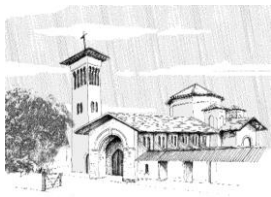




## YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS



### ENGLISH MARTYRS' NEWSLETTER

5<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2020

### PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD & EASTER

#### 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,

We are about to enter Holy Week. This year the liturgies of Holy Week will be celebrated without a congregation due to the Coronavirus, COVID -19 pandemic. It is our intention to live stream each of the Holy Week ceremonies, the times of which are listed in this newsletter. In doing so we will be united with Pope Francis, with Bishop Philip and with Christians all over the world accompanying Our Lord on his journey to Calvary where he will accomplish his death and resurrection.

The current crisis has presented us all with wonderful opportunities to serve the needs of others. We are seeing signs of the providence of God at work in this time of adversity. Holy Week challenges us as Christians to embrace the Cross and to understand the Christian way as the Way of the Cross.

Please help your friends, neighbours or relatives who may not have Internet access but who would appreciate being able to follow the live streaming of the Holy Week ceremonies. I am grateful to all who have made this possible here at English Martyrs.

May the Lord in his goodness richly bless us as we celebrate Holy Week.

**Fr Michael**

#### Message from Bishop Philip

"The COVID-19 pandemic is causing us all great harm, disruption and anxiety. As Catholics, we must tackle this crisis with spiritual as well as human resources. God's Word is being proclaimed. The Sacraments are available and pastoral care to God's people in their need is being offered. Although we cannot gather for public liturgies, we must pray.

Let us pray earnestly. Let us pray for a speedy solution, for those who are sick, for the protection of the elderly and the vulnerable, for those in self-isolation, for all who are suffering anxiety and worry, for the homeless and needy, for the well-being and financial security of all, for the NHS medical staff and all who care for the sick, and for the repose of those who have died. Let us turn with confidence to God our father, invoking the intercession of our patron saints, Mary Immaculate, St. Edmund of Abingdon and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. May St. Michael and our Guardian Angels protect us."

#### PARISH OUTREACH

We all have our own Network of friends, families and neighbours. Please take the time to check that they are well and if they need support during this period of enforced isolation.

The parish can arrange for a 'befriender' to call them. Just please contact the Parish Office.

If it is YOU who are in need of some telephone support then please do just let us know. Everyone appreciates that many people just need a little extra support during the current challenge.

**It is not a sign of weakness but of strength to ask or help when you need it.**

**HAVE YOU SIGNED UP TO OUR PARISH REGISTER YET?**  
<https://p1.pamis.co.uk/cwreading/onlinee16cb5>



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

Website: [www.englishmartyrsg.org.uk](http://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".

**Note: Priests are now on emergency call out only - in danger of death. This is to ensure protection for them and for others. Royal Berkshire Hospital Chaplain: RBH: 0118 322 7105.**

### Portsmouth Diocese Website

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

You can sign up to receive the weekly ENews. Services are streamed daily from the Bishops Chapel. See above website for details



### RECENTLY DECEASED

**Henry 'Harry' McSoley** who died on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March. His Graveside funeral took place on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020. Details will be announced at a future date for a Memorial Service to be held at St Joseph's Church, Tilehurst.

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

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL INPUT AND CONNECTING ONLINE:

#### TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS: 11AM - MIDDAY

Organised by James Lewis. 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.

**You can join via a link on the Parish website**

[www.englishmartyrsrdg.org.uk](http://www.englishmartyrsrdg.org.uk)

We will try and record these sessions and post this on the website too.

#### 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. The new envelopes have arrived and will be distributed once the church has reopened

For now, you are able to pay electronically if you wish.

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 GIFT AID 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](mailto:mdennehy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**ASSISTING PRIEST: FR RICHARD MANIAK**

#### PARISH OFFICE

**Secretary: Barbara** Tel: 0118 957 2149

**CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

E: [englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Website: [www.englishmartyrsrdg.org.uk](http://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](http://www.englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk)

##### BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

**OFFICE CLOSURE:** Following Diocesan instruction, all parish offices are now closed until at least the end of April

Below are the Mass intentions to 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020.

As there is only one Mass a day some requested Masses have had to be moved to new dates.

They will be said in due course.

**No New Mass Intentions until further notice**

Emails are being monitored.

Fr Michael will answer calls when he can

*The Parish Office will re-open when we have been advised that it is right to do so.*

### Prayer by 18th Century Italian Saint Alphonsus Liguori

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

## EASTER SERVICES AT ENGLISH MARTYRS

**PALM SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> April**  
**PASSION OF THE LORD**



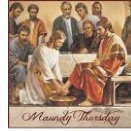
**MASS AT 10.00AM (Streamed)**

**HOLY WEEK**  
**Mon 6<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April**

**MASS AT 7.00PM (streamed)**

### THE EASTER TRIDUUM

**MAUNDAY THURSDAY**  
**CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER**  
**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April**



**MASS AT 7.00PM (streamed)**

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**CELEBRATING THE LORD'S PASSION**  
**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April**



**MASS AT 3.00PM (streamed)**  
**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**  
**AT 7.00pm (streamed)**

**EASTER SATURDAY**  
**OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**  
**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April**



**MASS AT 7.00PM (streamed)**

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April**



**MASS AT 10.00AM (streamed)**



### 'VIRTUAL' PASSOVER

On **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April**, several families in the parish are organising a "virtual" Passover. Others in the parish would be very welcome if you would like to join us.

