



YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS



ENGLISH MARTYRS' NEWSLETTER

29TH FEBRUARY/1ST MARCH 2020

First Sunday of Lent

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

We have begun the season of Lent. The Ash Wednesday Gospel reminded us of the three great disciplines of Lent, prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Prayer is raising of the mind and heart to God and the invitation in Lent is to give more time to God in prayer. Fasting is simply about doing with less, less food, less drink, less 'screen time,' less of what we like and more of what we need that we might make more space for God. Almsgiving is simply about sharing with the poor because when we serve the poor, we serve the person of Christ. All that we possess is God-given.

Lent is about gaining greater freedom from attachments of various kinds. St. Thomas Aquinas identifies four attachments, wealth, power, pleasure and honour. Wealth has potential for good, but we can have an undue attachment to wealth and material things. Power also has potential for good, but we can have an undue attachment to power and getting our own way or dominating others. Pleasure is necessary for a balanced life, but we can have an undue attachment to pleasure. Honour, again fine in itself, but we can have an undue attachment to people thinking well of us. Lent is a time to achieve greater freedom from whatever attachments replace God in our lives.

The invitation of God through the prophet Joel on Ash Wednesday was, "Come back to me with all your heart." This is the invitation of God to us. It is the invitation of God back to Sunday Mass, back to this Sacrament of Confession, back to participating in the sacramental life of the Church. Lent is a wonderful time to turn back to God in repentance which means nothing more or less than recognising our need to change. We heard from St Paul on Ash Wednesday, "Now is the favourable time. This is the day of salvation." Lent is an opportunity we should not waste.

On this First Sunday of Lent we are reminded of the reality of sin and temptation in the readings from the word of God. Jesus overcomes the devil's temptations and relies on the word of God to do so. We too need to rely on the word of God in our efforts to overcome sin and temptation. Avail of the Sacrament of Confession. Spend time with the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration. Practice self-denial and give generously to the poor. By the time Easter comes we hope to be just a little bit more free to love and serve God.

Fr Michael

CAFOD LENT FAMILY FAST DAY COLLECTION

Please use the envelopes provided for your Fast Day donations, returning them for collection at next weekend's masses. CAFOD is most grateful for your continuing support and for the generosity shown in the Harvest Fast Day collection raising over £2,600. Your Lent donations will help CAFOD to continue its work across the world, bringing desperately needed relief to poverty stricken communities and helping them to provide for themselves and be more resilient. With the increasing effects of climate change causing new extremes in weather patterns and the worsening and more widespread impact of wars and geopolitical tensions, the call upon CAFOD's resources has never been higher. The world's most vulnerable people need both your prayers and your financial support. Every single pound you give really does make a difference so please try to be extra generous this Lent.



Richard Tudor, CAFOD Volunteer

FRIDAYS DURING LENT
6.30am

Early Morning Mass
Followed by a simple
breakfast for those
that are able to stay

FRIDAYS DURING LENT
Stations of the Cross

9.00am Led by Parishioners
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**7.30pm** Led by a Parish Group

## 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

**YOUNG MUSICIANS NEEDED**  
If you play an instrument  
We would love to hear from you.



## 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.

## YOUTH

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

This Weekend - 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020  
9.30AM & 11.30AM MASSES

Children's newsletters available at the back of the church

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2020

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March  
Session 8 – Gospel and Creed  
Starts 9.15am (PROMPT) – 10.30am in the Church

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

### LEADERS WANTED

DO YOU LIKE YOUNG PEOPLE? ARE YOU ABLE TO OFFER YOUR TIME?  
Contact the Parish Office for more information

## ELEVATE JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

Meets every fortnight. The next session is  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 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 LENTEN CAMPAIGN

### Give up indifference, Make a Difference

#### ARE YOU ABLE TO DONATE:

EASTER EGGS, CANNED FOODS, KNITTED CAP/BEANIE, SOCKS, SCARF, GLOVES/MITTENS, SOAP BARS, FLANNELS, TOOTHPASTE AND TOOTHBRUSHES, ROLL ON DEODORANTS, HAND GEL, TRAVEL TISSUES, SANITARY WEAR/UNDER WEAR, SANITARY TOWELS, HAIRBRUSHES AND COMBS, EARBUDS, SHAVING STICKS, NAIL CUTTERS, BOTTLED WATER (SMALL SIZE), GIFT BAGS?

Collection boxes for all donated items will be available in the colonnade at every weekend mass during Lent until Holy Thursday April 9th when the gift bags will be stuffed with the gift items ready for giving out on Good Friday. EASTER EGGS will be sent to READIFOOD on Monday, March 30 for early distribution to children from poor homes. **"Whatsoever you did for the least of my brothers and sisters that you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)**

