



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

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

Dee Road, Reading RG30 4BS T: 0118 937 5466
www.englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk

BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Fawley Road, Southcote Reading RG30 3EP
<https://www.hughfaringdon.org/>

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 couple of years (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*

ENGLISH MARTYRS' NEWSLETTER

25TH /26TH JANUARY 2020

3RD Sunday Ordinary Time (A)

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

On September 30, 2019, the liturgical Memorial of Saint Jerome, Pope Francis instituted the Sunday of the Word of God. The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time from now on will be the 'Sunday of the Word of God.' "Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the Word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world," the Holy Father wrote.

This announcement on the part of Pope Francis complemented an announcement by the bishops of England and Wales that we were to have a Year of the Word known as The God Who Speaks. Both announcements coincided with the 1600th anniversary of the death of Saint Jerome. As a Scripture scholar, Saint Jerome is always depicted with the Bible by which he receives divine inspiration from the Holy Spirit. Angels are believed to have visited Jerome regularly to help him with his commentaries, and with his failing eyesight. The importance of the word of God is highlighted by this quotation from *Verbum Domini*, 56: "The sacramentality of the word can thus be understood by analogy with the real presence of Christ under the appearances of the consecrated bread and wine. By approaching the altar and partaking in the Eucharistic banquet we truly share in the body and blood of Christ. The proclamation of God's word at the celebration entails an acknowledgement that Christ himself is present, that he speaks to us, and that he wishes to be heard."

In the word of God for this Sunday, once again there is a link between the prophecy of Isaiah in the first reading being fulfilled in the Gospel according to Matthew. Jesus announces that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. He then begins to call his team together, fishermen who will be his disciples. The fact that the fishermen respond immediately is striking. And then they drop everything and follow him. Their response is immediate and unconditional. **Do I ever follow Jesus' call immediately and unconditionally?**

Fr Michael

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND IS FOR THE CATHEDRAL

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

This 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.



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 and/or Pick up a flyer from the table in the colonnade

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



Divine Mercy Devotions

3-4pm

Saturday Afternoons

Here in English Martyrs Church

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

Friday 31st January at 10.30am in Room 2

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

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



The Special Collection last weekend for
Bed for the Night
raised a fantastic

£1894.14

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

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.



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 Parish office.

WE ALSO NEED

New Underwear & Socks

All donations via the parish office please

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

Stephen Leonard RIP

who died on Monday 6th January. Stephen will be brought into English Martyrs church on Wednesday 5th February at 4.30pm. A Requiem Mass will be held at 12.00pm on Thursday 6th February followed by committal at Reading Crematorium.



May he Rest in Peace. Please keep him and his loved ones in your prayers at this difficult time.

YOUNG MUSICIANS NEEDED

5.00PM MASS ON SUNDAYS

If you play an instrument
We would love to hear from you.

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

LEADERS WANTED

DO YOU LIKE YOUNG PEOPLE?

ARE YOU ABLE TO OFFER YOUR TIME?

If you can help, please contact the Parish Office for more information

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 7th February (then 28th 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

Monday 27th January
HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY
<https://www.hmd.org.uk/>

Remembering the Holocaust & Genocides everywhere

VOLUNTEER CLEANER NEEDED FOR THE PARISH HALL

Do you have an hour a week to spare?

We need someone to sweep and wash the floor in the Parish Hall on Sunday evening or Monday daytime (preferably).
If you think you could help, then please contact the Parish Office for more information

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

English Martyrs will receive a
Pastoral Visit by
Bishop Philip
Over the Weekend of
7th /8th March
More information to follow

Altar Servers Meeting

**Saturday 29th
February**

at 2pm in the Church
*In preparation for the
Bishops visit*

LOVING FOR LIFE RETREAT

Douai Abbey

13-15th 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

DIOCESAN MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE DAY

Saturday 18th April

English Martyrs Catholic Church, Reading

'Breakthrough'

A practical, solution-focused course for all stages of marriage.

Drawing on contemporary research and Catholic theology, this course will arm you with the skills and insights to transform your relationship into the thriving, joy-filled encounter it is meant to be.

Differences of opinion or 'gridlock' in communication?
- this workshop can be helpful.

**If you would like to know more then
please contact the Parish Office**



Society for the **Protection**
of Unborn Children

**SPUC Will be holding an Appeal here at English Martyrs
over the weekend of the 8th/9th February**

<https://www.spuc.org.uk/>

VACANCY

English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

Lunchtime Controller

(Part Time – Term Time only)

(Part Time: 1 hour 10 minutes per day)

See Noticeboard for details


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 25TH JANUARY TO SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2020 (Year A)

<u>DAYS</u>	<u>TIMES</u>	<u>MASS INTENTIONS</u>
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	9.30 am	Eddie Maher RIP
	11.30 am	Maria Katherine Soares RIP
	5.00 pm	Vitorin & Maria Candida Fernandes RIP
Monday 27th January	9.30am	Eileen Marshall RIP
Tuesday 28th January St Thomas Aquinas, Religious, Doctor of the Church, <i>memorial</i>	9.30am	Thanksgiving for a specially answered prayer
Wednesday 29th January	9.30am	Intention of Pauline Liston
Thursday 30th January	9.30am	Rita Hayes RIP
	10am to 9pm	Continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.30pm	Gerard Grant RIP
Friday 31st January St John Bosco, Founder, <i>memorial</i>	9.30am	Rita Hayes RIP
	10am to 9pm	Continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Saturday 1st February Our Lady on Saturday	11.00am	John & Maria Hayes RIP
	3pm - 4pm	Divine Mercy Devotions
Vigil Mass - Saturday 1st February THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	6.30pm	Alex Britto RIP (25 th Anniversary)
Sunday 2nd February THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	9.30am	Louie Fearn RIP
	11.30 am	People of the Parish
	5.00 pm	Jeremy Holland 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>
26th January: Adam & Cathy Doberski 2nd February: Aidan & Jane Dalglish	Friday: 31st January Team 4: Liz, Hermina, vacancy. After morning Mass Are you able to help out occasionally? Contact the Parish Office for more information	12th January <u>Envelopes:</u> £272.00 <u>Plate:</u> £986.06

 <p>YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS READERS DAY A Workshop especially for English Martyrs’ Readers but open to other parishes in Portsmouth Here at English Martyrs Parish Hall (in 2 sessions) on 2nd & 9th May 10.00am – 1.00pm https://www.godwhospeaks.org/readers Alternative venues/dates are available</p>	<p align="center">VOCATIONS “Reform your lives! The kingdom of heaven is at hand.”</p> <p>Are you being called to proclaim the coming of the kingdom as a priest, deacon, religious sister or brother? Contact Fr. John Cooke. By phone 01329 318 869 or email vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</p>
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SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND IS FOR THE CATHEDRAL