



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/>

TIMETABLE OF THE BISHOPS VISIT

Saturday 7th

- 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 Meeting Parishioners in the Hall after Mass

Sunday 8th

- 9.30am Celebrates Mass
- 10.30am Meeting Parishioners in the Hall after Mass
- 11.30am Celebrates Mass
- 12.30pm Meeting 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

ENGLISH MARTYRS' NEWSLETTER

7TH/ 8TH MARCH 2020

Second Sunday of Lent Name Badge Sunday

We warmly welcome Bishop Philip to English Martyrs this weekend. As Bishop of the Diocese of Portsmouth he undertakes a periodic visitation of all the parishes within the diocese. This weekend is the turn of English Martyrs. The word bishop comes from the Greek word *episkopos* which means 'overseer.' This weekend Bishop Philip is overseeing the work of the Church's mission in this part of the Diocese of Portsmouth here in Reading. We also welcome Fr. Philip, the Bishop's Secretary.

The Directory for the Pastoral Ministry of Bishops describes the Bishop's pastoral visit as "an occasion to rejuvenate the energies of those engaged in evangelisation, to praise, encourage and reassure them." It goes on to say, "It is also an opportunity to invite the faithful to a renewal of Christian life and to an ever more intense apostolic activity, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the structures and agencies designed for pastoral service."

In completing the necessary paperwork in preparation for the Bishop's visit I expressed the view that as a parish we are on an ongoing journey of renewal, seeking to implement the 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.**" There won't be a report at the end of the Bishop's visit such as an Ofsted Report but I'm sure that we will all feel encouraged and supported.

On this Second Sunday of Lent we read the gospel account of the Transfiguration. It was the moment when the disciples Peter, James and John were shown the divinity of Jesus on Mount Tabor. Peter wants the moment to last forever and the public declaration of Jesus as God's Son at the Baptism is repeated. Jesus reminds his disciples that his death must precede the revelation of his glory at the Resurrection. Until they have experienced the limitless generosity of his death, and the vindication by God of this love, they are not ready to spread the message of Jesus. **What stands out for you in this account of the Transfiguration? How might it help you to deepen your own relationship with Christ?**

Fr Michael



THE SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

7TH & 8TH March

Is the Lenten Fast Day Appeal.

Please give generously as you can

YOUTH LENTEN CAMPAIGN

Give up indifference, Make a Difference

ARE YOU ABLE TO DONATE:

EASTER EGGS, CANNED FOODS, BOTTLED WATER (SMALL SIZE), 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, 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)

GLOW

‘let your light shine’

Matthew: 5. 16

TEEN TIMELINES 4

Next Session
FRIDAY 13TH MARCH
7.30 -9.00pm

In the Parish Centre

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

YOUTH

ELEVATE JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

Meets every fortnight. The next session is

Friday 13th 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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2020

Saturday 14th March



Session 8 – Gospel and Creed

Starts 9.15am (PROMPT) – 10.30am in the Church

CHILDREN’S LITURGY

First Sunday of every month

Children’s newsletters available at the back of the church

11th March	PARISH LIFE AND WORSHIP IN MEDIEVAL READING. An illustrated TALK by a leading local historian, Joan Dils at Our Lady of Peace Church. 7.30pm Everyone welcome.
March (various)	3 different Events at the Academy of the Annunciation at the Bournemouth Oratory during March. See poster on Noticeboard for more information. 
12th March	SVP Mass SACRAMENT FOR THE SICK at St Joseph’s Tilehurst 2 p.m. (followed by tea & biscuits)
13th-15th March	Loving for Life RETREAT at Douai Abbey – See Noticeboard for more details
14th March	“On Fire” Prayer & Healing Service at St Josephs Tilehurst 5-7pm
15th March	St Paul's Catholic School's 50th Anniversary Open Afternoon office@stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk
21st March	The Psalms In Study and Song Churches Together in Berkshire 10.30am – 4pm Grange United Reform Church 139 Southcote Lane, RG30 3AJ. See Noticeboard for more information
28th March	‘Miserere’ Chamber Choir Performance at Douai Abbey. 7.30pm. See Noticeboard for details
Sun. 28th June	 DIOCESAN DAY OF CELEBRATION of the Word of God - More information to follow
26th July to 1st August	‘Don Bosco’ Boys Camp at St Cassian’s Kintbury. Run by Portsmouth Diocese. Cost £210 (part bursaries may be available). dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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 Please bring this to the attention of friends, family members and fellow parishioners who may need to apply.

