



YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS



ENGLISH MARTYRS' NEWSLETTER

21ST /22ND MARCH 2020

Fourth 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

My Dear Friends,

We are living in challenging times. The COVID-19 pandemic is causing sickness and death, disruption of life and high levels of anxiety. It is a time for us all to be strong, a time to have faith and hope in God who loves us and who is close to us at this moment of peril. In the Gospels Jesus reminds us, "Be not afraid." Let us not succumb to fear at this time but let us be brave, trusting in the providence of God.

I am conscious that some who are reading this will be self-isolating. It is an unfortunate phrase because all it simply means is that people are staying at home more and circulating with others less for the time being. Even if physical isolation must occur, it need not be spiritual isolation or even social isolation due to the possibilities of phone and internet communication. Bishop Philip has had to make the difficult decision to suspend all public Masses for now. You can access his full statement on the parish website and there will be hard copies available in the church.

We must all be creative in finding ways of praying and nourishing our faith but also of helping and supporting one another. There will be no public Mass at English Martyrs for the time being. The church will however be open each day for private prayer from 8:00am until 8:00pm at which time the church will be locked. We will continue to have Eucharistic Adoration each Thursday and Friday and maybe even more frequently depending on having at least two people present. Each evening at 8:00pm I will celebrate a private Mass which I hope we can stream live on the parish website.

This might seem like the Church withdrawing its Sacraments at a time of most need. However, we as members of the Church, must comply with the public health regulations currently in force in the country. We have a moral obligation to do so. I am available and ready to visit the sick with Communion and the Sacrament of the Sick. These Sacraments must of course be administered in accordance with the public health guidelines currently in force. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available in the open space of the church and maintaining a two-metre distance between confessor and penitent. Special arrangements will have to be made for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. Please come and see me so that we can discuss any concerns you might have.

These days will require a great deal of patience and forbearance from all of us. Let us pray for one another and support one another in great Christian charity. I write these words on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph. He experienced all kinds of challenges and difficulties, but he remained faithful and attentive to God. Times of adversity are always challenging but there are also times in which we find strength we never thought we had. Pray for one another. Love one another. Please be assured of my love and my prayers.

Fr Michael

For the latest information from the Parish please visit our website

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

We will also post the latest information on the Noticeboard

Please can you commit to one hour of Adoration on Thursday or Friday?

If so, please contact the Parish Office by email or phone

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.

<p>THE ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH 64 Liebenrood Road, Reading RG30 2EB Registered Charity No. 246871</p> <p>PARISH CLERGY PARISH PRIEST: CANON MICHAEL DENNEHY mdennehy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</p> <p>ASSISTING PRIEST: FR RICHARD MANIAK</p> <p>PARISH OFFICE Please contact by email, phone or the parish website Secretary: Barbara Poole Tel: 0118 957 2149 E: englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Website: www.englishmartyrsrdg.org.uk</p> <p>SAFEGUARDING REP - CHARLIE MCARTHUR Contact via the Parish Office</p> <p>OUR PARISH SCHOOLS ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL www.englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk</p> <p>BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON CATHOLIC SCHOOL https://www.hughfaringdon.org/</p>	DATE	MASS INTENTION
	Saturday 21st March	Peter Hann RIP
	Sunday 22nd March	Ella Bartolome, Thanksgiving
	Monday 23rd March	Stephen Leonard RIP
	Tuesday 24th March	John Howard RIP
	Weds. 25th March	Ferrandina Family Intention
	Thursday 26th March	Norman Bricker Intentions
	Friday 27th March	Anthony O'Sullivan Intentions
	Saturday 28th March	Anne Tudor RIP

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Thurs: 10.00am – 8.00pm, Fri: 10.00am – 9pm then 9.30pm – 6.30am Sat. Vigil
Confessions: Saturday 5.30 – 6.15pm and Sunday 4.00 – 4.45pm


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 until Holy Thursday April 9th
"Whatsoever you did for the least of my brothers and sisters that you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

14th June 2020	Re-Commissioning of all Eucharistic Ministers - on the Feast of Corpus Christi
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

UC 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

VOCATIONS

"The Lord looks on the heart." Are you called to bring the Light of Christ to the world through a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life?
 Contact Fr. John Cooke. Tel 01329 318 869
 email vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



Online resource: <https://www.sacred space.ie/> why not take a look?

There should have been a Second Collection this weekend for the CLERGY ASSISTANCE FUND. This collection forms a significant part of their income. If you are able to donate please use our bank details above Ref: CAF/Your name

<p>WEEKLY COLLECTION: 15th March Envelopes: £ 171.00 Loose: £524.45</p>	<p>Our Parish Bank Details Lloyds Bank 30 93 04 00885666 PRCDTR Reading English Martyrs Ref: Parish/Your name</p>
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