



ENGLISH MARTYRS' NEWSLETTER

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

25-26 July 2020

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.

We have all been through a challenging time since the beginning of lockdown in March. Anxiety about Covid-19 has had an impact on all of us. However, now that the school holidays are upon us, I hope that we can all take a time of rest and relaxation. With that in mind there will be fewer opportunities for prayer and formation on offer in the coming weeks.

In September and throughout the autumn our focus in the Parish will be on Alpha. Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that explore different aspects of the Christian faith. It is for Catholics who want to deepen their faith as well as for non-Catholics and non-Christians who seek faith in the living God and in his Son Jesus Christ.

Alpha helps people to grow in love of Jesus and to grow in relationship with others. It provides a great chance for people to explore their faith, to ask questions, to talk about their beliefs and tell their stories. By engaging with the Christian faith in a way that connects with our everyday lives Alpha creates the space for people to experience a transformational encounter with Jesus. It is a great opportunity to make new friends. It is a beginning for many people of a spiritual journey.

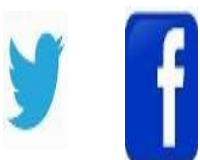
Due to Covid-19 Alpha will be online. If we needed a demonstration of how effective an online experience can be, then we had it with the Novena to the Holy Spirit in the lead up to Pentecost. By the end of the Novena 200 people from all over the world were praying in an intentional way for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It has been a blessing of lockdown that technology has been so useful in bringing people together and enabling them to pray and share in this way.

Alpha will start in mid-September and continue until the end of November. It will take place weekly. There will be Alpha Groups where everyone can feel they belong including teenagers, young adults, older adults, and people of all faith backgrounds and none. Each Alpha session will last approximately one hour and fifteen minutes and will consist of welcome, prayer, twenty-five minute high-quality video about a particular aspect of the Gospel message and twenty-five minutes of listening, sharing and discussing in small groups with the guidance of a host.

Catholic parishes all over the world are now running Alpha. It is invitational and welcoming. It encourages, equips, and supports new people to become leaders. It is informative in helping people to appreciate the nature of God and the power of the Holy Spirit.

I invite everyone to think about participating in Alpha in the autumn. You can be part of the prayer team, the technical team, the welcoming team, the hosting team or as a participant. There is a place for everyone. I pray that by the grace of God we as a parish can offer a truly transformational experience of faith to as many people as possible that will enable us all to embrace a deeper relationship

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, just click on a link on the front page of the website and you will be taken straight in.



Alpha Question and Answer Session— you're invited!



At Mass this weekend Fr Michael spoke about an exciting opportunity to take part in an online parish Alpha in the autumn. Alpha helps people to grow in love of Jesus and in relationship with others. It provides a great chance for people to explore their faith, to ask questions, to talk about their beliefs and tell their stories. Catholics, Christians, people of no faith can all find something for them in Alpha.

Interested but wondering whether it is for you? Want to know more about Alpha? There is a chance to ask your own questions on **Monday 27th July at 7.45pm** (finished by 8.30pm) through a virtual meeting led by Fr Michael and others ready to answer any questions you may have. To join simply click [here](#) from 7.40pm on Monday evening.

Come and ask. You may be pleasantly surprised.



ENGLISH MARTYRS EVANGELISATION AND DISCIPLESHIP DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Part time: 24 hours per week, with weekend and evening work required

Based at: English Martyrs, 64 Liebenrood Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG30 2EB

Salary commensurate with skills and experience

We are seeking an Evangelisation and Discipleship Development Officer to move and grow towards our parish vision of 'English Martyrs is a welcoming community, inviting, encouraging and supporting all to have an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus'.

Values: The post holder will be required to work within and represent the principles, ethos and values of the Diocese of Portsmouth and the Parish of English Martyrs in all aspects of their work.

Policies and procedures: The post-holder will work in line with the Policies & Procedures of the Diocese of Portsmouth. They will also be required to ensure that service users/clients, staff and volunteers are treated in accordance with the Equal Opportunities policy of the Diocese of Portsmouth with particular emphasis on anti-discriminatory practice and the promotion of the rights of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Safeguarding: The post-holder will be required to ensure that children, young people and vulnerable adults are safeguarded, and must be aware that everyone has a safeguarding responsibility and a duty to refer any safeguarding concerns they may have to their line manager.

Please see Job Description and Person Specification for the role [here](#)

If you would like a confidential discussion about the role please contact:

Rev Canon Michael Dennehy VG

mdennehy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Tel: 0118 957 2149

Open for Public Mass again

Public weekday Masses that you can book this week are:

- ◆ Tuesday 28th July at 7pm, <https://englishmartyrs-july-28th.eventbrite.co.uk>
- ◆ Friday 31st July at 7pm, <https://englishmartyrs-july-31st.eventbrite.co.uk>

Next Sunday Masses are:

- ◆ Saturday 1st August, evening vigil Mass at 6pm
- ◆ Sunday 2nd August, at 8am (not streamed)
- ◆ Sunday 2nd August, at 11.30am
- ◆ Sunday 2nd August at 5pm

Whichever Sunday Mass you want to book (this includes Saturday evening at 6pm), go to the [parish website](#) and book there.

The Sunday Mass booking will go live from mid-day on Monday 27th July. There are plenty of spaces available so do book whenever you would like to come.

