



YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS



ENGLISH MARTYRS' NEWSLETTER

18TH /19TH JANUARY 2020

2nd Sunday Ordinary Time (A)

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

As I hope you are aware, this year is a special year of the word of God known as 'The God Who Speaks'. This year gives us all a wonderful opportunity to explore the Bible and become more familiar with God's word. Next Sunday, Pope Francis has announced, is to be the first 'Sunday of the Word of God.' The Pope has stressed how essential it is for Catholics to familiarise themselves with the word of God.

At Mass we use words and phrases that are rooted in the Bible. This Sunday, for example, John the Baptist looks towards Jesus and says, "Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world." Why would John the Baptist refer to Jesus as the lamb of God? In the Old Testament the Lamb of God calls five images to mind.

1 **The Lamb of Atonement** (Lev. 16:20-22). This lamb was blessed, and the sins of the people were transferred to the lamb by the laying on of hands of the High Priest. Then the lamb was sent into the wild to be devoured by wild animals.

2 **The Lamb of Daily Atonement** (Ex. 29:38-42; Num. 28:1-8). This was a lamb which was sacrificed to God every morning and evening to atone for sin.

3 **The Paschal Lamb** (Ex. 12:11). This was the lamb whose blood was placed over the doors of the Jewish families in Egypt to save the people from the 'Angel of destruction.' This Paschal Lamb reminds us of the Passover. It also reminds us of Easter and of Christ's victory over death through the shedding of his blood.

4 The lamb is portrayed in the Prophets as the **innocent to the slaughter**.

5 **The Lamb of the Conquerors**. On the ancient Jewish flag, at the time of the Maccabean liberation war, there was a picture of a horned lamb, used as a sign of a conquering majesty and power. Samuel, David and Solomon were described by the ancient Jewish historians as "horned lambs."

Christ is the Lamb of God. He is the innocent victim sacrificed for us, the Lamb who destroys death and opens eternal life to each of us. The Passover is the feast which marks the liberation of Israel. To be set free is a wonderful experience and we could reflect on how we experience our freedom in Christ. **From what have I been set free? Even more important, for what have I been set free?**

Fr Michael

FILM EVENING

PAUL, APOSTLE OF CHRIST

7pm on 24th January in the Parish Hall

Age 15+. BOOKING ESSENTIAL via the Parish Office by 23rd January

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

Fr John Paul

Bishop Philip has given Fr JP some time away from ministry. He will not be returning to English Martyrs following this time. I want to put on record my gratitude to him for his work in the parish, with the sick in the hospital and with the housebound.

Fr Michael

SECOND COLLECTION

THIS WEEKEND 18TH/19TH JANUARY

To help towards the costs of running B4N at English Martyrs

If you are a taxpayer, then **Gift Aiding** your gift will increase its value by 25% at no extra cost to you.

Special (white) envelopes are available

Please Give Generously



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WEST READING, TILEHURST & SOUTHCOTE
Have organised
TODAY SUNDAY 19TH JANUARY at 6.00pm
Emmanuel Methodist Church, Oxford Road

PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 15TH-19TH JULY 2020 (4NIGHTS)

Hotel La Solitude with air-con rooms very close to the Shrine. £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. 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

NEW EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION TRAINING DAY

(for Reading Parishes)
Saturday 8th February
9.30am – 12.00pm
All new volunteers **MUST** be approved by Father Michael
Ask at the Parish Office if you would like an appointment

VOCATIONS

"To you who have been consecrated in Christ Jesus and called to be a holy people"
Could it be that someone in your family is being called to consider priesthood or consecrated life?
Contact Fr. John Cooke. By phone 01329 318 869 or email vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Date for your Diary
28th June 2020

Diocesan Day of Celebration of the Word of God

SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2020 ENGAGED COUPLES EVENT

See Invitation in the Colonnade or contact the Parish Office for more details

VOCATION SEEKER EVENING
7th February 7-9pm

See Poster in the Colonnade

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 20th January at 7.30pm in Room 1
Wednesday 22nd January at 10.30am in Room 2

Contact Richard Kennedy for more information
T: 01189 416015 or E: rk1500@hotmail.co.uk

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 www.reading.ac.uk/events

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING REFRESHER

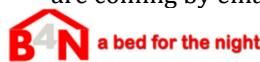
SATURDAY 25th JANUARY (10.00am – 12.30pm)
St Michael's, Bishopswood Road, **TADLEY** RG26 4HG
(Val Croughan)

TO BOOK A PLACE ON THIS COURSE – PLEASE CONTACT Soraya Ciccarone, on : 02392 816396 or Soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

CAFOD UPDATE MEETING

You are invited to a CAFOD update meeting on **Saturday 1st February**

at St Luke's' Church Theale RG7 4AG from 2:30pm to 4:30pm. At the meeting 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



or call Jo Lewry on 01252 329385.

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

ASSISTING PRIEST: FR RICHARD MANIAK

PARISH OFFICE

Secretary: Barbara 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

OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
www.englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk

BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON CATHOLIC SCHOOL
<https://www.hughfaringdon.org/>

INVITATION TO CULTURAL MASS FOR NIGERIANS

Sunday, 23rd February 2020, at 3.00pm at St. John's Cathedral.

