



## YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS



### ENGLISH MARTYRS' NEWSLETTER

14<sup>TH</sup> /15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020

Third 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

Sincere thanks to all who made the visit of Bishop Philip last weekend a wonderful celebration of welcome and hospitality. Despite having to implement guidelines on the spread of Coronavirus, each of the after-Mass receptions were welcoming and hospitable. Bishop Philip was able to meet a good number of people and he was able to get a sense of what happens here at English Martyrs and the vision we are seeking to implement. His feedback and that of Fr. Philip, his secretary, was very positive and affirming. It was with a great sense of satisfaction that I waved them goodbye on Sunday evening!

Thanks also to you all for your patience and co-operation with the implementation of the Healthcare Executive Group of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales Guidelines on the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19). We are doing everything we can to implement these guidelines. It takes effort and planning as well as co-operation from everybody to do what is necessary. This will need to be kept under constant review. In this time of Lent let us pray that this virus will be quickly brought under control and eradicated.

This Sunday we have the Gospel story of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at a well. It is a remarkable story. Jesus is the Messiah and Saviour of the world. But in the story Jesus is the weary and thirsty traveller who wants to make inroads into people's lives. No matter who they are. It is Jesus who makes the first move, expressing his need for a drink from her. These peoples have been estranged from each other for centuries, but thirst knows no boundaries. The woman has taken aback. Jesus intrigues the woman by suggesting that if she knew his real identity, she would ask him for living water.

Jesus reveals himself to the woman and gives her the living water, which is faith in himself, the Son of God. She does not experience a secret. She turns her experience of Jesus into a message for others. Because of her the whole time comes to meet Jesus. Many believe in Jesus because a story; many more come to believe in him when they meet him for themselves. **What does Jesus really mean by 'living water'? What is the real life that God gives us?**

*Fr Michael*

#### GENERAL HEALTH ISSUES (CORONAVIRUS)

Until further notice:

- Please do not come to church if you are feeling unwell – follow Government Guidelines
- There will be no holy water in the stoops
- Communion is of one kind only; the Host will only be placed direct onto your hand
- Sign of peace is to be 'non-contact'. There are many ways of offering this sign without touching
- The weekly offering will be collected rather than passed around.
- Catch it - sneeze into a tissue ▪ Bin it – bin the tissue ▪ Kill it – wash your hands with soap & water, then dry them or use alcoholic hand gel (if available). **HAND HYGIENE IS VITAL.**
- No refreshments after any Mass or at any parish event until further notice
- Confession as usual, but you are asked to respect a 1 metre gap between you and the priest. This will mean that you will need to speak up. but be assured the confessional is soundproofed.
- We will be setting up an update on our website about coronavirus as soon as we can. That means you will be able to see here, what the latest information from our parish is.

**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.**

## 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.

**“Whatever 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 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**  
7.30 -9.00pm

### 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> March**



Session 9 – Prayer

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

<b>March (various)</b>	3 different Events at the Academy of the Annunciation at the Bournemouth Oratory during March. See poster on Noticeboard for more information.	
<b>21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>The Psalms In Study and Song</b> Churches Together in Berkshire <b>10.30am - 4pm</b> Grange United Reform Church 139 Southcote Lane, RG30 3AJ. <b>See Noticeboard for more information</b>	
<b>28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	‘Miserere’ Chamber Choir Performance at Douai Abbey. 7.30pm. See Noticeboard for details	
<b>8<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b>	<b>ORGAN RECITAL</b> here at English Martyrs Church at 7.30pm. More details to follow	
<b>14<sup>th</sup> June 2020</b>	Re-Commissioning of all Eucharistic Ministers - on the Feast of Corpus Christi	
<b>Sun. 28<sup>th</sup> June</b>	 <b>DIOCESAN DAY OF CELEBRATION</b> of the Word of God - More information to follow	
<b>26<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August</b>	‘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>	

### 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)

### VOCATIONS

“But whoever drinks the water I give, will never be thirsty.” Are you thirsting for an understanding of your vocation? Contact Fr. John Cooke. Tel 01329 318 869 email [vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### 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>

### “St John’s Gospel – Going Deeper Into The Mystery”

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



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

7.30pm – 9.30pm

At English Martyrs Parish Hall

### FRIDAYS DURING LENT

**6.30am**

**Early Morning Mass**

### 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 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

At 1.00pm

Officiated by Fr. Nelson Cabanero

**FEAST OF ST PATRICK  
THE PATRON SAINT OF IRELAND  
TUESDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

There will be a Mass on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March  
at 7pm, celebrated by Fr Richard  
We pray for the people of Ireland on that date.  
*All are welcome.*



**SVP AFTERNOON TEA  
CANCELLED IN MARCH**

We are sorry but the SVP will **not** be holding their  
Monthly Afternoon Tea this month. This is due to  
the measures that the Parish is taking to combat the  
Coronavirus Covid 19 virus by stopping all  
refreshments until further notice

**The CRAFT AFTERNOON this month will be on  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March, in Room 1.**

Drop in anytime between 2 and 5pm.  
Please note that this change is for this month only, normally  
the Craft Afternoon is on the last Saturday of the month

