



YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS



ENGLISH MARTYRS' NEWSLETTER

18TH/19TH APRIL 2020

2nd Sunday of Easter—Divine Mercy Sunday

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.

This Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday. It is important for us to contemplate the mercy of God, particularly at this time of coronavirus (Covid-19).

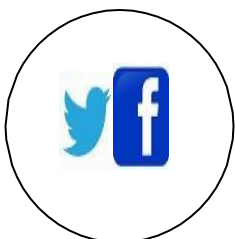
The Gospels tell us of appearances by Jesus to his disciples following his death and resurrection. We are told that the disciples were alarmed and frightened. But when Jesus appears to his disciples who had betrayed him, he speaks not words of retribution, but words of forgiveness and compassion. "Peace be with you," he says. He then shows them his wounds, wounds inflicted on him in his suffering and death on the cross. The terrible disorder of the cross (the crucifixion of the Son of God) is addressed not through an explosion of divine vengeance but through a radiation of divine love.

With this divine mercy in mind, it seems inconceivable that a merciful God would in any way intend the coronavirus pandemic and inflict it upon His People. It is difficult to see the pandemic as judgement or punishment on the world on the part of God who is mercy itself. It could be argued that the all-powerful God has done nothing to prevent this pandemic, but that would be to ignore the way in which God works through human beings, scientists seeking a vaccine and healthcare staff alleviating suffering and giving patients medical care they need to overcome the virus.

Many people have said to me that even in the darkness of coronavirus, there are more than just glimmers of light. We have all been given time to stop and reflect. We are indeed our brother's and our sister's keeper in that we all have a moral responsibility to each other to prevent the spread of infection, and most people appear to have taken that responsibility very seriously. I see the hand of God in the wonderfully charitable acts of so many who have contributed to the building up of a great global human solidarity. We will only overcome coronavirus when all peoples and nations on earth overcome coronavirus.

On this Divine Mercy Sunday let us pray and think deeply about the mercy of God. Let us give thanks for the many human acts of mercy towards the vulnerable we see these days. We are not abandoned. God, in His great mercy, is with us.

Fr Michael



All the latest information about the Parish is updated regularly on the website so do check in regularly if you can:

Website: www.englishmartyrsg.org.uk

Also check out our Twitter & Facebook Accounts.

We also have a livestream on You Tube.

If you are using a mobile phone you will need to go directly into You Tube and search for **English Martyrs Reading livestream**.

If you are using a computer, there is a link on the website.

Online updates—opportunities for people to connect

Calendar

There is now a parish calendar available at <https://www.englishmartyrsrdg.org.uk/calendar> which will have all that is happening in the Parish across the variety of platforms (Zoom, Livestream, Teams etc). Do keep checking back as information will be updated daily.

Prayer and Adoration

We are putting aside an hour each day for prayer and adoration on our Livestream and invite people to be part of this at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4L3g7Z_ads.

Monday to Friday

9.00am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Office of Readings, 9.30am silent prayer and reflection before the Blessed Sacrament, 9.40am Morning Prayer and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday

11.00am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Office of Readings, 11.30am silent prayer and reflection before the Blessed Sacrament, 11.40am Morning Prayer and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Sunday

5.00pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Evening Prayer, 5.30pm silent prayer and reflection before the Blessed Sacrament, 5.50pm Benediction and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Spiritual Connections

Building on what we have had over the last couple of weeks with James and Fr John we are expanding this to cover each day at 11am. These will be held over Zoom (details will be on the parish calendar <https://www.englishmartyrsrdg.org.uk/calendar>) and are open for anyone to come who wishes to get involved. They cover a variety of themes so do log in and join us.

The plan for next week:

Monday 20th April – [A Biblical Walk Through Mass](#)

Tuesday 21st April – [God in the Old Testament](#)

Wednesday 22nd April – [Praying the Holy Rosary together; The Glorious Mysteries](#)

Thursday 23rd April – [A session with Fr John looking at the Eucharist](#)

Friday 24th April – [The Stations of the Resurrection](#)

Young People’s Virtual ‘Hang Out’—Saturday 25th April, the young people will have a virtual hang out at 11am. These sessions will continue each week.

Divine Mercy Chaplet

After a group praying the Divine Mercy Novena leading up to Divine Mercy Sunday they will continue to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm each day via Zoom (details can be found on <https://www.englishmartyrsrdg.org.uk/calendar>). Join us through Zoom or know that as you pray at 3pm so are others in the Parish!

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?

This would help us to reach the maximum number of people.

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

OFFICE CLOSURE:

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

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

Emails to the parish address are being monitored.

YOU MAY RECEIVE AN EMAIL IN THE COMING WEEKS FROM EMartyrsreading@Gmail.com THESE ARE GENUINE!

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

All Masses that have been requested already will be said at some point.

No New Mass Intentions are being taken until further notice.

Going into Hospital



Anointing of the sick

If you or a loved one is taken into hospital, you or your family are the only people who can let the Catholic Chaplaincy know that you would like the priest to be called in an emergency. Hospital staff are not allowed to ask you.

As family access to the hospital may be restricted at the moment, it is suggested that you prepare a note asking for a priest to be called in an emergency situation. This should be taken with you when you go to hospital and given to hospital staff on arrival.

It would be helpful for the family to follow this up by ringing the hospital and making the same request: 0118 322 7105

Priests are still willing and able to go into hospital to minister to patients in emergency situations.

Write your note now when you hope that you won't need it and put it in an easy place to find.

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, using the following bank details:

Bank: 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 the parish website

[Donate now](#)

OR

You can set up a regular Direct Debit or Standing Order payment. These are available 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.

Mass Intentions: Monday 20th April to Sunday 3rd May

Sunday 19th April <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i>		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 <i>St George's Feast Day</i> <i>(Patron Saint of England)</i>		Louie Fearn RIP
Friday 24th April		David Sturgess RIP
Saturday 25th April (Vigil Mass for Sunday)		Krystyna Jasinska RIP
Sunday 26th April <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>		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 (Vigil Mass for Sunday)		Sue Ferreira RIP
Sunday 3rd May <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>		Stephen Leonard RIP

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH, READING


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: closed until further notice but phone and e-mail still monitored.

 0118 957 2149  englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Charlie McArthur. Contact through parish office number.

Schools: **English Martyrs Catholic Primary School**, Dee Road, Reading RG30 4BE

Head: Mrs Doberska  0118 937 5466

Bl. Hugh Faringdon School, Fawley Road, Reading RG30 3EP

Head: Dr Simon Uttley  0118 957 4730