

ENGLISH MARTYRS' NEWSLETTER

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year C) - 18th/19th May 2019

THE ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH

64 Liebenrood Road, Reading RG30 2EB
Registered Charity No. 246871

PARISH CLERGY

PARISH PRIEST: CANON MICHAEL DENNEHY
mdennehy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

ASSISTANT PRIEST & HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN
FR JP LYTTLE -Mobile: 07391 896559
RBH: 0118 322 7105

Sunday Mass 4.00pm at RBH
Old Chapel by London Road entrance.
All are welcome.

ASSISTING PRIEST: FR RICHARD MANIAK

OUR PARISH VISION

English Martyrs is a welcoming community, inviting, encouraging and supporting all to have an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus. We are inspired to show God's love to the world with joy and hope

BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE: THE ROLE OF THE CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN

"We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience." - Fr Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

In this quote the French Jesuit philosopher playfully emphasised the importance of a person's spiritual life. For good healthcare to be holistic (ie to care for the 'whole'), it surely needs to care for the physical, psychological as well as the spiritual well-being of the patient.

As the hospital's chaplain, my role is to help care for the spiritual needs of those in the hospital. I am a Catholic priest so my role then is to be an *alter Christus*, to be another Christ, walking the hospital corridors spiritually supporting the patients and even the staff.

How do I do this? I pray for all those who work in the hospital and their patients when I offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and pray the Divine Office. When I visit the sick I remind them that they are children of God with an inherent dignity as such, for we believe that life is sacred from conception to natural death. Ultimately I have the privilege of administering the Sacraments of the Church. Through these means then I help to care for the souls of those in the hospital.

Always be ready to give an account for the hope that is in you! - 1 Peter 3:15

Despite being in this role now for some time, I remain no less in awe at witnessing when life is drawing to an end than when I started. After sometimes many weeks of journeying through the profound human experience of sickness and suffering, and the medical options have been exhausted, for the patient and their family it often seems as though hope too is apparently coming to an end. Without negating the profound pain the family have experienced and loss they will soon go through, it is nonetheless the case, that death is not the end.

I can do all things through Him who gives me strength. - Philippians 4:

I was recently phoned in the early hours of the morning to ICU. As I arrived, I saw a distraught family and on seeing me, they all respectfully moved aside so I could get to the patient. I spoke to the man telling him who I was and told him that Christ was very near and would touch his life. I assured him there was nothing to be afraid of any more. Then I administered the Apostolic Pardon, which is a beautiful gift to the Church by which the priest grants a full remission of sins, after which I gave the man the Sacrament of the Sick, his 'last rites'. I then prayed the Prayers of Commendation and told the patient that he could go to God's Kingdom in peace.

After this I lead the family in prayer around his bedside and then explained to them what I had done. As Catholics we pray for a 'happy' death, however this is a seemingly inappropriate word at such a time. What we mean by this though is that we hope that the person receives the Sacraments of the Church, are surrounded by their loved ones and go forth in peace. Before I got to the front door of the hospital I found out that the man had died.

This is an example of how the Catholic chaplain can promote a culture of life: caring for, valuing and loving life.

Recently there has been a discussion about whether the Catholic chaplain to a hospital should wear his clerical collar. In my view, I am a Catholic priest and this is a bold witness in our secular culture: one of sacrifice. Far from being less accessible due to wearing a collar, I am in fact more accessible as I am easily identifiable. Indeed the hospital has a "Hello, my name is..." policy!

By Father John-Paul Lyttle

Catholic Chaplain to the Royal Berkshire NHS Hospital Trust

VOCATIONS

"Love on another." "By this everyone will know that you are My disciples." How will you manifest your discipleship? Consider living the Lord's new commandment of love as a priest, deacon, Sister or brother. To explore further, contact Fr John Cooke. vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318869

YOUTH & FAMILY MASS
SUNDAY 30TH JUNE
2PM
PROSPECT PARK
(BRING A PICNIC)

Come and See Evening for men and women

Are you a single man or a single woman?
Is your Catholic Faith important to you?
Have you ever considered the Lord may well be calling you to be a priest or a sister and to continue his work in the world?
Are you just intrigued about the priesthood or religious life?