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

|                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Weds 4 <sup>th</sup> March                      | Fairtrade LECTURE by the CEO of Café Direct, John Steel. Free but booking is required at <a href="https://www.reading.ac.uk/news-and-events/about-eventlist.aspx">https://www.reading.ac.uk/news-and-events/about-eventlist.aspx</a> |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> March                           | DIOCESAN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE DAY – 11.00am – 5pm. See Noticeboard for more details                                                                                                                                              |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> March                          | PARISH LIFE AND WORSHIP IN MEDIEVAL READING. An illustrated TALK a leading local historian, Joan Dils at Our Lady of Peace Church. 7.30pm Everyone welcome.                                                                          |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> March                          | SACRAMENT FOR THE SICK at St Joseph's Tilehurst 2 p.m. (followed by tea & biscuits)                                                                                                                                                  |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> March        | Loving for Life RETREAT at Douai Abbey – See Noticeboard for more details                                                                                                                                                            |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> March                          | The Psalms In Study and Song Churches Together in Berkshire 10.30am – 4pm<br>Grange United Reform Church 139 Southcote Lane, RG30 3AJ. See Noticeboard for more information                                                          |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> March                          | 'Miserere' Chamber Choir Performance at Douai Abbey. 7.30pm. See Noticeboard for details                                                                                                                                             |
| Sun. 28 <sup>th</sup> June                      | DIOCESAN DAY OF CELEBRATION of the Word of God - More information to follow                                                                                                                                                          |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> July to 1 <sup>st</sup> August | 'Don Bosco' Boys Camp at St Cassian's Kintbury. Run by Portsmouth Diocese. Cost £210 (part bursaries may be available). <a href="mailto:dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a>                       |

#### An important message to All EU, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK

You are required by the government to apply through its Settlement Scheme to continue living, working and accessing services here. The deadline for applications is 30 June 2021. Details and links to the application process can be found at: [gov.uk/eusetledstatus](http://gov.uk/eusetledstatus) Please bring this to the attention of friends, family members and fellow parishioners who may need to apply. Information on assistance for those who may have difficulty applying is available at: [gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme](http://gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme). The Catholic Church in England and Wales stands in solidarity with all European citizens who have made their homes here. They are a valued part of our parishes, schools and communities.

\* Please can the parishioner who offered to help with painting Room 3 of the parish centre contact the Parish Office \*

**NEXT WEEKEND 7<sup>TH</sup> / 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**  
**TIMETABLE OF THE BISHOP PHILIP'S VISIT**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>**

|        |                                                         |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.00pm | Bishop arrives and meets with Fr Michael & Team Leaders |
| 4.30pm | Meeting with Leadership Team                            |
| 5.30pm | Hearing confessions                                     |
| 6.30pm | Celebrates Mass                                         |
| 7.30pm | Meets Parishioners in the Hall after Mass               |

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>**

|         |                                           |
|---------|-------------------------------------------|
| 9.30am  | Celebrates Mass                           |
| 10.30   | Meets Parishioners in the Hall after Mass |
| 11.30am | Celebrates Mass                           |
| 12.30pm | Meets Parishioners in the Hall after Mass |
| 1.30pm  | Clergy Lunch                              |
| 3.00pm  | Adoration and prayers for vocations       |
| 4.00pm  | Meeting with youth of the parish          |
| 5.00pm  | Celebrates Mass                           |
| 7.00pm  | Meets Parishioners in the Hall after Mass |

**Bishop Philip's Visit**

On his visit to English Martyrs Bishop Philip is very keen to meet as many of the parishioners as possible therefore a 'Bring and Share' Reception will be held after each Mass that weekend for you to have the opportunity to meet with him.

Buffet style food will be served at each Bring and Share Reception and the food should reflect the diverse cultural elements of our community. Please bring

**6.30pm Mass** - savoury nibbles and some sweet dishes

**9.30am Mass** - *small croissants, brioche & small pastries*

**11.30am Mass** - Hot food and some sweet dishes

**5.00pm Mass** - *Cakes and some savouries*

*Please take into the Parish Hall on your way into church*

Thank you all very much for the offers of alcohol but as it is in the season of Lent we will abstain!!!

**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 Please email the St James parish office on [stjames@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjames@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) to register your interest. See poster in colonnade for full list of dates.

**"St John's Gospel – Going Deeper Into The Mystery"**

A talk by Fr Nick King SJ of Campion Hall, Oxford.

**MONDAY MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup>**

7.30pm – 9.30pm

At English Martyrs Parish Hall



**National Novena to St Joseph**

**10<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

Takes place at St Josephs Church Maidenhead

*See Poster for details.*

**Petition forms are available in the Colonnade**

A Novena booklet is available from

St Josephs Missionary Society, Maidenhead (see poster)

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

**READERS DAY**

**A Workshop especially for English Martyrs' Readers but open to other parishes in Reading**

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>

**VOCATIONS**

Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for forty days of prayer and fasting. Are you open to being led by the Holy Spirit into the state in Life God has prepared for you? If you are considering

a vocation to the priesthood or

consecrated life contact Fr. John Cooke.

