



YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

ENGLISH MARTYRS' NEWSLETTER

28TH / 29TH March 2020

Fifth Sunday of Lent (Yr. A)



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

My Dear Friends,

Just a few lines from me. I am continuing to self-isolate and I have been in contact with my doctor. For now, I will do what we are all asked to do which is to sit tight.

Mass will be live streamed at 10:00am on Sunday morning and evening Masses will move to the earlier time of 7:00pm next week.

Thanks to all who have been generous to others at this challenging time. How inspiring it is that hundreds of thousands of people have volunteered to help in this crisis. Thanks also to parishioners who have been keeping in touch and trying to get things organised without being able to meet face-to-face.

There are many blessings that will become clearer the longer this goes on. We are not abandoned. In fact, God is closer to us now that we can imagine. Keep the faith. Pray for one another and for the world.

May God continue to bless us in His providence.

Fr. Michael.

CORONAVIRUS AND PARISH OUTREACH

SUPPORT FOR YOU

Many people are spending a lot of time indoors, because they are having to self-isolate or are unable to mix with others as much as they might normally do

- Your friends and family may be unable to visit?
- You may be feeling unwell, anxious or lonely?
- You miss Mass and would like to find ways of fulfilling your spiritual needs
- You may have other more practical needs e.g. shopping, posting a letter or need transport for a medical appointment?

Does this sound like you or someone you know? If yes, then please do contact the Parish Office (see contact details below) and someone in the Parish will contact you.

SUPPORT FOR OTHERS

Do you have time to help others at the moment? If yes, you may like to volunteer to help others in the Parish area

- You may have more time during the current Coronavirus outbreak. And/or
- You may find it easy to talk to people and be a good listener. And/or
- You may be able to support others with shopping and/or transport needs

If this sounds like you? Then please contact the Parish Office (see contact details below) to offer your help.

If you know someone who would like a printed copy of the Parish Newsletter, then please contact the Parish Office



All the latest information about the Parish and Coronavirus is on the Parish Website

Website: www.englishmartyrsg.org.uk

Also check out our Twitter & Facebook Accounts

ON ADMISSION TO ROYAL BERKSHIRE HOSPITAL all Catholics should inform the hospital staff that they are Roman Catholic. All arrangements in RBH are "Patient Led".

Royal Berkshire Hospital Chaplain: RBH: 0118 322 7105

Note priests are now on emergency call out only - in danger of death. This is to ensure protection for them & for others.

YOUTH LENTEN CAMPAIGN

Give up indifference, Make a Difference

"Whatsoever you did for the least of my brothers and sisters that you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

'THANK YOU' for all your donations.
These will be passed on.

NO FURTHER DONATIONS PLEASE.

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

Portsmouth Diocese Website

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

You can sign up to receive the weekly ENews.



RECENTLY DECEASED

Thomas 'Donoghue RIP who died on Friday 20th March. May he Rest in Peace. Please keep him and his loved ones in your prayers at this difficult time.

VOCATIONS

"Did I not assure you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" Do you believe Christ may be calling you to see the glory of The Blessed Trinity through a vocation to the priesthood or Consecrated life?

Contact Fr. John Cooke. By phone 01329 318 869 or email vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL INPUT AND CONNECTING ONLINE:

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS: 11AM - MIDDAY STARTING ON TUESDAY 31ST MARCH.

James, our seminarian at the weekends, is at present in 'site isolation' in his seminary in London with a number of their staff. They would love to connect with the Parish of English Martyrs at this time and are offering two slots each week when you would be welcome to join them through our live streaming. These will also be recorded and made available later on our website.

The Tuesday Sessions will be led by various seminarians and give us all an opportunity again, or for the first time, to explore and pray together Catholic devotions like the Rosary, the Stations of the Cross and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. On Thursday mornings, following this year's focus on the Word of God, resident Scripture Scholar, Fr John Hemer will deliver a number of Talks allowing us to deepen our understanding of God's Word. Fr John has delivered conferences to priests, deacons and the lay faithful in the UK and Europe and is well worth a listen to.

If you would like to join these sessions, please contact the Parish Office for an invitation
(if you haven't already received one)



Online resources:

VISIT <http://www.pray-as-you-go/> and/or <https://www.sacredspace.ie/>

JOIN the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph online every day at 4 pm (except on Sundays) for 45 minutes of prayerful reflection on the Gospel of the Day. <https://www.godwhospeaks.org/media>

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

Thank you to those Parishioners who normally, very kindly, donate to our Parish using the envelopes when they attend Mass.

Temporarily, this is no longer possible. So, if you are able to pay electronically, we would be most grateful. Here are the Parish bank details (at Lloyds):

Account No. 00885666
Sort code 30 93 04
Name PRCDTR English Martyrs Reading

OR

You can also donate using the following link - which is available on our website

Donate now

OR

You can set up a regular Direct Debit or Standing Order payment. These are available from the Parish Office or from our Website

IF YOU ARE A TAXPAYER THEN YOU CAN GIFTAID YOUR DONATION AND INCREASE ITS VALUE BY 25% AT NO ADDITIONAL COST TO YOURSELF.

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

Working by Phone and Email Only

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

www.englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk

BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON CATHOLIC SCHOOL

<https://www.hughfaringdon.org/>

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and evening Masses will move to the earlier time of 7:00pm from Monday 30th March.**