We would like to invite you to English Martyrs Presbytery for an informal evening with the priests and sisters from the pastoral area to explore what the priesthood and religious life is about and to ask any questions you have.
Sunday 26th May at 6:30 pm.

VISIT OF THE NATIONAL PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE OF FATIMA WITH THE RELICS OF SAINTS JACINTA & FRANCISCO

On 25 May 2019 at 10 am to 5 pm the World Apostolate of Fatima-England and Wales is bringing the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and the Relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco to St. Joseph's Centre, Montfort Missionaries, 8 Lyndhurst road, Ashurst, Southampton SO40 7DU.

Contacts: Fr Des Connolly: fatherdes@icloud.com Oliver Abasolo: 07782 661922

The next **CRAFT AFTERNOON** will be on **Saturday 26th May** in Room 1. Drop in any time between 2 and 5pm. Bring your knitting, crochet or other craft and enjoy the company.

The Bookstall/Repository is open in Room 2 after Sunday morning Masses. We have various items /gifts for First Holy Communion and Confirmation

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pay for the repose of the soul of



Martin James Powell RIP who died on Monday 29th April. His Requiem Mass will take place at The English Martyrs Church on Monday 20th May 2019 at 9.30am followed by committal at Reading Crematorium

Anna Severino RIP who died on Friday 3rd May. She will be received into The English Martyrs Church at 5.45pm on Monday 20th May. Her Requiem Mass will take place on Tuesday 21st May at 9.30am followed by interment at Henley Road Cemetery.

Nicola Pierro RIP who died on Monday 22nd April 2019. His Requiem Mass will take place at The English Martyrs Church on Friday 24th May at 9.30am followed by interment at Henley Road Cemetery.

Sheila Hawkins RIP who died on Wednesday 1st May. Her Funeral Service will take place at The English Martyrs Church on Friday 24th May 2019 at 1pm followed by interment at Henley Road Cemetery

CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL.

is recruiting teachers for September. Please see the school's website for further details:

<http://www.christthekingreading.co.uk/staff-vacancies/>

THE TIME IS NOW!

"The earth, our home is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth" Pope Francis. In his encyclical Laudato Si' Care for our Common Home Pope Francis urges us to hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor and to take action. Climate Change is the biggest threat to our planet, and we are calling on everyone to tell their MPs that the time to act is NOW! Please join us on **Wednesday 26th June** for the Time is Now Lobby of Parliament. For more information and to sign up go to <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Climate/Climate-lobby>

DAY PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

National Shrine of Our Lady

Sat 15th June. Cost £16. 2 coaches for 100 people. 6.30am – 7.30pm approx. Led by Fr John O'Shea. Book via English Martyrs Parish Office.

THE HIBERNIAN SOCIETY

are hosting a **TEA DANCE** here in the Parish Hall **2-4.30PM on Sunday 23rd June 2019**

Saturday 8th June 2019 at 12 noon

All Parishioners and Friends of the Oratory are warmly invited to the

ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD of Brother Andrew Wagstaff, Cong. Orat.

By the Rt Rev'd Robert Byrne, Cong. Orat., Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle.

Followed by Reception in our Catholic Institute Hall.

First Masses: Solemn Mass in the Ordinary Form at 10.30am on Sunday 9th June

Solemn Mass in the Extraordinary Form at 12.15pm on Saturday 29th June.

CHILDREN IN THE PARISH

A group of parents, parishioners and children met this week to discuss ideas on how to involve children in the Parish and Masses and we have come up with some great suggestions. We now need a team to support with putting these into action and need volunteers to help. The planning meeting will take place on Tuesday 28th May at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Please feel free to attend if you would like to get involved, or alternatively contact the Parish office for more information.

