not ask us to produce fruit on our own. He continually tends and nourishes us with His grace. As we reflect on this Gospel, let us place our lives once again into God's hands and ask: Lord, help me to bear fruit that brings your love, hope and peace to those around me.

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:	27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (04/10)	28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (11/10)
	First: Isaiah: 5: 1-7. Psalm: 80(79); 9.12.13-16. 19-20. Second: Philippians 4; 6-9. Gospel: Matthew 21; 33-43.	First: Isaiah: 25: 6-10a Psalm: 23(22); 1-6. Second: Philippians 4; 12-14. 19-20. Gospel: Matthew 22; 1-14.



EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING(S)
WILL BE ON Wednesday 7th October at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel.



TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK We are supporting approximately 45 households, weekly, with food and household products. Thank you for your very generous donations. This week we are short of tinned potatoes, tinned tomatoes, long life whole/semi-skimmed milk, orange/apple juice, cooking oil, ketchup, sugar, peanut butter and toilet rolls. 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.



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



RCIA/ JOURNEY IN FAITH This week, the group began their reflections on the Apostles Creed, starting with : I believe In God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. We watched a video on the Christian Creed from Fr Stephen Wang (now Bishop) and explored this Sunday's Gospel together. Meetings continue on Thursday evenings from 7.30 – 9 pm. For further information: rcia@englishmartyrsrdg.com or speak to one of our priests



FUNDRAISER FOR THE PEOPLE OF NEPAL: A few teachers from EM Primary School are climbing mount Snowdon on the 17th of October to raise funds for the people of Nepal following the devastating floods that hit the region. If you would like to donate, please either use the link below or the QR code on the left. Thank you all in advance.
https://www.justgiving.com/page/clare-masterson-1?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL

CATECHISM (CCC 36)

Our holy mother, the Church, holds and teaches that God, the first principle and last end of all things, can be known with certainty from the created world by the natural light of human reason. Without this capacity, man would not be able to welcome God's revelation. Man has this capacity because he is created in the image of God.

SOCIAL JUSTICE (Magnifica Humanitas 90)

We are called to reflect on what we are building in a rapidly changing world. Unlike Babel, where human ambition dehumanised, Nehemiah's rebuilding showed shared responsibility. As technology and artificial intelligence reshape our lives, we are invited to choose projects that protect human dignity, strengthen relationships and serve the common good.

ENGLISH MARTYRS MARIAN MISSION

"As October is a month where we give more devotion to our Blessed Mother Mary, it would be useful to have another look at the resources our parish's Marian Mission has highlighted to make this easy <https://englishmartyrsrdg.com/marianmission/>"

DIOCESAN PARISH EVANGELISATION DAY: This will take place on Saturday 31st October in Christ the King, Whitley. 14 members of our Pastoral Area have signed up and we are still inviting anyone who wants to attend to contact Meghan Dimbylow on ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

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.

SAVE THE DATE! MINISTRIES FARE Our parish Ministries Fair is coming soon, and we'd love you to be part of it. Join us on the 10th/11th October as we celebrate the many ways our community serves, prays, and grows together in faith. It's a chance to explore different ministries, meet the teams, and discover where your gifts might flourish. Everyone is warmly invited.

SAVE THE DATE! 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.

PARISH EVANGELISATION CELLS SYSTEM (PECS).

Christ the Redeemer Pastoral Area Reading has adopted PECS as an evangelisation strategy to be implemented in our Reading parishes. 30 members of our Christ The Redeemer Pastoral Area attended the PECS information evening that held in St Jospeh Church on Wednesday 16th September.

Going forward we will look to hopefully start one or two trial cell groups in different locations that will run fortnightly for 12 weeks (meeting 6 times). We had 15 people currently sign up to this: Christ the King – 1, English Martyrs – 4, St James and St William of York – 6, St John Bosco – 2, St Joseph's – 2.