*******If you book a Mass and are not able to come, please ring the office and leave a message. There are several empty seats at Masses at the moment which could be filled by others keen to come to Mass but were told it was full.*******

If you are not able to access EventBrite for any reason, ring 0118 957 2149 **between 2-4pm on Monday 20th July** and somebody will book for you. Masses will continue to be livestreamed for those who are unable to come to the church building (except the 8am Sunday Mass).

Could you help English Martyrs open more often for public Mass?

There are still spaces to volunteer as a steward. If you think this might be for you, contact: emartyrsreading@gmail.com for more information.

Each public Mass is organised superbly by a small, dedicated team of stewards who welcome and reassure people as they arrive. They are available throughout Mass to answer any questions and to guide people through new routines.

Thank you to those who have come forward already to help grow the team. With a larger team, more weekday Masses could be open to people.

Would you like to offer your services as a steward?

- ◆ ***Are you under 70 years old?*** (a change of age)
- ◆ ***Are you fit and well, with no underlying health conditions?***



With a big enough team, the aim would be to be on duty once a fortnight.



Dr Uttley, Headmaster of Blessed Hugh, currently working a stage in Lourdes, lights a candle for the parishioners and clergy of English Martyrs' Parish

Online updates—opportunities to connect and grow spiritually

♦ **Parish Calendar** [also available at <https://www.englishmartyrsrdg.org.uk/calendar>]

Sunday 26th July	Mon 27th July	Tues 28th July	Wed 29th July	Thurs 30th July	Fri 31st July	Sat 1st Aug
8am Mass—not streamed	11am Spiritual connection: A Biblical Walk Through Mass	3pm Divine Mercy Join us on Zoom just click on the link .	10am Emmaus group Details available on the parish calendar	10am Thursday Emmaus Group	3pm Divine Mercy Join us on Zoom	2.30—4 Craft and chat room on Zoom. Email cath_harrington@compuserve.com for invite.
11.30 am Mass	3pm Divine Mercy Join us on Zoom just click on the link .	4pm pray the rosary. To join 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 .	4pm pray the rosary. To join click on the link .	3pm Divine Mercy Join us on Zoom just click on the link .
3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet (zoom)	4pm pray the rosary. To join click on the link .	7pm Mass (booking available via this link)	4pm pray the rosary. To join click on the link .	4pm pray the rosary. To join click on the link .	7pm Mass (booking available via this link)	3pm Divine Mercy Join us on Zoom just click on the link .
3pm Under fives liturgy on Zoom Join Zoom Meeting	4.30pm Youth Choir. Contact Sr Vivian for details	9pm Night prayer (now on zoom)	7pm Mass	7pm Mass	9pm Night prayer (now on zoom)	4.15-5.15 Youth hangout 12-15yrs Contact via Sr Vivian
Bring your Teddy Bear and share your week with us.	7pm Monday Emmaus Group		9pm Night prayer (now on zoom)	9pm Night prayer (now on zoom)		6pm Mass
5pm Mass	7pm Mass					9pm Night prayer (now on zoom)
9pm Night prayer (now on zoom)	9pm Night prayer (now on zoom)					

Helping you to stay in touch with what is happening in the parish.

To be GDPR compliant, you must have registered with the parish since **March of this year**. Most registration happened before this. If you are not sure when you registered, please go to the home page of the [website](#) and register again electronically. You will see the turquoise box, just click and follow the instructions. Then we will know how you would like us to contact you about the exciting new things happening in the parish. Receiving an email does not mean that you are registered. That is separate.

PARISHIONER
REGISTRATION

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. Hospital staff are not allowed to ask **you**.

Ring the hospital on **0118 322 7105** to let them know that your loved one needs a visit from a priest. Priests are still willing and able to go into hospital to minister to patients.



Would you like to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

A priest is available for socially distanced confessions at **5pm** on Saturdays or **4pm** on Sundays. *You don't need to be booked into Mass to come to confession and no appointment is needed.* Just turn up at the church (the door into the corridor between the church and the priest's house) and stewards are there to guide you.



If you can't make the times above for confession, contact the office and leave a message. An alternative time could be arranged for you.

Mass Intentions: Seventeenth week in Ordinary Time

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Saturday 25th July (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6pm	Deceased Members of the McCormack & Martland Families RIP
Sunday 26th July	8am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Fr. Henry Reynolds RIP
	5pm	Kathleen Connolly RIP
Monday 27th July	7pm	Anne Morris RIP
Tuesday 28th July (public Mass—book online)	7pm	Sean Maguire—intentions
Wednesday 29th July St Martha	7pm	Archbishop Michael Bowen RIP
Thursday 30th July	7pm	O'Callaghan family RIP
Friday 31st July (public Mass—book online) St Ignatius Loyola	7pm	Archbishop Peter Smith RIP
Saturday 1st August St Alphonsus Mary de'Liguori	10am	O'Callaghan family RIP
18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (all Masses available to book online)		
Saturday 1st August (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	<u>6pm</u>	Fr Gerald Flood RIP
Sunday 2nd August	<u>8am</u>	Aidan Farrelly RIP
	<u>11.30am</u>	Fr Edmund Hartley RIP
	<u>5pm</u>	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

Schools: **English Martyrs Catholic Primary School,**
Dee Road, Reading RG30 4BE
Head: Mrs Doberska 0118 937 5466

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

Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School,
Fawley Road, Reading RG30 3EP
Head: Dr Simon Uttley 0118 957 4730

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