VOCATIONS

God has called us with a holy calling..... according to His own purpose and grace. Do you think God is offering you the grace of a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life?
contact Fr. John Cooke. By phone 01329 318 869 or email vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

SPUC 40 Days For Life 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

VOLUNTEER WANTED

Can you spare some time to help with painting Room 3 of the Parish Centre?

Please contact the Parish Office for more info

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 different parish group each week

FILIPINO CATHOLIC MASS

at Christ the King Church
408 Northumberland Ave, Reading RG2 8NR

Sunday 29th March 2020

At 1.00pm

Officiated by Fr. Nelson Cabanero

GENERAL HEALTH ISSUES (CORONAVIRUS)

You no doubt aware of the risk to health of the Coronavirus (also known as Covid 19).

From this weekend until further notice we are taking the following measures:

- There will be no holy water in the stoops
- Communion is of one kind only (no holy blood)
- The host will only be placed direct into your hand (not on the tongue)
- Sign of peace is to be 'non-contact'. You may wish each other peace without touching
- The weekly collection will be made using baskets and will be taken around rather than passed around.

HAND HYGIENE IS VITAL.

You are welcome to use the hand sanitiser provided on the way into church (we are having trouble buying this at the moment as stocks are scarce) or bring your own.

The toilet handbasins have hot water, soap and paper hand towels for you to use.

Please be aware that the Diocese and the Parish are constantly reviewing our approach to health and hygiene to minimise the risk of spreading this virus.

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 11th March at 10.30am in Room 2

Friday 13th March at 10.30pm in Room 2

Contact Richard Kennedy for more information

T: 01189 416015 or E: rk1500@hotmail.co.uk

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

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

MONDAY MARCH 16TH

7.30pm – 9.30pm

At English Martyrs Parish Hall



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

2nd & 9th May

10.00am – 1.00pm <https://www.godwhospeaks.org/readers>

DIOCESAN MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE DAY

SATURDAY 18TH 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

SLEEP OUT SPONSORSHIP THANKS

Heartfelt thanks to all those who so generously sponsored my night of sleeping rough to raise money for CIRDIC last Saturday. It was just a tiny taste of the discomfort experienced night after night by people who are homeless.

English Martyrs parishioners have so far given almost £800 directly and, overall, around £7,000 has been donated in generous sponsorship by churches, friends and family of the 30 "sleepers". If you still want to donate, go to:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cirdic2 or leave your donation in the Parish Office. There is a reflection on the Sleep Out and some pictures on the parish website. Sincere thanks again. (Angela Wills)

THE RE-DEDICATION OF ENGLAND AS THE DOWRY OF MARY – "BEHOLD"

This Re-dedication on March 29th is both a personal promise by the people of England, and a renewal of the entrustment vows made by King Richard II in Westminster Abbey in 1381. England received the title 'Mary's Dowry' when Richard sought Our Lady's protection in the face of great political turmoil. This meant England was 'set aside' as a gift for Our Lady under her guidance and protection. On Sunday, 29th March at 12 noon, the Re-dedication will take place throughout the country. Like King Richard we are invited to give ourselves, the people of this country, as a gift to Mary. We can respond in two ways; making a personal pledge (the "Angelus Promise" in which we proclaim our union with Mary through the words of the Annunciation) and a communal entrustment (a prayer of profoundly historic and spiritual nature, bringing together the prayers of surrender and dedication that have echoed throughout our history). All parishes, schools and Catholic organisations are invited to host this dedication and mark the occasion in their own way. For more details go to <https://www.behold2020.com/take-part>. The re-dedication comes as we celebrate God's Word becoming Flesh during "Year of the Word – the God Who Speaks". To link the two events, more can be found at www.godwhospeaks.org or the national site <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/>