Please contact Catherine via phone – 07932 653774  
or email [cath.harrington@compuserve.com](mailto:cath.harrington@compuserve.com)  
if you would like to take part

### EVENING OF PRAISE & WORSHIP STREAMED – FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2020

Agenda is as follows:

**7.30pm: Worship Music**

**7:45pm: Rosary**

**8.10pm: Stations of the Cross**

**8.25pm: Bible Reading/Reflection - Luke 21: 1-4**

**8.40pm: Adoration (Blessed sacrament)**

**8:55pm: Concluding Prayer/ Simple Benediction.**

**9.00pm: Concluding Song**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/8909317421>

### EASTER THIS YEAR

We cannot celebrate Easter together this year, but we can try to share the Easter story with our neighbours. In these strange and difficult times everyone is looking for new ways to communicate that do not breach the health precautions we are all taking. One way that is becoming popular is to use your front window and the Bishop has asked us to display a Holy Week Poster in our window.

See the diocesan e-news.

Here are a few suggestions

On Palm Sunday, 5 April 2020 put a palm branch, some greenery or your palm cross from last year in your window or on your front door, perhaps decorate it with ribbons.

On Maundy Thursday put up a poster, with the picture of the Last Supper

On Good Friday put up a Good Friday poster.

On Easter Sunday, change it to a joyful Easter poster and leave it up all week.

You can download posters from our parish website [www.englishmartyrsrdg.org.uk](http://www.englishmartyrsrdg.org.uk)

better still, make your own at home or use pictures from the internet. Creating pictures yourself, or with your children, is a good time to reflect on, and share, the story of Easter – the heart of our Christian faith



**UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE THE CHURCH IS CLOSED**  
**IF YOU HAVE INTERNET ACCESS YOU CAN JOIN THE DAILY STREAMED MASS.**  
**SEE THE LINK ON OUR WEBSITE: [www.englishmartyrsg.org.uk](http://www.englishmartyrsg.org.uk)**

**MASSES ARE SUNDAY 10.00AM & MON.-SAT AT 7.00PM**

<b>Mass Intentions: Thursday 2nd April to Sunday 3rd May</b>		
Thursday 2nd April	<p><b><i>No Public Masses. Fr Michael will celebrate these Mass Intentions in private</i></b></p>	Tony Faherty RIP
Friday 3rd April		Kathleen Maughan RIP
Saturday 4th April		Alan Clark RIP
Sunday 5th April <b><i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</i></b>		John Chetty RIP
<i>Holy Week</i> Monday 6th April		Helen Lourenco RIP
<i>Holy Week</i> Tuesday 7th April		Maria Vitoria Fernandes RIP
<i>Holy Week</i> Wednesday 8th April		Floreeda Safiri RIP
<b><i>Maunder Thursday</i></b> , 9th April		People of the Parish
<b><i>Good Friday</i></b> 10th April		
<b><i>Easter Vigil in the holy night</i></b> Saturday 11th April		People of the Parish
<b><i>EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD</i></b> Sunday 12th April		Mary Fahy RIP
Monday 13th April		Terence Morse RIP
Tuesday 14th April		Agnes Bannister RIP
Wednesday 15th April		Maria Vitoria Fernandes RIP
Thursday 16th April		Yvonne M Bradburn RIP
Friday 17th April		Francisco Vito Araujo
Saturday 18th April		Agnelo Ernesto De Araujo & Fioza Francisca Dias Thanksgiving
Sunday 19th April <b><i>Second Sunday of Easter</i></b>		Lucy McSharry RIP
Monday 20th April		Andzej Pogozelski RIP (1st Anniversary)
Tuesday 21st April		Tom Monahan RIP
Wednesday 22nd April		Tony O'Kane RIP
Thursday 23rd April <b><i>St George's Feast Day (Patron Saint of England)</i></b>		Louie Fearn's RIP
Friday 24th April		David Sturgess RIP
Saturday 25th April		Krystyna Jasinska RIP
Sunday 26th April <b><i>Third Sunday of Easter</i></b>		Kathleen Gaughan RIP & Kevin Commins RIP
Monday 27th April		Annmarie Herbert Intentions
Tuesday 28th April		Bill McMahon Intentions
Wednesday 29th April		Paul William Knight RIP
Thursday 30th April		SVP Mass for John Howard RIP
Friday 1st May		John & Marjory Lee RIP
Saturday 2nd May	Sue Ferreira RIP	
Sunday 3rd May <b><i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i></b>	Stephen Leonard RIP	