



## 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/>

### SVP AFTERNOON TEA

The SVP will be holding their  
Monthly Afternoon Tea  
on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January**  
at 3pm in the Parish Hall.

Please come along for tea, cake and chat.  
We would be delighted to see you.  
If you want to come and would like a lift,  
then please contact Stephen Hogg on  
0118 9427646 or 07891 773379."

## ENGLISH MARTYRS' NEWSLETTER

11<sup>TH</sup> /12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020

### THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

We celebrate this Sunday the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord which brings the season of Christmas to a conclusion and returns us to Ordinary Time. Having contemplated the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, and the manifestation of his identity to the nations, we now contemplate the baptism of the adult Jesus and its meaning for him, and for us.

Baptism marked a significant turning point in the life of Jesus, and it was a moment of special grace in our story of salvation. Not only did Jesus identify with us in our sinful state, but the Father and the Spirit are seen and heard to be there with him. The Gospel uses the simple phrase that "the heavens were opened." When Jesus completed his life's journey on Calvary, we are told how "the veil of the Temple was rent in two." Now at last we were free to enter the Holy of Holies.

The baptism marks a significant time for Jesus personally: he experiences his call to mission, he is grasped by the Spirit of God, he is recognised as the chosen servant and Son. The baptism also signals that a time of waiting has been ended - waiting for the heavens to open, the pouring out of the Spirit, the new time of salvation. Jesus' new beginning is God's new beginning. Through the person of Jesus God will reach out to people in a new way. Whatever Jesus does will be accomplished by the power of God's Spirit in him.

The Spirit that empowered Jesus to make his new beginning is the same Spirit that empowered us in our baptism. Few of us can remember that moment; most of us were carried to the font, infants in the arms of our parents or godparents. Our name was given to us, our commitment was spoken for us, our future was promised to God. We spend our lives catching up with our beginning, struggling to make good the large promises made on our behalf. What started at our baptism needs to be validated by our personal decisions. We have not left our baptism behind us; it faces us each day as God's expectation of us.

Think about your baptism this Sunday. Give thanks to God for this truly important event in our lives which most of us will not be able to remember. **A question for us to think about: what difference has baptism made to my life?**

**Fr Michael**



**Will be happening at English Martyrs this winter on 4 consecutive Friday nights, beginning 31st January**  
**"A Bed for the Night"** is a winter months only night shelter run by local churches in Reading Berkshire, led by Faith Christian Group. Website <https://abedforthenight.org.uk/>

**THERE WILL BE A SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND 18<sup>TH</sup>/19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY.**

**To help towards the costs of running B4N at English Martyrs.**

Special (white) envelopes are also available this weekend if you prefer to take one home and return it next weekend or via the Parish Office. If you are a taxpayer, then **Gift Aiding** your gift will increase its value by 25% at no extra cost to you.

**PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY**

**RECENTLY DECEASED**



**Aidan Farrelly RIP**

who died on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December. Aidan's Requiem will be here at English Martyrs on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 12.30pm, followed by burial at Henley Road Cemetery.

**Stanley Kwiatek RIP**

Who died on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January. His funeral Service and Cremation will take place at 3.00pm on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January at Reading Crematorium

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

**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

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30am in Room 2**  
**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 5.00pm in Room 2**

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

**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 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



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

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

**BIBLICAL EVENING AND PODCASTS**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> of February in Parish Hall**

The Diocese is launching diocesan podcasts about the Bible. They (via Sr Hyacinthe, Formation for Mission) would like to record as many testimonies as possible about the Bible from lay people in the diocese. There will be an opportunity for you to 'witness' in a podcast.

**CAFOD UPDATE MEETING**

**1<sup>st</sup> Feb**

You are invited to a CAFOD update meeting on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February**

at St Luke's' Church Theale RG7 4AG from 2:30pm to 4:30pm. At the meeting Gisele Henriques CAFOD's Sustainability & Technical lead will be speaking about our livelihood projects, and I will give an update on how your generous donations are making a difference to people's lives.

Everyone is welcome so please let me know if you are coming by emailing [portsmouth@cafod.org.uk](mailto:portsmouth@cafod.org.uk) or call 01252 329385 .