Rite of Election 2020

This year, our parish will have the joy of baptising Steven Lai and confirming Amabelle Ibahay at our Easter Vigil on April 13th.

On Saturday, they were welcomed by Bishop Philip, at the Rite of Election in Portsmouth Cathedral - along with all those in our diocese who are preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and Reception into the Church.

Please pray for them all and especially for Steven and Amabelle as they begin their final time of preparation during Lent.

You invited to add your promise to pray for Steven and Amabelle in the book which will be available in the Baptistery from this weekend

Online resource: <https://www.wordonfire.org/> why not check it out?



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.

MARRIAGE CARE VOLUNTEERS

Are you passionate about supporting marriage? Marriage Care volunteers run marriage preparation days for couples getting married in the Catholic church and also offer relationship counselling when difficulties come along. In order to continue our invaluable work we require volunteers for the following roles:

Marriage Preparation facilitators (training is provided); people to serve tea, coffee etc at our marriage preparation days (held in Reading and Maidenhead); treasurer; admin support; relationship counsellors (relationship counselling training is available for qualified counsellors); receptionist for counsellor (Monday evenings in Woodley).

To find out more about any of these opportunities contact Sue Cooper at reading.admin@marriagecare.org or phone 07939495774. For further information on Marriage Care visit www.marriagecare.org.uk



RECENTLY DECEASED

Bernard Francis 'Frank' McGarry RIP

who died on Monday 2nd March.
 His Requiem Mass will take place here at English Martyrs on Tuesday 17th March at 9.30am
 Followed by burial at Henley Road Cemetery

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

**PARISH MASS & SERVICES TIMETABLE
 SATURDAY 7TH MARCH TO SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2020 (YEAR A)**

<u>DAYS</u>	<u>TIMES</u>	<u>MASS INTENTIONS</u>
Vigil Mass – Saturday 7th March SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 8th March SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	9.30am	Mr Lourdhinho Soares RIP
	11.30 am	Lilian Campbell Intention
	3pm-4pm	Adoration & Prayer for Vocations
	5.00 pm	Paddy Kilbane RIP
Monday 9th March	9.30am	Stephen Leonard RIP
Tuesday 10th March	9.30am	Mrs Bridie Meehan RIP
Wednesday 11th March	9.30am	Adrian Thorpe RIP, Pam Maddock RIP & Marie Lewis RIP
Thursday 12th March	9.30am	Frank Carr RIP
	10am to 9pm	Continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.30pm	Joseph Dolan RIP
Friday 13th March	6.30am	Terence Morse RIP
	8-8.55am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	9.00am	Stations of the Cross
	9.30am	Jerome Kislingbury RIP
	10am to 9pm	Continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross – Led by Couples for Christ
Saturday 14th March	11.00am	Kathleen Brown RIP
	3pm-4pm	Divine Mercy Devotions
Vigil Mass – Saturday 14th March THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	6.30pm	Anne Tudor RIP
Sunday 15th March THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	9.30am	Aidan Farrelly RIP
	11.30 am	Joe Lydon RIP
	5.00 pm	People of the Parish

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

COUNTERS 8th March: Paula Garcia & Sue Sheppard 15th March: Lis Leddy, Sarah Finch & Norma Dick	CHURCH CLEANING Friday: 6th March Team 2 VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS WANTED	WEEKLY COLLECTION: 1st March Envelopes: £343.47 Loose: £968.50
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