EXAM SEASON IS HERE

Please pray for all those preparing to sit exams in schools, colleges and universities across the Diocese. As we journey through Eastertide to the Feast of Pentecost, ask the Holy Spirit to help them:

Let us pray for our school, college and university students: that the Holy Spirit will guide their minds and quieten their hearts throughout this exam season. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

PASTORAL AREA DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion in Reading Pastoral Area are invited to a day of recollection, **Saturday 6th July 2019**, 10.30am-3.00pm (registration from 10.00am), St Dominic Savio Primary School, Western Avenue, Woodley. Attendees must complete an application form via English Martyrs Parish Office.

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Book via English Martyrs Parish Office.

CHURCH CLEANERS NEEDED

**Are you able to help keep the Church beautiful.
Can you give approx 1 hour on Friday morning every 4th week?
As the holiday season approaches MORE HELP IS NEEDED.
Please contact the Parish Office.**

SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES - MASS OF CELEBRATION. On 6th July.

Are you celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or Anniversary over 60 years? at St Bede’s Church in Basingstoke.
See Noticeboard for more details

EMMAUS GROUPS

There are five Emmaus Groups here at English Martyrs to provide the opportunity for parishioners to get together in small groups to pray together and chat about the Sunday Bible readings. No expert knowledge required! Why not come along and see for yourself? The next meeting is on
Friday 24th May at 10.30am in Room 2

VACANCIES

CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, Reading, is recruiting teachers for September. Please see the school’s website for further details:
<http://www.christthekingreading.co.uk/staff-vacancies/>

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

40 DAYS OF LIFE CAMPAIGN IN SEPTEMBER 2019

Presentation on Tuesday 18th June 2019 at 8.15am in the Carl Barton Room at the church of Our Lady of Peace and Blessed Dominic Barberi 338 Wokingham Road, Earley RG6 7DA

IN BRIEF

20th May	CAFÉ THEOLOGIQUE - “Recycling Old Wineskins? Reading the Old Testament in Cultural Context” See Noticeboard for more information
25th May	Healing Seminar 2. ‘DELIVERANCE’ at Douai Abbey – See Noticeboard for more details
25th -26th May	BIG CHURCH DAY OUT – Wiston House , West Sussex – Tickets on sale now at https://bigchurchdayout.com/south - Flyers available in the Colonnade and see Noticeboard
15th June	New Testament Greek Beginners Study Day – Sat. 15th June 2019 See Noticeboard for more details
24-30th July	Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes - See lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for more info.
28th July to 3rd August	PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN. “DON BOSCO” BOYS CAMP 2019 at St. Cassian’s, Kintbury. For more info, please contact Angela Mulkerns on 07764 761006 or email dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
10th August	AYLESFORD PILGRIMAGE FOR THE DEAF. See poster on Noticeboard for more details
19th – 23rd August	FANNING THE FLAME CATHOLIC MISSION An Amazing Adventure Summer Camp 19th – 23rd August www.FanningTheFlame.co.uk See Poster on our Noticeboard for more details
28th & 29th September	2019 CELEBRATE CONFERENCE is in Southampton. See website for more info https://www.celebrateconference.org/southampton

CONFIRMATION 2019

Preparation continues for all those already enrolled.

Sunday 19th May 5pm Mass RITE OF ELECTION
6-7pm Session 7 - Rehearsal

Saturday 1st June (morning) CONFIRMATION DAY

ENGLISH MARTYRS YOUTH CHOIR

‘Singing Together as One Voice’
Every Monday 4 – 5.15pm at English Martyr’s Church.
Age 7+ (School Years 3-13) welcome.
Choir sings: Every Sunday at 5pm Mass

ELEVATE

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

“Exploring Faith Through Fun”
Next Meeting Friday 24th May 4.30-5.30pm
in the Parish Hall

