



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/>

PASTORAL VISIT BY BISHOP PHILIP 7th/8th March

The Bishop will preach at all Masses and will try to meet as many as possible over the weekend. This is a special and joyful occasion for our community as we welcome and greet our Bishop.

ENGLISH MARTYRS' NEWSLETTER

8TH/9TH FEBRUARY 2020

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

It is a source of great joy that our parish is participating in the Bed for the Night initiative in cooperation with a dozen or so other churches in Reading. A great number of volunteers have become involved in this practical act of love and service towards our brothers and sisters. The prayer and practical action of parishioners were wonderful to see on the first Friday night so let's keep it going for the remaining nights.

The readings from the word of God this Sunday are very clear in challenging us Christians to make a difference, to be salt and light, and to express what we believe in concrete acts of love. Jesus tells the disciples, "You are the salt of the earth." In other words, they are to bring a certain flavour to everything they do. They are to preserve the good and destroy that which is evil. He tells them, "You the light of the world... Your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven." The first reading from Isaiah could not be more clear in its demands, and could not be more challenging.

Perhaps it would be helpful to remind ourselves again of the Corporal Works of Mercy. **The Corporal Works of Mercy: to feed the hungry, to give drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to shelter the homeless, to visit the sick, to visit the imprisoned and to bury the dead.**

These works of mercy come from the Final Judgement teaching in the Gospel of Matthew: "What you do for the least of these, you do for me." All Christians are obliged to practice the corporal works of mercy. The challenge of the Corporal Works of Mercy and of the readings at Mass this Sunday constitute a considerable challenge to us as members of the Church.

There is no more evangelical work than to love and serve the poor. When we as Christian disciples share our light in the witness of our lives, that witness can puzzle people into wonder. As Pope Paul VI observed, that is the first act of spreading the Gospel to others. If we hide our light we puzzle no one. When we share it with others, another Christian is born.

Fr Michael

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL 2020

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal next weekend On 21st October 2019 the most extreme abortion regime in Europe was imposed on the people of Northern Ireland by the government at Westminster. Abortion will now be permitted for any reason up until at least 24 weeks, and even beyond that. The abortion lobby now wants to introduce this in England & Wales.

Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers from this new attack

FATIMA CENTENARY CELEBRATION

The World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF), in England and Wales, have organised a new Fatima celebration at Westminster Cathedral. This will be held on **Saturday 22 February from 2:00pm to 4:00 pm.**

See Poster on Noticeboard or visit info@worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk

The Passage is a Christian Charity working with homeless people. Please support a **ST DAVID'S DAY CONCERT** in aid of The Passage at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster on

Friday 28 February at 7.00pm.

The concert features the London Welsh Male Voice Choir with guest soloists Claire Jones (harp) and Aled Wyn Davies (tenor) and Guto Harri (Compère). Book online through Eventbrite

stdavidsday.eventbrite.co.uk. Full details to book are on the website www.passage.org.uk or call 020 75921856 or email info@passage.org.uk

WALKING THE ST JAMES WAY

from Reading Abbey to Southampton in 6 stages on a Saturday starting 21st March at St James Church, Reading RG1 3FD. The route passes through beautiful countryside, past points of historic and religious interest, to a place where many pilgrims in former days will have set sail for Spain. Why not re-enact their journey by joining us this year?

Please email the St James parish office on stjames@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk to register your interest. See poster in colonnade for full list of dates.

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

IF YOU ARE THINKING OF ATTENDING THEN **PLEASE CONTACT SISTER VIVIAN** (either directly or via the Parish Office). We would like to try and arrange a coach and travel together

Mission Witness: 'RED BOX' Thank you and Appeal



Next weekend we welcome **Fr Vincent Oates MHM** to give the five-yearly Appeal. Through the Red Box we care for our Church family around the world. Thank you to all

parishioners who already give to the Pope's official charity for overseas mission - Missio - and Britain's own missionary order, the Mill Hill Missionaries, through the Red Box.

Fairtrade lecture by the CEO of Café Direct, John Steel.

wednesday 4th March

Hosted by the Economics Dept and the Chaplaincy at the University of Reading"

At Slingo Theatre, JJ Thomson Building

Free but booking is required. Opens soon at

<https://www.reading.ac.uk/news-and-events/about-eventlist.aspx>

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

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 14th February at 10.30am in Room 2

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



We are now half way through Friday 31st was the first of 4 Fridays that we are providing food and sleeping accommodation 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. Join us

**Friday 14th February
Adoration in Church until Midnight**

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**Friday 21st February  
All Night Vigil**

**Starts at 9.30pm and ends with  
Morning Mass on Saturday 8th at 6.30am**  
Come for an hour or stay all night.  
*Soup & Bread provided*

### 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  
**2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> May**

**10.00am - 1.00pm**

<https://www.godwhospeaks.org/readers>

### THE BIG SLEEP OUT 2

This year, it is wonderful that our parish is offering a Bed for the Night and generous hospitality to some of the people who would usually be sleeping on the streets.