Refreshments will follow immediately after 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 on his mobile: 07424 426845 or 07778 8666137 or at nigeriansinportsmouthdiocese@gmail.com

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).

"The regular **CRAFT AFTERNOON** will take place on **Saturday 25th January** from **2 till 5pm** in Room 1. Come along, bring your project and enjoy the chat.

If you have any items for the Bed4the Night guests (hats, scarves, gloves, new underwear or socks) these can also be dropped into Room 1 during the Craft Afternoon."

CALLING ALL KNITTERS

CAN YOU HELP? – by providing **hats, scarves and gloves** for our "Bed for the Night" guests.

If you knit, crochet, or sew please talk to Catherine Harrington or Ann Davis or get in touch via the office.

WE ALSO NEED

New Underwear & Socks

All donations via the parish office



YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

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

BIBLE EVENING AND PODCASTS

Monday 3rd of February in Parish Hall

The Bible evening is taking place from 7.30 to 9.00 pm. It is a wonderful opportunity to come together and celebrate our love for Scripture as a parish for the Year of the Word. It is a parish evening on the Bible, listening to testimonies and discovering the Bible in a light, personal, and entertaining way. It is aimed at people who are not too familiar with, or sometimes even scared of the Bible, but also at all Bible lovers who want to celebrate the Bible in one evening and share their love for it. There will be an introduction to Lectio Divina, praying with the Bible.

While some young sisters in the community provide the content, I will be recording short testimonies from people who want to share their witness about the Bible with the rest of the diocese for the Year of the Word. The testimonies will then feature on the God who Speaks diocesan website: <https://www.godwhospeaks.org/media>

You can get an idea of the testimonies there.

"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!

LOVING FOR LIFE RETREAT

Douai Abbey

13-15t 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

BAPTISM CELEBRATION SUNDAY 2nd February at 3PM

There will be a short service followed by Refreshments

If you or your children were baptised in the last year or so (or you know someone who was) then please pick up a flyer from the Colonnade or see Noticeboard/website

Please let the Parish Office know if you are planning to attend

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

FRIDAY 31ST JANUARY

Team Timeline Session 3 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Meeting in the Church

TUESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY

Pancake Evening & Launch of Youth Lenten Campaign

ELEVATE JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

Meets every fortnight. The next session is

Friday 24th January (then 7th 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 8th February

Session 6 – Mass Intro & Penitential rites
Starts 9.15am (PROMPT) – 10.30am in the Church

Monday 24th February

Parents Only Meeting
7.30pm – 9.00pm in the Parish Hall

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

9.30am Mass

FIRST SUNDAY

2nd 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 18TH JANUARY TO SUNDAY 26TH JANUARY 2020 (Year A)

<u>DAYS</u>	<u>TIMES</u>	<u>MASS INTENTIONS</u>
Vigil Mass - Saturday 18th January SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	6.30pm	Eugene Herbert RIP
Sunday 19th January SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME PEACE SUNDAY	9.30 am	Christopher O'Malley RIP
	11.30 am	Tess Carroll RIP
	5.00 pm	Simon & Mathilda Fernandes RIP
Monday 20th January	9.30am	Cameroon Intention
Tuesday 21st January St Agnes, <i>memorial</i>	9.30am	Bridie O'Gorman RIP (1 st Anniversary)
Wednesday 22nd January	9.30am	Jim Ryan Intention
Thursday 23rd January	9.30am	Rita Hayes RIP
	10am to 9pm	Continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.30pm	Deceased members of the Donohue family RIP
Friday 24th January St Francis de Sales, <i>memorial</i>	9.30am	Marcella & Barney Devlin RIP
	10am to 9pm	Continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Saturday 25th January THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL	11.00am	Archbishop J H King RIP
	3pm - 4pm	Divine Mercy Devotions
Vigil Mass - Saturday 25th January THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 26th January THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD	9.30am	Eddie Maher RIP
	11.30 am	Maria Katherine Soares RIP
	5.00 pm	Vitorin & Maria Candida Fernandes RIP
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		

<u>COUNTERS</u>	<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	<u>WEEKLY COLLECTION</u>
19th January: George & Helen Nowacki 26th January: Adam & Cathy Doberski	Friday 24th January Team 3: Chris H, vacancy, vacancy. After morning Mass Are you able to help out occasionally? Contact the Parish Office for more information	12th January <u>Envelopes:</u> £254.02 <u>Plate:</u> £899.61

BAPTISM A WARM WELCOME to Amelie Olivia Caulliez who is receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this Sunday 19 th January at 11.30am Mass		A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY English Martyrs will receive a Pastoral Visit by Bishop Philip Over the Weekend of 7 th /8 th March More information to follow
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SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK 25/26th JANUARY FOR THE CATHEDRAL

A Message from Fr PJ Smith, Cathedral Dean of St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth

Next weekend we take the annual collection in support of our Cathedral in Portsmouth

Envelopes are available at all masses for those who do not have gift aided planned giving envelopes for second collections. This collection is the only support our Cathedral receives from the wider Diocesan family.

Please give generously, gift aiding your donation wherever possible.