



## YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS



### 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

### 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](mailto:mdennehy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**ASSISTANT PRIEST: FR JP LYTTLE**  
**ASSISTING PRIEST: FR RICHARD MANIAK**

### PARISH OFFICE

**Secretary: Barbara** Tel: 0118 957 2149  
Open: Mon - Fri 9am-3.30pm

E: [englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)  
Website: [www.englishmartyrsrdg.org.uk](http://www.englishmartyrsrdg.org.uk)

**SAFEGUARDING REP - CHARLIE MCARTHUR**  
Contact via the Parish Office

### OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

**ENGLISH MARTYRS  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
Dee Road, Reading RG30 4BS T: 0118 937 5466  
[www.englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk](http://www.englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk)

**BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON CATHOLIC SCHOOL**  
Fawley Road, Southcote Reading RG30 3EP  
<https://www.hughfaringdon.org/>

### A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY



**YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO  
SPEAKS**

(<http://www.godwhospeaks.uk/>)

**BIBLICAL EVENING AND PODCASTS  
MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY**

Here at English Martyrs

## ENGLISH MARTYRS' NEWSLETTER

4<sup>TH</sup>/5<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020

*NAME BADGE SUNDAY*

### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Happy New Year! We have begun another year so let us pray for one another this Sunday, and for our parish, that we will be faithful to the mission entrusted to us by the Lord. Sincere thanks to all who helped in any way with the Christmas Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. A great number of people joined us for the celebration of the birth of our Saviour and the Masses were wonderful, joyful celebrations. Sincere thanks also for the Christmas cards, gifts and the Christmas Offerings. This Sunday is the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. The Gospel this Sunday is Matthew's story of the Magi, pagan astrologers, who do indeed find the Christ-child and bring him their gifts. In writing his Gospel towards the end of the first century, Matthew is aware that Judaism has rejected Jesus as the Christ while many pagans (Gentiles) have accepted him. That situation is reflected in the story when we see King Herod and Jewish leaders united in their rejection of Jesus, while pagan travellers from faraway lands come to worship the child king of the Jews.

When the wise men leave their gifts with the Christ-child they take away a treasure that surpasses anything they brought themselves. They take away the gift of knowing who Jesus is; they are enriched by their encounter with him; they can enrich others with the truth of their own experience. They are a summary of all those who journey in hope to Jesus and find in him their hearts desire. The wise men do not stay in Judaea; they do not build a monument to mark the place of discovery. They return to their own country: faith in Jesus is not limited to a geographical boundary but is a gift to be shared with others.

In a sense the wise men are the ancestors of all of us who seek. We are all seekers: we seek for love, for acceptance and for understanding. And we know that the journey towards wholeness and holiness is a journey without end. We do not have stars in the sky to guide us; but even the wise men had to stop being stargazers and consult the Scriptures to find out where Jesus was. We don't have stars to guide us, but we do have the Scriptures and each other in our journey to God.

**Fr Michael**

## RECENTLY DECEASED



### Antonia Hageman RIP

Who died on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Antonia's Requiem Mass will be here at English Martyrs Church at 9.30am Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December followed by burial at Henley Road Cemetery.

### Aidan Farrelly RIP

Who died on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December. Aidan's funeral will be here at English Martyrs at 12.30pm on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January

May they Rest in Peace. Please keep them and their loved ones in your prayers at this difficult time.

## SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

### Refresher

**SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY** (10.00am – 12.30pm)  
St Michael's, Bishopswood Road, **TADLEY** RG26 4HG  
(Val Croughan)

### Vulnerable adult awareness

**SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY** (10.00am – 12.30pm)  
Corpus Christi, 60 Sturges Road, **WOKINGHAM** RG40 2HE (Val Croughan)

**SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY** (10.30pm – 1.00pm)  
St Philip Howard, Bishopsfield Road, **FAREHAM** PO14 1ND (Val Croughan)

**SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY** (1.30pm – 4.00pm)  
Our Lady & St Dominic, 71 High View Road,  
**FARNBOROUGH** GU14 7PT (Maureen Wiltshire)

### Child protection

**SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY (10.00am – 12.30pm)**  
Our Lady & St Dominic, 71 High View Road,  
**FARNBOROUGH** GU14 7PT (Maureen Wiltshire)

**TO BOOK A PLACE ON ANY OF THESE COURSES –**  
PLEASE EMAIL/CALL Soraya Ciccarone, PA to Diocesan  
Safeguarding Coordinator & Diocesan Financial  
Secretary: [Soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:Soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) / 023  
92 816396 / 023 92 836511

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To help clean (Carpet), & prepare/paint  
Room 3 of our Parish Centre  
Can you help?

Please contact the Parish Office for more details

## EMMAUS GROUPS

There are four 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

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm in Room 1**  
**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30am in Room 2**

Contact Richard Kennedy for more information  
T: 01189 416015 or E: [rk1500@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rk1500@hotmail.co.uk)

## VOCATIONS

“Opening their treasure Chests, they offered Him gifts” Are you beginning to see your life as a gift to be given to the Lord as a priest, deacon, religious sister or brother?