Another way we can help is by taking part in, or sponsoring, the CIRDIC Big Sleep out outside Greyfriars church on the night on 29th February:

**"Making the extra day count".**

Sponsorship funds raised will support the work of CIRDIC which seeks to provide meals and support for 60 vulnerable people on 3 days a week. More information and sponsorship forms will be available after Mass or from the parish office. Or contact [enquiries@circdic.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@circdic.org.uk) or phone 07817-373773. You can also donate through the CIRDIC website: [www.circdic.org.uk](http://www.circdic.org.uk).

**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  
FIRST SUNDAY EACH MONTH**

**Children's newsletters available  
at the back of the church**

**SUN 23RD FEBRUARY 2020 - THE "BOSCO EXPERIENCE"**

The Bosco experience is for boys of secondary school age and will be hosted from  
2 - 4pm at St. Peter's Church, Winchester. The experience is a chance for both new  
boys, who want to have a 'taste' of the Bosco Experience, and for those who have  
been on camp before with us, to meet up with old friends. There will be an  
opportunity for parents to find out more about the Don Bosco Boys Camp. To  
discover more or to reserve a place, please email

[dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Dates for 2020 Camp are Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July to Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August**



**A Date for your Diary**

**28<sup>th</sup> 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

**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**

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.


**PARISH MASS & SERVICES TIMETABLE**  
**SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY TO SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020 (YEAR A)**

| <u>DAYS</u>                                                                                   | <u>TIMES</u>     | <u>MASS INTENTIONS</u>                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Vigil Mass - Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b><br><b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</b>  | 6.30pm           | People of the Parish                                      |
| <b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b><br><b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</b>                 | 9.30 am          | Buhay Family, Thanksgiving                                |
|                                                                                               | 11.30 am         | Lillian Campbell, 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday, Thanksgiving |
|                                                                                               | 5.00 pm          | Christine Fisher RIP                                      |
| <b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February</b><br>St. Scholastica, <i>memorial</i>                    | 9.30am           | Sydney Burrett RIP                                        |
| <b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b><br>Our Lady of Lourdes, <i>memorial</i>               | 9.30am           | Rosaleen Byrne RIP                                        |
| <b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>                                                     | 9.30am           | Colin Elston RIP                                          |
| <b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>                                                      | 9.30am           | Roy Mandale Fisher RIP                                    |
|                                                                                               | 10am to 9pm      | Continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament             |
|                                                                                               | 7.30pm           | Catenians praying for an increase in vocations            |
| <b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b><br>St Cyril & St Methodius, <i>feast</i>               | 9.30am           | Jeremy Warr RIP                                           |
|                                                                                               | 10am to midnight | Continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament             |
| <b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February</b><br>Our Lady on Saturday                              | 11.00am          | Ethelreda Davis RIP                                       |
|                                                                                               | <b>3pm - 4pm</b> | <b>Divine Mercy Devotions</b>                             |
| <b>Vigil Mass - Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February</b><br><b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</b> | 6.30pm           | People of the Parish                                      |
| <b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February</b><br><b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</b>                | 9.30am           | Eddie Maher RIP                                           |
|                                                                                               | 11.30 am         | Christie O'Malley RIP                                     |
|                                                                                               | 5.00 pm          | Christine Fisher RIP                                      |

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:** Sat. 11.30-12.30pm, Sun. 8am-9am, Mon-Fri. 8.25am-9.25am  
 Thurs 10.00am - 9.00pm, Fri 10.00am -midnight (in the Baptistry)  
**Confessions: Saturday 5.30 - 6.15pm and Sunday 4.00 - 4.45pm**

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| <b>COUNTERS</b><br>9 <sup>th</sup> February: Martin Wills & Harry Mullin<br>16 <sup>th</sup> February: Anne & Stephen Hogg | <b>CHURCH CLEANING</b><br>Friday: 14 <sup>th</sup> February<br>Team 2: Brian, Margaret, & Hermina | <b>WEEKLY COLLECTION: 2nd February</b><br>Envelopes: £328.20 Loose: £938.79<br><b>CATHEDRAL Collection 26<sup>th</sup> January</b><br>Envelopes: £130.50 Loose: £81.20 |
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| <br><b>DIOCESAN MARRIAGE &amp; FAMILY LIFE</b><br><b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 11:00am-5:00pm</b><br><i>Encounter Natural Fertility</i><br><i>The Catholic Chaplaincy</i><br><i>University of Southampton, Room 1001, Building 67</i><br><b>See Poster in the Colonnade for more information</b> | <b>VOCATIONS</b><br>"Let your light shine before others" perhaps as a priest, deacon, sister or brother.<br>Contact Fr. John Cooke.<br>By phone 01329 318 869 or<br>email <a href="mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a> |
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| <b>St Paul's Catholic School's 50th Anniversary Open Afternoon</b><br><b>15th March 2020</b><br>Obviously there are so many past pupils and staff whose addresses we no longer have. Please take this as your official invitation to our Open Day. If you intend to come to visit us on that day please contact the office at <a href="mailto:office@stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk">office@stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk</a> | <br><b>BAPTISM</b><br>A WARM WELCOME to <b>Winifred Ava Hermida</b> who received the Sacrament of Baptism last Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February at 11.30am Mass |
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**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?**