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PRAYING FOR CHRIST THE REDEEMER EVANGELISATION INITIATIVES: 16 members of our Pastoral Area have accepted to pray for this intention and are happy to receive monthly email requests for prayer. If you are interested to join this prayer team, kindly email Meghan Dimbylow on ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

THE BIG SLEEP OUT The Mini Vinnies and staff of English Martyrs Primary School have once again organised The Big Sleep Out to support the vital work of Launchpad, our local homeless charity. The event was originally planned earlier in the year but had to be postponed due to extreme temperatures. We're delighted to share that The Big Sleep Out is back on and will now take place on 9th October 2026. Launchpad supports people at some of the most difficult moments of their lives, offering not only a safe place to stay, but hope for a better future. By putting their Love into Action, our children recognise that they are truly living God's plan for them; showing compassion, kindness, and solidarity with those in need.

Please consider donating to this wonderful charity and help us reach or go beyond our goal!

https://www.justgiving.com/page/mini-vinnies?utm_source=CL&utm_medium=DT

MARYS MEALS FREE WILL SERVICE - DETAILS ON NOTICE BOARD

ADORE spiritual mini-retreat 24th October 9:30am - 3:30pm in-person at English Martyrs, Reading. Theme: "THE HEART OF HOLINESS IS LOVE" - how sainthood is for ordinary people! Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prophecy, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring talk from speaker Judith Aylmer. Register in advance for in-person attendance at bit.ly/ADOREOCT2026REG or join the YouTube livestream 10.00-1.00 at

www.youtube.com/@englishmartyrs3732 More event details [HERE](#)



Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

Mr Andrew Parker RIP, whose funeral will be on Tuesday 6th October at 11.30am at English Martyrs.

MASS INTENTIONS: SATURDAY 3rd TO SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER 2026**27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<i>Saturday 3rd (Sunday Vigil)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>Kathleen & Joseph Lawrence thanksgiving for 20th Wedding anniversary</i>
<i>Sunday 4th</i>	<i>9.00am</i> <i>11.30am</i> <i>Live Streamed</i>	<i>Thecla Walsh RIP</i> <i>Edwin D'Silva RIP</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Monday 5th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Mark Herbert RIP</i>
<i>Tuesday 6th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Pauline Nash RIP</i>
	<i>11.30am</i>	<i>Requiem of Andrew Parker RIP</i>
<i>Wednesday 7th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>John Commins RIP</i>
<i>Thursday 8th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Kathleen Carolan RIP</i>
<i>Friday 9th</i>	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Thanksgiving for the Parish</i>
<i>Saturday 10th</i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Roseline Fernandes thanksgiving</i>

28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

<i>Saturday 11th (Sunday Vigil)</i>	<i>6.00pm</i>	<i>John Commins RIP</i>
<i>Sunday 12th</i>	<i>9.00am</i> <i>11.30am</i> <i>Live Streamed</i>	<i>John Commins RIP</i> <i>Dalisay Homana RIP</i> <i>2nd anniversary of passing</i>
	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>

DAY OF RENEWAL IN THE HOLY SPIRIT Saturday 24th October - 9:30-3:30 at English Martyrs.
Come and be inspired by the holy spirit during a day at English Martyrs with mass, adoration, praise and worship, talks and time for prayer and confession. Please bring your own packed lunch. Hot and cold drinks will be provided.

FORMATION DAY FOR READERS: 17th OCTOBER 2026 It is not too late to sign up for the Formation Day for Readers being organised by the Diocesan Liturgy Team at the Pastoral Centre in Winchester. Anyone wishing to attend is kindly asked to email: liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org

BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON CATHOLIC SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM CENTRE Year 7 entry 2027

Fawley Road, Southcote Reading RG30 3EP.

Open Morning - Wednesday 7th October 2026 - 9.00 am to 12.00 noon. 10.00 am Headmaster's Address



Bishop Philip is inviting us to complete a short, anonymous questionnaire about our Holy Habits and the diocesan plan. By sharing your experience, you will be actively contributing to the growth and development of the Diocese and helping him discern how the Lord is at work. It will take only a few minutes.

Please scan the QR code or visit: eu.surveymonkey.com/r/QTBWYRP

3rd Mass count this weekend for National Statistics.