FIRST COMMUNION 2019

ALL SESSIONS ARE IN THE CHURCH
9.15AM (PROMPT) – 10.30AM

Sat 8th June Session 12 – Bringing it all together & Review
15th /16th June **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**
22nd /23rd June MASS you would normally attend
Sun 30th June **PARTY after 5pm Mass**

YOUTH

GLOW

‘let your light shine’ Matthew: 5. 16

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP
NEXT MEETING 28TH JUNE
SPORTS DAY IN THE PARK
Time - TBC

ON ADMISSION TO ROYAL BERKSHIRE HOSPITAL
 all Catholics should inform the hospital staff that they are Roman Catholic and if they wish to have Communion or see a Priest. All arrangements in RBH are "Patient Led". **Hospital Chaplain - Fr JP Lyttle** Mobile: 07391 896559 / RBH: 0118 322 7105

PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E NEWS
 Sign up now!
<http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews>

PARISH MASS & SERVICES TIMETABLE
SAT 18TH MAY TO SUNDAY 26TH MAY 2019

DAYS	TIMES	MASS INTENTIONS
Vigil Mass - Saturday 18th May FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	6.30 pm	Lucy & Patrick McGullion RIP
Sunday 19th May FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Responsorial Psalm: <i>I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.</i>	9.30 am	Mario & Clare Miszczuck RIP
	11.30 am	Margaret Clancey RIP
	4.00pm	Stations of the Resurrection
	5.00 pm	People of the Parish
Monday 20th May of the 5 th Week of Easter	9.30am	REQUIEM MASS for Martin Powell RIP
Tuesday 21st May of the 5 th Week of Easter	9.30am	REQUIEM MASS for Anna Severino RIP
Wednesday 22nd May of the 5 th Week of Easter	9.30 am	Mrs Lily Holland RIP
Thursday 23rd May of the 5 th Week of Easter	9.30 am	Robert Munro RIP, Robert Torry RIP & Lloyd Voisin RIP
	10am to 9pm	Continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.30 pm	Bridie O'Gorman RIP
Friday 24th May of the 5 th Week of Easter	6.30am	Sheila Walsh RIP
	9.30am	REQUIEM MASS for Mr Nicola Pierro RIP
	10am to 9pm	Continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	1.00pm	FUNERAL SERVICE for Sheila Hawkins RIP
Saturday 25th May St Bede the Venerable, <i>memorial</i>	11.00am	Maureen Intention (Get well)
	3.00 - 4.00pm	Divine Mercy Devotions and Confessions
Vigil Mass - Saturday 25th May SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 26th May SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.30 am	Jim Knox RIP
	11.30 am	Brian Kiernan RIP
	5.00 pm	Reg & Helen Whitbread RIP
	6.15pm	Stations of the Resurrection
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Sat. 11.30-12.30pm, Sun. 8am-9am, Mon-Fri. 8.25am-9.25am Thurs & Fri 10.00am - 9.00pm (in the Baptistry)		
Confessions: Saturday 5.30 - 6.15pm and Sunday 4.00 - 4.45pm.		
Rosary Saturday 10.30am and after every weekday morning Mass in May		
COUNTERS	WEEKLY COLLECTION 12TH MAY Envelopes £324.00/Plate £1122.07	
19th May George & Helen Nowacki	CLERGY TRAINING FUND 12TH MAY Envelopes £148.50/Plate £517.53	
26th May Adam & Cathy Doberski		
CHURCH CLEANING - Friday 17th April Group 2 - after morning Mass		



BAPTISMS - A WARM WELCOME to

Angela Francheska Matining who will be
 Baptised this Sunday 19th May at 1pm

PARISH OFFICE Secretary: Barbara Poole Tel: 0118 957 2149 Open Mon - Fri 9am -3.30pm
 E: englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Website: www.englishmartyrsrdg.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING REP - CHARLIE MCARTHUR Contact via the Parish Office