Contact Fr. John Cooke By phone 01329 318 869 or  
email [vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

## SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2020 - ENGAGED COUPLES EVENT

Bishop Philip Egan wishes to make contact with any engaged couples in our parish who are under instruction preparing for marriage in church in 2020 – either here, in another parish or abroad. You are invited to a special Engaged Couples Breakfast and blessing at the Cathedral on Sat 15 February. All welcome as long as they are engaged. Contact the Parish Office on 323595 for more information.

## “ON FIRE!” PRAYER & HEALING SERVICE

on **Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020** from 5 – 7 pm.

A celebration of Praise, and a Healing Service at St Joseph's, Tilehurst - Come and worship with us. Please bring your friends and family. **Come for 2 hours or just for 10 minutes.** See what wonders the Lord has for you! Do not be afraid to open your heart to the power of the Holy Spirit. All are welcome! Please park your car in consideration of our neighbours and under no circumstances block their driveways or park on the grass verges. If at all possible, please do not park in Berkshire Drive; instead, park your car further away and come to the service on foot. This will ease traffic congestion greatly.

## PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 15<sup>TH</sup>-19<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020 (4NIGHTS)

Bp Philip writes: “I am inviting you to join me on our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. I will be leading the Pilgrimage supported by Fr PJ Smith & Youth Pilgrims aged 14-35. Our pilgrimage will begin on Wed 15 July with a flight from Bournemouth Airport direct to Tarbes, with a short transfer to Lourdes enabling us to arrive in time for lunch. Throughout our pilgrimage you will be ably supported by our young people, who will push wheelchairs, provide steadying arms as needed, lead music at our liturgies, support the delivery of catechesis & above all extend the hand of friendship and hospitality. We all stay in the Hotel La Solitude with air-conditioned rooms very close to the Shrine. Please note the cost of the pilgrimage is £695pp/sharing, & all pilgrims need to be able to stay in a hotel room without support, as no personal care can be offered.” Further details can also be obtained from our Diocesan Pilgrimage Coordinator, Sue by either calling her on 07780 221686 or [lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

Those who would like to volunteer as a youth pilgrim should also contact Sue for further details (cost is £545pp).

**Itineraries available from the Parish Office**



## MEDJUGORJE IRISH CENTRE PILGRIMAGES APRIL - OCT 2020:

7 Night Stay and Airport Shuttle service from Dubrovnik or Split for €266 per person sharing. Book any flight - any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service. Call us for further info and book the dates that suit you.

Tel. 020 3239 8662 or

email [reservations@med-irishcentre.com](mailto:reservations@med-irishcentre.com).

## INVITATION TO CULTURAL MASS FOR NIGERIANS

Bishop Philip and the Nigerian Catholic Priests, Religious and Laity in Portsmouth Diocese invite everyone to a Thanksgiving Eucharistic Liturgy. This will take place on **Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020, at 3.00pm at St. John's Cathedral**. Refreshments will follow immediately after the Mass in the Cathedral Discovery Centre. Members of the Nigerian Community and their friends are all invited and encouraged to attend. This celebration will encourage the sharing of the community's identity, unity, diversity, rich cultural values and heritage. It will also serve as an inaugural meeting for Nigerian Catholics all through the Diocese to participate in. The Catholic TV of Nigeria will be covering the Mass. Traditional/cultural dress is highly encouraged for the occasion. If you are attending or you wish to make further enquiries, please contact the main event organiser, Fr Daniel Agber who can be contacted at [nigeriansinportsmouthdiocese@gmail.com](mailto:nigeriansinportsmouthdiocese@gmail.com) or call him on his mobile: 07424 426845 or 07778 8666137.

## LOVING FOR LIFE RETREAT

Douai Abbey

13-15<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Loving4life Marriage Enrichment program.  
See <https://www.loving4life.co.uk/> for more details

The cost of the event is as follows;  
**£135.00 per couple non-residential or  
£195.00 per couple from Friday evening to Sunday  
afternoon (full-board)**

### Includes:

- ✓ Couple Pack
- ✓ Lunch on Saturday and Sunday
- ✓ Dinner Saturday evening
- ✓ Refreshments throughout the two days
- ✓ Space for personal prayer, reflection, meditation, discussion and silence

**See Noticeboard for alternative dates/more info**



### Message for World Day of Peace 2020

*Pope Francis has released a message for the 53rd World Day of Peace, which was celebrated on 1 January 2020. It's called Peace as a Journey of Hope: Dialogue, Reconciliation and Ecological Conversion. (an extract from Bishop Philip's 'E-news')*

