



YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

ENGLISH MARTYRS' NEWSLETTER

9th/10th MAY 2020

5th Sunday of 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.



It appears that there is about to be a gradual easing of the seven-week-old lockdown, but the main coronavirus stay-at-home restrictions are likely to be extended. This means that there will be no return to public Masses any time soon. It is distressing that access to the Sacraments of the Church has been restricted for such a long time. We can only hope and pray that the coronavirus will be brought under control and eradicated soon so that we can return to the regular practice of our Catholic Faith.

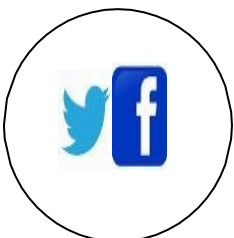
A great deal of thought and planning, on the part of Bishop Philip and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, is being put into the practical arrangements that need to be put in place once we are able to return to the public celebration of Mass, funerals and the Sacraments in our churches. It is not going to be without its challenges therefore the ongoing help and cooperation of everyone is vital.

When we begin to be confused and depressed about the circumstances in which we find ourselves these days, perhaps we can take hope and inspiration from the generations that went before us. We have marked the 75th anniversary of VE Day with the country in lockdown due to the coronavirus. As frightening and worrying as our times are, past generations came through trials and tribulations with great courage and forbearance. Let us be likewise through our current challenges.

The gospel this Sunday is also a source of hope and consolation. So often this gospel passage is read at funerals and countless people take great comfort from those words of Jesus, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still and trust in me." Jesus tells his disciples that though he is leaving them by death, he is really going back to God the Father from whom he came. He promises that we too will make the journey after him. He will return to take us with him to the Father's house for which we are destined. Jesus came among us to show the way to the Father. His whole purpose was to bring God to us and us to God.

The many rooms in the Father's house indicate a place of universal hospitality. Heaven is not really a place for a select few, but for the many, just as Jesus did not come for the sake of the just, but for sinners. He is the Way to the Father for all who follow him. If we follow him as our Way in this life, we will come to live with him in the Father's house.

Fr Michael



All the latest information about the Parish is updated regularly on the website so do check in regularly if you can: www.englishmartyrsg.org.uk

We also have a livestream on You Tube.

If you are using a smartphone to access the livestream, you can again just click on a link on the front page of the website and you will be taken straight in.

Online updates—opportunities to connect and grow spiritually

◆ 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.

| Sunday 13th | Mon 14th` | Tues 15th` | Wed 16th | Thurs 17th | Fri 18th | Sat 19th |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| 10 am Mass | 9am Adoration & morning prayer | 9am Adoration & morning prayer | 9am Adoration & morning prayer | 9am Adoration & morning prayer | 9am Adoration & morning prayer | 9am Adoration & morning prayer |
| 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet | 11am Spiritual connection: A Biblical Walk Through Mass | 11am Spiritual connection: "The Bible: an encounter with Scripture" | 10am Emmaus group | 11am Spiritual connection: Fr John examines the life and faith of Mary (zoom) | 11am Spiritual connection: The Stations of the Resurrection | 2.30—4 Craft and chat room on Zoom. Email cath_harrington@compuserve.com for invite. |
| 3pm Under fives liturgy on Zoom Join Zoom Meeting | 3pm Divine Mercy Join us on Zoom just click on the link . | 3pm Divine Mercy Join us on Zoom just click on the link . | 11am Spiritual connection: Praying the Holy Rosary together; The Glorious Mysteries | 3pm Divine Mercy Join us on Zoom just click on the link . | 3pm Divine Mercy Join us on Zoom just click on the link . | 3pm Divine Mercy Join us on Zoom just click on the link . |
| Bring your Teddy Bear and share your week with us. | 4.30pm Youth Choir. Contact Sr Vivian for details | 6.30 Rosary | 3pm Divine Mercy Join us on Zoom just click on the link . | 3.30 Thursday Emmaus Group | 5.30 A prayerful journey through Acts(Acts 8v4-8) Open to all; available on Zoom , just click here . Phone details on parish calendar | 4.15-5.15 Youth hangout 12-15yrs Contact via Sr Vivian |
| 5pm Adoration and Benediction | 6.30 Rosary | 7pm Journey in Faith | 6.30 Rosary | 6.30 Rosary | 6.30 Rosary | 6.30 Rosary |
| 6.30pm Rosary | 7pm Monday Emmaus Group | 7pm Mass | 7pm Glow | 7pm Mass | 7pm Mass | 7pm Mass |
| 7pm Mass | 7pm Mass | 9pm Night prayer | 7pm Mass | 9pm Night prayer | 9pm Night prayer | 9pm Night prayer |
| 9pm Night prayer | 9pm Night prayer | | 9pm Night prayer | | | |

A message from Fr Michael

We are all finding new ways to communicate with each other. This includes Fr Michael who has recorded another short video for everybody. Open it [here](#) or go onto the parish website.