Jo Lewry CPC CAFOD Portsmouth

**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.

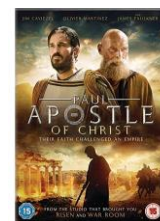
**FILM EVENING**

**PAUL, APOSTLE OF CHRIST**

7pm on 24<sup>th</sup> January in the Parish Hall

**Age 15+. BOOKING ESSENTIAL via the Parish Office by 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

*Paul, Apostle of Christ is a 2018 American biblical drama film The film tells the story of Paul, who was known as a ruthless persecutor of Christians prior to his conversion to Christianity.*



### English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

#### ADMISSIONS:

**Closing date for applications for a place in September 2020 is 15th January** (for children whose date of birth falls between 1.9.15 - 31.8.16.) If your child is a Baptised Catholic you will also need to fill in Supplementary Information form and return to the school, along with your child's Baptism certificate before the 15th January for your child to be ranked correctly

### ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE READING PREP -

Wanted Head of the Prep School (ages 3-11)  
Independent Catholic school for boys and girls.

Further details & to apply go to

<https://www.sjcr.org.uk/417/community/work-with-us>

**Closing date: Monday 20 January 2020 (noon).**

#### 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)

### "ON FIRE!" PRAYER & HEALING SERVICE

on **Saturday, 25th 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.

### 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**

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

**THIS SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

**CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME**

**Parent & Child Introduction Session**

**3.30pm - 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 24<sup>th</sup> January (then 7<sup>th</sup> February)**

**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

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January**

**Session 4 - Our Parish Church.**

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

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January**

**Session 5 - Vestment & Vessels, Sacraments.**

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

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

**9.30am Mass**

**FIRST SUNDAY**

**2<sup>nd</sup> February**

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 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY TO SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020 (Year A)**

<u>DAYS</u>	<u>TIMES</u>	<u>MASS INTENTIONS</u>
<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>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January</b>	9.30am	Terence Morse RIP
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January</b>	9.30am	Deceased members of the Stenson family RIP
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January</b>	9.30am	Fr Bon Nsom & Family
	<b>12.30pm</b>	<b>Requiem of Aidan Farrelly RIP</b>
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January</b>	9.30am	Graham Ward RIP
	10am to 9pm	Continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.30pm	Tessie Joyce RIP
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January</b> St Anthony of Egypt, <i>memorial</i>	9.30am	Mrs Mary Priest RIP
	10am to 9pm	Continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January</b> Our Lady on Saturday	11.00am	Patrick & Margaret O’Gorman RIP
	<b>3pm - 4pm</b>	<b>Divine Mercy Devotions</b>
<b>Vigil Mass - Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	6.30pm	Eugene Herbert RIP
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>  TODAY IS PEACE SUNDAY	9.30 am	Christopher O’Malley RIP
	11.30 am	Tess Carroll RIP
	5.00 pm	Simon & Mathilda Fernandes 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>12<sup>th</sup> January:</b> Robert Clifton & Gavin Knight	<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January</b> Team 2: Brian, Margaret and Hermima. After morning Mass	<b>5<sup>th</sup> January</b> <u>Envelopes:</u> £389.80 <u>Plate:</u> £1066.44
<b>19<sup>th</sup> January:</b> George & Helen Nowacki		

<p align="center"><b>CHRISTIAN UNITY OCTAVE</b> 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January</p> <p align="center"><b>CHURCHES TOGETHER IN</b> <b>WEST READING, TILEHURST &amp; SOUTHCOTE</b> Have organised a Service on <b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January</b> 6.00pm Emmanuel Methodist Church, Oxford Road Preacher: Bishop Olivia Music: The Band of Reading Central Salvation Army</p>	<p align="center"><b>A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY</b> English Martyrs will receive a Pastoral Visit by Bishop Philip Over the Weekend of 7<sup>th</sup> /8<sup>th</sup> March More information to follow</p>
<p><b>BAPTISM - A WARM WELCOME to</b> <b>Rose Mary &amp; Toby John</b> Wrixon who are each receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 1.00pm</p> 	<p align="center"><b>VOCATIONS</b> “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Do you feel a calling to follow the son of God and become a priest, deacon or consecrated religious? Contact Fr. John Cooke. By phone 01329 318 869 or email <a href="mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a></p>