



YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS



ENGLISH MARTYRS' NEWSLETTER

11TH/12TH APRIL 2020

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

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 have shared quite a journey since Ash Wednesday, through the season of Lent and Holy Week. We could not have imagined on Ash Wednesday how Lent would unfold. The frightening and dramatic developments surrounding Coronavirus and Covid-19 have impacted every country and the entire global family. There has been almost constant media coverage of the ever-increasing numbers of people being infected and, sadly, dying. One of the consequences is that we have been unable to gather as a parish community.

The Coronavirus pandemic has forced us to contemplate the mystery of human suffering. From a Christian point of view, the crisis puts the cross of suffering and death firmly before us. We hear echoes today of the prayer of Jesus from the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When we see images of suffering patients in intensive care and densely populated areas of the world where poor people are disproportionately suffering the effects of the virus, we may well ask where God is in all of this. Has God forsaken us?

There have been images of suffering in recent weeks but there have also been tangible signs of the presence and providence of God. Examples of this are the incredible numbers of volunteers who have offered to help, the charitable neighbourliness and the outstanding service rendered by healthcare workers, school staff and so many other people working tirelessly and selflessly for others. There have been pressures and strains on people and families during this lockdown period but in adversity so many have sought to build human solidarity and to exercise moral responsibility. Where love is present, there too is God.

The suffering and death of Good Friday is followed by the indescribable joy of the Resurrection. And how the world needs to hear the message of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, perhaps now more than ever. There is hope even when suffering and death seem to dominate. There is hope when all seems lost. There is hope that after death there is new life.

I invite you to a renewed faith in the Resurrection this Easter. Unite yourself with the person of Jesus, the Son of God. We cannot gather as a parish this Easter as we normally would but through creativity and commitment, we have been able to use technology to keep in touch. I express my gratitude to all to have done so much to help us to do so.

I wish you all the blessings of Easter. We look forward in hope, beyond suffering and death, to the fullness of life in Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Fr Michael



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

Website: www.englishmartyrsrdg.org.uk

Also check out our Twitter & Facebook Accounts

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. Contact: onarowberry@hotmail.com if you would like to be part of the team connecting with the wider community or if you know somebody in need of support.

If it is YOU who are in need of some telephone support then please do just let us know.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP TO OUR PARISH REGISTER YET?

<https://p1.pamis.co.uk/cwreading/onlinee16cb5>

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

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>

THE ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH

64 Liebenrood Road, Reading RG30 2EB
Registered Charity No. 246871

PARISH PRIEST: CANON MICHAEL DENNEHY
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

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/>

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.

OFFICE CLOSURE:

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

Currently, there is only one Mass a day so some requested Masses have been moved to new dates.

All Masses will be said at some point.

No New Mass Intentions until further notice

Emails to the parish address are being monitored.

YOU MAY RECEIVE AN EMAIL IN THE COMING WEEKS FROM

EMartyrsreading@Gmail.com

THESE ARE GENUINE!

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

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.englishmartyr.org.uk

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

Mass Intentions: Monday 13th April to Sunday 3rd May		
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 (Vigil Mass for Sunday)		Agnelo Ernesto De Araujo & Fioza Francisca Dias Thanksgiving
Sunday 19th April Second Sunday of Easter		Lucy McSharry RIP
Monday 20th April		Andzej Pogozeleski RIP (1st Anniversary)
Tuesday 21st April		Tom Monahan RIP
Wednesday 22nd April		Tony O'Kane RIP
Thursday 23rd April St George's Feast Day (Patron Saint of England)		Louie Fearn's RIP
Friday 24th April		David Sturgess RIP
Saturday 25th April (Vigil Mass for Sunday)		Krystyna Jasinska RIP
Sunday 26th April Third Sunday of Easter		Kathleen Gaughan RIP & Kevin Commings 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 (Vigil Mass for Sunday)		Sue Ferreira RIP
Sunday 3rd May Fourth Sunday of Easter		Stephen Leonard RIP

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.