Livestreamed Masses

There is now a fantastic new [picture link](#) to the livestreamed Mass. Just go to the parish website and click on the triangle to make things start.



Reading Ministry

"And the Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us." John 1:14

God's timing is perfect, and He places joys in our hearts to do something good.

If anyone would like the Word of God, the Bible read to them in the comfort of their home via telephone, then please feel free to contact Marina Hayde on 07729098910 or by email on mana_115@hotmail.co.uk. Other avenues are being looked at to spread the Word. God bless, Marina.



CONGRATULATIONS



.. to Kathleen and Joe Rhyce who celebrate

their Golden Wedding anniversary this weekend. May God bless them with many more happy years together. We thank them for all their kindness and quiet generosity to the parish in so many ways over the years.

THANK YOU

.. to those who have been pushing money under the door of the church. If you would like to make a cash donation, you can post it through the letter-box of the priest's house in the corner.

Rest in Peace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Indira Thomas** who died on Friday 8th May 2020. Indira had been a member of the parish for many years. May she now rest in peace and her family find comfort in their grief.



Dear Parishioners

I am writing to you with an update on parish finances. At the end of March, we had £86,000 in our Parish bank accounts, a healthy position to be in during this period of uncertainty from coronavirus. However, since the closure of our church due to the virus, our current reduced income is insufficient to cover our running costs by approximately £1,500 a month. This is income that ordinarily we would receive in the weekend collections. I understand that these are challenging and uncertain times financially for many parishioners and I ask only that anyone who is able to afford to, to consider signing up to start a new standing order or a direct debit or increase an existing commitment. If 75 parishioners each signed up to contribute £20 a month, this would cover the shortfall.

We would also like to use some of the money in our bank account to purchase some new IT equipment. Clearly Covid-19 has impacted our daily lives, including the celebration of Mass. It is a key focus to make sure we continue offering Mass via the internet and, as and when lockdown lifts, we are keen to continue this as a great way to reach out to those unable to attend Mass. To do this, we need more stable IT equipment and that comes at a cost of £4000 approximately. I am very grateful for donations received already amounting to £1446 including Gift Aid. We are therefore hoping that by either starting a direct debit, or increasing an existing one, we will be able to purchase new equipment to ensure this happens (and in some cases hopefully improve the broadcasting quality!)

It has been so positive to see the increase in numbers joining our online Mass, faith formation and prayer. Knowing that I am able to provide this support to you all at home during this time of coronavirus is very important to me.

We also need to carry out the much-needed repairs of the hall roof if we have sufficient reserves to do this. We hope to have indicative costs shortly.

Details of how to sign up can be found on our parish website at www.englishmartyrsrdg.org.uk

Thank you for your support.

Fr. Michael.

The parish details are as follows:

Bank: Lloyds
Account No. 00885666
Sort code 30 -93-04
Name PRCDTR English Martyrs Reading

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

YOURSELF.

OR

go to the front page of the parish website and use the donate button that you will see there.

OR

If you want to make a cash donation then drop an envelope with your money through the



Going into Hospital

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.

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: onarowbery@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>



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

| Mass Intentions: Saturday 9th May to Sunday 17th May | | |
|---|-------------|---|
| <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> | | |
| Saturday 9th May (Vigil Mass for Sunday) | 7pm | Deceased members of McCormack & Martland Families |
| Sunday 10th May | 10am | Francisco Vito De Araujo RIP & Helen Lourenco RIP |
| | 7pm | People of the parish |
| Monday 11th May | 7pm | Mick Burke RIP |
| Tuesday 12th May | 7pm | Lilian Campbell Intention (moved from 22nd March) |
| Wednesday 13th May | 7pm | Terence Morse RIP (1st Anniversary) |
| Thursday 14th May <i>St Matthias, feast</i> | 7pm | Stephen Leonard RIP (moved from 24th March) |
| Friday 15th May | 7pm | Reginald Cecil Powys Lybbe RIP (moved from 26th March) |
| Saturday 16th May | 10am | Anna Whittle RIP |
| <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> | | |
| Saturday 16th May (Vigil Mass for Sunday) | 7pm | Stephen Leonard RIP |
| Sunday 17th May | 10am | Theotonia Goes RIP |
| | 7pm | People of the parish |

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