**TAIZE  
Pilgrimage for young people aged 15-30  
16-23<sup>rd</sup> August.** Leaflets available in the colonnade

Organised by the Anglican Diocese of Oxford

**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**

**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

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in Room 1**

Contact Richard Kennedy for more information  
T: 01189 416015 or E: [rk1500@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rk1500@hotmail.co.uk)

**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](mailto:reading.admin@marriagecare.org) or phone  
07939495774. For further information on Marriage Care visit  
[www.marriagecare.org.uk](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk)

**RECENTLY DECEASED**

**Bernard Francis 'Frank' McGarry**

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



**John Frederick Howard**

Who died on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March.  
His Requiem Mass will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> March at  
11.00am. Followed by burial at London Road Cemetery,  
Thatcham.

May they Rest in Peace.

Please keep them and their loved ones in your prayers at  
this difficult time

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

This Re-dedication on March 29<sup>th</sup> 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, 29<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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  
13<sup>th</sup>.

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 special  
book which will be available in the  
Baptistry from this weekend**


Online resource: <https://www.sacredspace.ie/> 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 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH TO SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2020 (YEAR A)**

| <u>DAYS</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <u>TIMES</u>   | <u>MASS INTENTIONS</u>                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Vigil Mass – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b>                                                                                                                                         | 6.30pm         | Anne Tudor RIP                                           |
| <b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b>                                                                                                                                                        | 9.30am         | Aidan Farrelly RIP                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 11.30 am       | Joe Lydon RIP                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 5.00 pm        | People of the Parish                                     |
| <b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b>                                                                                                                                                                                       | 9.30am         | Kay Rodgers RIP                                          |
|  <b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b><br>St Patrick, <i>feast</i>                                                                        | <b>9.30am</b>  | <b>Requiem Mass for Bernard Francis 'Frank' Mc Garry</b> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 7.00pm         | Aidan Farrelly RIP (moved from 9.30am)                   |
| <b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March</b>                                                                                                                                                                                    | 9.30am         | Stephen Leonard RIP                                      |
| <b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March</b><br>St Joseph, <i>feast</i>                                                                                                                                                          | 9.30am         | Dickson & Roseline Fernandes, Thanksgiving               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 10am to 9pm    | Continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 7.30pm         | Private Intentions                                       |
| <b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>                                                                                                                                                                                       | 6.30am         | Dermot Walsh RIP                                         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 8-8.55am       | Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 9.00am         | Stations of the Cross                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 9.30am         | Anne Tudor RIP                                           |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 10am to 9pm    | Continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 7.30pm         | Stations of the Cross – Led by the Altar Servers         |
| <b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>                                                                                                                                                                                     | 11.00am        | Peter Hann RIP                                           |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>3pm-4pm</b> | <b>Divine Mercy Devotions</b>                            |
| <b>Vigil Mass – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b><br><b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>                                                                                                                                        | 6.30pm         | Romeo Suzara RIP                                         |
| <b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b><br><b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>                                                                                                                                                       | 9.30am         | Ella Bartolome Thanksgiving                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 11.30 am       | Lilian Campbell Intention                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 5.00 pm        | People of the Parish                                     |
| <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:</b> Sat. 11.30–12.30pm, Sun. 8am–9am, Mon-Thurs. 8.25am–9.25am, Fri 8.00am–8.55am<br>Thurs 10.00am – 9.00pm, Fri 10.00am – 9pm then 9.30pm – 6.30am Sat. Vigil (in the Baptistry) |                |                                                          |
| <b>Confessions: Saturday 5.30 – 6.15pm and Sunday 4.00 – 4.45pm</b>                                                                                                                                                       |                |                                                          |

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| <b>COUNTERS</b><br><b>15<sup>th</sup> March:</b> Lis Leddy, Sarah Finch & Norma Dick<br><b>22<sup>nd</sup> March:</b> Anne Morris & Charlie McArthur | <b>CHURCH CLEANING</b><br><b>Friday: 20<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><b>Team 3</b><br><b>VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS WANTED</b> | <b>WEEKLY COLLECTION: 8<sup>th</sup> March</b><br>Envelopes: £ 208.50<br>Loose: £958.72 |
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| <p><b>THE ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH</b><br/>                 64 Liebenrood Road, Reading RG30 2EB<br/>                 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>ASSISTANT PRIEST &amp; HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN</b><br/> <b>FR JP LYTTLE</b> -Mobile: 07391 896559<br/>                 RBH: 0118 322 7105<br/> <b>Sunday Mass 4.00pm at RBH Old Chapel by London Road entrance. All are welcome.</b></p> <p><b>ASSISTING PRIEST: FR RICHARD MANIAK</b></p> | <p><b>PARISH OFFICE</b><br/> <b>Secretary: Barbara</b>      <b>Tel: 0118 957 2149</b> <u>Open: Mon - Fri 9am–3.30pm</u></p> <p>E: <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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**THERE WILL BE A SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND FOR CLERGY ASSISTANCE FUND**