#### 1. Peace, a journey of hope in the face of obstacles and trial

Peace is a great and precious value, the object of our hope and the aspiration of the entire human family. As a human attitude, our hope for peace is marked by an existential tension that makes it possible for the present, with all its difficulties, to be "lived and accepted if it leads towards a goal, if we can be sure of this goal, and if this goal is great enough to justify the effort of the journey". [1] Hope is thus the virtue that inspires us and keeps us moving forward, even when obstacles seem insurmountable. Our human community bears, in its memory and its flesh, the scars of ever more devastating wars and conflicts that affect especially the poor and the vulnerable. Entire nations find it difficult to break free of the chains of exploitation and corruption that fuel hatred and violence. Even today, dignity, physical integrity, freedom, including religious freedom, communal solidarity and hope in the future are denied to great numbers of men and women, young and old. Many are the innocent victims of painful humiliation and exclusion, sorrow and injustice, to say nothing of the trauma born of systematic attacks on their people and their loved ones. The terrible trials of internal and international conflicts, often aggravated by ruthless acts of violence, have an enduring effect on the body and soul of humanity. Every war is a form of fratricide that destroys the human family's innate vocation to brotherhood.

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January is Peace Sunday**

## GLOW 'let your light shine' Matthew: 5. 16

**SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY  
CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME  
Parent & Child Introduction Session  
3.30p – 4.45pm**

**SUNDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY  
Team Timeline Session 3 7.30pm – 9.00pm  
Meeting in the Church**

## ELEVATE JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

Meets every fortnight. The next session is **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January (then 24th January) 4:30pm to 5:30pm** at English Martyrs Parish Hall. The youth group is exciting and helps children of primary school age to grow in faith through fun based activities. **New members are welcome.**

## YOUTH

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2020

**PARENTS ONLY MEETING  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

7.30pm – 9.00pm in the Parish Hall

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January  
Session 4 – Our Parish Church.**

Starts 9.15am (PROMPT) – 10.30am in the Church

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

**9.30am Mass  
THIS SUNDAY**

**5<sup>th</sup> January**

Children's newsletters available  
at the back of the church

## 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**

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". Tel: 01183 225111

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

**PARISH MASS & SERVICES TIMETABLE**  
**SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY TO SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020 (Year A)**

<u>DAYS</u>	<u>TIMES</u>	<u>MASS INTENTIONS</u>
<b>Vigil Mass - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>	6.30pm	Kathleen Connolly RIP
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>	9.30 am	Thomas Walshe & Annie Kate Walshe RIP
	11.30 am	People of the Parish
	5.00 pm	Michael Linehan RIP
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January</b>	9.30am	Omer Nsom & Linus RIP
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	9.30am	Domingos Rodrigues RIP
<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January</b>	9.30am	Egipsy Barreto & Simon Bopello Thanksgiving and Good Health
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January</b>	9.30am	Special Intentions of Mary Fogarty
	10am to 9pm	Continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.30pm	Raymond Arthur RIP
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Requiem of Antonia Hageman RIP</b>
	10am to 9pm	Continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January</b>	11.00am	Tessie Joyce RIP
	<b>3pm - 4pm</b>	<b>Divine Mercy Devotions</b>
<b>Vigil Mass - Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>	6.30pm	Chris Moran RIP (20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>	9.30 am	Ann Kelly RIP
	11.30 am	People of the Parish
	5.00 pm	Manuel & Bernadine Perera RIP
<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:</b> Sat. 11.30–12.30pm, Sun. 8am–9am, Mon-Fri. 8.25am–9.25am Thurs & Fri 10.00am – 9.00pm (in the Baptistry) <b>Confessions: Saturday 5.30 – 6.15pm and Sunday 4.00 – 4.45pm</b>		

<u>COUNTERS</u>	<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	<u>WEEKLY COLLECTION</u>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> January:</b> Anne Morris & Charlie McArthur	<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January</b> Group 1: Helen, Chris, Sue & Kay	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> December</b> Envelopes £251.60 Plate £881.15
<b>12<sup>th</sup> January:</b> Robert Clifton & Gavin Knight	After morning Mass	<b>29<sup>th</sup> December</b> Envelopes £ 153.00 Plate £874.91

**HOLD THE DATE:**  
**ANNUAL UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY LECTURE**  
**Monday 20 January, 7.30pm.**  
 Neil MacGregor, "A Church for Shepherds or for Kings?"  
 Van Emden Lecture Theatre, Edith Morley Building,  
 Whiteknights Campus  
 Former Director of the British Museum, writer and BBC  
 broadcaster, Neil MacGregor explores through art the story of  
 the shepherds and the wise men to pose the question of power  
 and poverty in the life of the Christian Church: Is this a church  
 for the shepherds, or for the kings?  
 Admission is free. To book your place visit  
[www.reading.ac.uk/events](http://www.reading.ac.uk/events)

**A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**  
**A Pastoral Visit by Bishop Philip**  
**Over the Weekend of 7<sup>th</sup> /8<sup>th</sup> March**  
 More information to follow