



## 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

### ENGLISH MARTYRS' NEWSLETTER

1ST/2ND FEBRUARY 2020

### The Presentation of the Lord (A) World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life NAME BADGE SUNDAY

February 2<sup>nd</sup> is the fortieth day after December 25<sup>th</sup>. That is why the Church celebrates the Presentation of the Lord every year on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. This year this feast happens to fall on a Sunday which allows us to celebrate it with even more solemnity. This feast is also known as Candlemas day since the blessing and procession of candles is included in today's liturgy.

Joseph and Mary presenting Jesus in the Temple seems like a simple act of worship, but it foreshadows the end of

Jesus' earthly life. Joseph and Mary are handing over the child in their care to God the Father. Their presentation is an act of honesty and humility: they are admitting that this child is God the Father's from the beginning, and they are admitting that for them to be entrusted with this child is an honour they don't deserve.

There is a clear link between what Joseph and Mary were doing on the day they presented Jesus, and what human parents do on the day they bring their child to the baptismal font. Each and every child is not only a gift from God, but also belongs to God, from the day of his or her conception, all the way to the day of his or her death, unto the eternal life that God wills for each of his children.

Jesus was entrusted to Joseph and Mary that they might prepare him to fulfil the Law thirty-three years later on Good Friday. Joseph's and Mary's vocations were to prepare Jesus' earthly path to Calvary. Saint Luke in this Sunday's Gospel foreshadows the share that Mary will have in the Passion of Christ. Once Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the Temple, Simeon explains to Mary that "this child is destined.... to be a sign of contradiction - and you yourself a sword will pierce - so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

This feast is a celebration of light hence the blessing of candles. Simeon identifies Jesus as a "light to enlighten the pagans." It is also a celebration of generosity and sacrifice, of giving back to God that which came from God in the first place. Today we are not being presented with a child who is a bundle of cuddle that no one can resist. We are presented with the one whom we can all resist and do.

**Can we take the Lord into our lives, say yes to who he is, and be the person he wants us to be?**

*Fr Michael*



## YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

### BIBLE EVENING

MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> OF FEBRUARY

7.30pm – 9.00pm in Parish Hall

Sr Hyacinthe & the Dominican Sisters will provide a gentle, enjoyable introduction to the Bible. If you:

- Don't usually read the bible and would like to understand more?
- Want to hear from folk who love the Bible?
- Want to share your love of the Bible?

*Then this evening is for you!*

It is a wonderful opportunity to come together and celebrate our love for Scripture as a parish for the Year of the Word. A chance for you to listen to testimonies and discover the Bible in a light, personal, and entertaining way.

**If you wish**, you can record a short testimony (share your witness about the Bible).

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

## EVENING OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP

**FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY**

Here at English Martyrs Church  
from 7.30 – 9.00pm.

Rosary at 7pm  
Please join us!

## 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*

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

“God, the British, and Europe: Learning  
Lessons from the Reformation”

**Café Theologique Event.**

At Zero Degrees Bar, Bridge St, Reading  
Starts at 7.30pm. No charge/No booking

## NEW EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION TRAINING DAY (for Reading Parishes)

At St James Church, Reading

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February**

9.30am – 12.00pm

All new volunteers **MUST** be approved by Father Michael  
Please contact the Parish Office if you would like an appointment

## 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  
**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 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)

## A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

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

## INVITATION TO CULTURAL MASS FOR NIGERIANS

**Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020,  
at 3.00pm at St. John's Cathedral, Portsmouth.**

[nigeriansinportsmouthdiocese@gmail.com](mailto:nigeriansinportsmouthdiocese@gmail.com)

## 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*

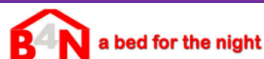
## RECENTLY DECEASED



**Stephen Leonard RIP**

who died on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January. Stephen will be brought into English Martyrs church on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 4.30pm. A Requiem Mass will be held at 12.00pm on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> 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.



Friday 31<sup>st</sup> was the first of 4 Fridays that we are providing food and sleeping accomodation for homeless people in Reading

You have been really generous with money, underwear, socks, gloves and scarves – **Thank you!!**

**We also ask for your prayers for the homeless**

**All Night Vigil**

**Next Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

**Starts at 9.30pm and ends with Morning Mass on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> at 6.30am**

Come for an hour or stay all night.  
*Soup & Bread provided*

## 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)

**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**

[www.englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk](http://www.englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk)

**BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

<https://www.hughfaringdon.org/>

## SILENT ADORATION

Help is needed for more adorers for Thursday/Friday (10.00am – 9.00pm). Numbers have been slowly declining. At this point I thank the adorers that are still participating!! We all need some time to be quiet beside our Lord. I myself have been getting so much from the time I spend in adoration. I cried, thought, prayed, and I dare say I felt him so close to me. It's a wonderful feeling, making me stronger to cope with life. So, I am hopeful some of you will hear my plea and not be like those of his disciples who fell asleep and forgot him when he needed them. **Ruby**

**Can you spare an hour for the Lord?**

**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



**SUPERBOOK BIBLE app**



<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=air.cbn.superbook.bible.app.android>

Aimed at young people app is also useful for adults.  
This could make for a perfect family time if watched together as a family.  
It is an easy and fun way to introduce young people to the Word of God.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2020**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February**

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

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February**

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

**ELEVATE JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP**

Meets every fortnight. The next session is  
**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February (then 28<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**

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

**TUESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

Pancake Evening & Launch of Youth Lenten Campaign

**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

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

**9.30am Mass**

**TODAY SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY**

Children's newsletters available  
at the back of the church

**VOCATION SEEKER EVENING**

**7<sup>th</sup> February 7-9pm**  
See Poster in the Colonnade

**SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2020  
ENGAGED COUPLES EVENT**

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

**Altar Servers Meeting**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>  
February**

at 2pm in the Church  
*In preparation for the  
Bishop's visit*

**LOVING FOR LIFE RETREAT**

**Douai Abbey**

**13-15th March 2020**

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

**DIOCESAN MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE DAY**

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

10am – 4pm at 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**

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**

**VACANCY**

English Martyrs Catholic Primary School  
**Lunchtime Controller**

**(Part Time- 1hour 10 mins per day – Term Time only)**  
See Noticeboard for details



**Date for your Diary**  
**28<sup>th</sup> June 2020**  
*Diocesan Day of  
Celebration of the Word of God*

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 Website**

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

You can sign up to receive the weekly ENews.

**This week our own Harry Mullin is in the ENews.**


TAKE A LOOK

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/congratulations-to-harry-mullin>

**PARISH MASS & SERVICES TIMETABLE  
SATURDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY TO SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020 (YEAR A)**

<u>DAYS</u>	<u>TIMES</u>	<u>MASS INTENTIONS</u>
<b>Vigil Mass - Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life</b>	6.30pm	Alex Britto RIP (25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life</b>	9.30 am	Louie Fearn RIP
	11.30 am	People of the Parish
	5.00 pm	Jeremy Holland RIP
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	9.30am	Fr Nicholas Broadbridge OSB. RIP
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	9.30am	Private Intention
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February St. Agatha, memorial</b>	9.30am	Frances Strange RIP
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February St Paul Miki and companions, memorial</b>	9.30am	SVP Intention
	10am to 9pm	Continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	12.00pm	Requiem for Stephen Leonard RIP
	7.30pm	Mark Busby RIP
<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February</b>	9.30am	Intentions of the Devlin family
	10am to 9pm	Continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.30pm - 9.00pm Rosary at 7pm	Evening of Praise & Worship
	9.30pm to Sat. 6.30am	All Night Vigil 'Peace in the World'
<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February Our Lady on Saturday</b>	6.30am	"Divine Mercy"
	11.00am	Rita Hayes RIP
	<b>3pm - 4pm</b>	<b>Divine Mercy Devotions</b>
<b>Vigil Mass - Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</b>	6.30pm	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</b>	9.30am	Buhay Family, Thanksgiving
	11.30 am	Lillian Campbell, 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday, Thanksgiving
	5.00 pm	Christine Fisher 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>		

<b>COUNTERS</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> February: Aidan & Jane Dalglish 9 <sup>th</sup> February: Martin Wills & Harry Mullin	<b>CHURCH CLEANING</b> Friday: 7 <sup>th</sup> February Team 1: Helen, Chris, Sue & Kay	<b>WEEKLY COLLECTION</b> <b>26<sup>th</sup> January</b> Envelopes: £368.25 Plate: £1012.60
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 <p><b>YEAR OF THE WORD - THE GOD WHO SPEAKS</b> <b>READERS DAY</b> A Workshop especially for English Martyrs' Readers but open to other parishes in Portsmouth Here at English Martyrs Parish Hall (in 2 sessions) on 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 9<sup>th</sup> May 10.00am - 1.00pm <a href="https://www.godwhospeaks.org/readers">https://www.godwhospeaks.org/readers</a></p>	<p><b>VOCATIONS</b> Are you ready "for a living encounter with the Lord in his people?" Are you being called by the Lord to serve Him as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Contact Fr. John Cooke. By phone 01329 318 869 or email <a href="mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a></p>
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Society for the Protection of Unborn Children

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

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