By phone 01329 318 869 or email

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

**VACANCY**

**Principal**

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Thame, Oxfordshire

See Noticeboard for more details

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2020**

**Praying with Zimbabwe**

**FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH at 10.30 AM**

Wesley Methodist Church

See Noticeboard for details

**St Paul's Catholic School's 50th Anniversary Open Afternoon**

**15th March 2020**

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

[office@stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:office@stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk)

**DIOCESAN MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE DAY**

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

**Open to all Married Couples**

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**

**SPUC**

**40 Days For Life**

[www.40daysforlife.com/reading-2](http://www.40daysforlife.com/reading-2)

40 Days for Life is a peaceful and prayerful way to work for an end to abortion. You are invited to stand and peacefully pray for an hour or two outside the BPAS abortion clinic in Reading, during a 40-day vigil running for 12 hours daily during Lent. For full details and to sign up now to pray with them see our website, or contact them at [40daysforlifereading@gmail.com](mailto:40daysforlifereading@gmail.com).



Online resource: <https://www.catholicreadings.org/> why not take a look?

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 29<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY TO SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020 (YEAR A)**

| <u>DAYS</u>                                                                                                                                                                  | <u>TIMES</u>   | <u>MASS INTENTIONS</u>                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Vigil Mass – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February</b><br><b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b>                                                                                         | 6.30pm         | John Forbes RIP                                                 |
|  <b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b><br><b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b><br><b>St David's Day</b> | 9.30 am        | McMahon Family RIP                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                              | 11.30 am       | Tom Murray RIP                                                  |
|                                                                                                                                                                              | 5.00 pm        | People of the Parish                                            |
| <b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>                                                                                                                                           | 9.30am         | Grace McVeigh RIP                                               |
| <b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>                                                                                                                                          | 9.30am         | Intentions of John Brennan                                      |
| <b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>                                                                                                                                        | 9.30am         | Catherine Smith RIP                                             |
| <b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>                                                                                                                                         | 9.30am         | Ryan Flood RIP                                                  |
|                                                                                                                                                                              | 10am to 9pm    | Continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                              | 7.30pm         | Aidan Farrelly RIP                                              |
| <b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><b>Lenten Fast Day</b><br><b>World Day of Prayer</b>                                                                                   | 6.30am         | The Soul of Mr Anthony Joseph RIP<br>(father of Neville Joseph) |
|                                                                                                                                                                              | 8-8.55am       | Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                              | 9.00am         | Stations of the Cross                                           |
|                                                                                                                                                                              | 9.30am         | Teresa Quigley RIP                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                              | 10am to 9pm    | Continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament                   |
| <b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b>                                                                                                                                         | 11.00am        | James & Elsie McAdden RIP                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>3pm-4pm</b> | <b>Divine Mercy Devotions</b>                                   |
| <b>Vigil Mass – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b>                                                                                            | 6.30pm         | People of the Parish                                            |
| <b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b>                                                                                                           | 9.30am         | Mr Lourdhinho Soares RIP                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                              | 11.30 am       | Lilian Campbell Intention                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>3pm-4pm</b> | <b>Adoration &amp; Prayer for Vocations</b>                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                              | 5.00 pm        | Paddy Kilbane RIP                                               |

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:** Sat. 11.30–12.30pm, Sun. 8am–9am, Mon-Thurs. 8.25am–9.25am, Fri 8.00am–8.55am  
 Thurs 10.00am – 9.00pm, Fri 10.00am – 9pm then 9.30pm – 6.30am Sat. Vigil (in the Baptistry)

**Confessions: Saturday 5.30 – 6.15pm and Sunday 4.00 – 4.45pm**

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>COUNTERS</b><br><b>1<sup>st</sup> March:</b> Teresa Ennis, Pauline Xavier & Alice Mascarenhas<br><b>8<sup>th</sup> March:</b> Paula Garcia & Sue Sheppard | <b>CHURCH CLEANING</b><br><b>Friday: 6<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><b>Team 1:</b> Helen, Chris, Sue, Kay | <b>WEEKLY COLLECTION: 23<sup>rd</sup> February</b><br>Envelopes: £339.00<br>Loose: £913.83 |
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| <p><b>ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH</b><br/>         64 Liebenrood Road, Reading RG30 2EB Registered Charity No. 246871</p> <p><b>PARISH CLERGY</b><br/> <b>PARISH PRIEST: CANON MICHAEL DENNEHY</b><br/> <a href="mailto:mdennehy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">mdennehy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a></p> <p><b>ASSISTING PRIEST: FR RICHARD MANIAK</b></p> <p><b>PARISH OFFICE</b><br/> <b>Secretary: Barbara Tel: 0118 957 2149</b> <u>Open: Mon - Fri 9am–3.30pm</u><br/>         Email: <a href="mailto:englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a><br/>         Website: <a href="http://www.englishmartyrsrdg.org.uk">www.englishmartyrsrdg.org.uk</a></p> | <p><b>SAFEGUARDING REP - CHARLIE MCARTHUR</b><br/>         Contact via the Parish Office</p> <p><b>OUR PARISH SCHOOLS</b><br/> <b>ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL</b><br/>         Dee Road, Reading RG30 4BS T: 0118 937 5466<br/> <a href="http://www.englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk">www.englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk</a></p> <p><b>BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON CATHOLIC SCHOOL</b><br/>         Fawley Road, Southcote Reading RG30 3EP<br/> <a href="https://www.hughfaringdon.org/">https://www.hughfaringdon.org/</a></p> |
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**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND IS FOR CAFOD (LENTEN FAST DAY – FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH)**