



ENGLISH MARTYRS' NEWSLETTER

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8-9 August 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.

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.

Public Masses this week

Public weekday Masses that you can book this week are:

- ◆ Tuesday 11th August at 7pm, <https://englishmartyrs-august-11th.eventbrite.co.uk>
- ◆ Friday 14th Aug at 7pm, <https://englishmartyrs-august-14th.eventbrite.co.uk>

Next Sunday Masses are:

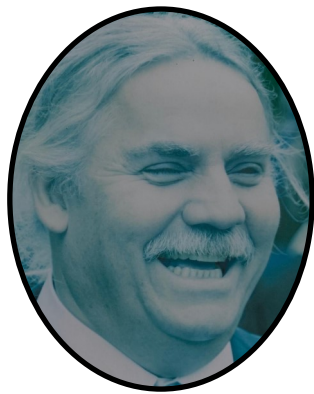
- ◆ Saturday 15th August, evening vigil Mass at 6pm
- ◆ Sunday 16th August, at 8am (not streamed)
- ◆ Sunday 16th August, at 11.30am
- ◆ Sunday 16th August at 5pm (not streamed)

Whichever Sunday Mass you want to book (this includes Saturday evening at 6pm), go to the [parish website](#) and book there after mid-day on Monday 10th August.

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 10th August** and somebody will book for you. Masses will continue to be livestreamed for those who are unable to come to the church building (except for the 8am and 5pm Sunday Masses).



Rest in Peace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mick Mc Soley whose requiem Mass was celebrated in the church on Saturday 1st August. May his family and friends find consolation in their grief.

“Mick was always great fun to be around, e.g. at the 9:30. He disapproved of some of our “non-Catholic” hymns, and if I played a bum chord, I'd get "Shoulda gone to Specsavers, Pete". But his kindness always shone through: he will indeed be greatly missed.” Peter

“My Mate, MICKMAC, was “larger than life”, always fun to be around, amusing, musical, opinionated and argumentative, and very kind. He was a man of strong faith with a practical bent - secretly being the maintenance man for lots of single and elderly parishioners. And brave to the end.” Gaynor

“We remember Mick as a fine, talented and sensitive musician with the warmest heart.” Nick & Trace

“We'll forever miss you, dear Mick. RIP” - Kathleen and Joe Ryce.

“Mick, cheeky, generous a heart of gold. RIP” - Peggie and Pat Walsh

“Mick was a kind, generous and funny man who loved people and lived his life and his faith to the full.” Phil

“Mick, the beautiful, reflective music you played before the 9.30 mass touched my heart and soul. You inspired me to have piano lessons...thank you.” Paula Wild X

“Mick was one in a million. His love of Parish and community was second only to that of family. A committed First Holy Communion Catechist for many years, a man of profound Faith who had an irrepressible desire for young people to get to know and love Jesus. His unique style of shorts, polo shirt and trainers was his trademark look! He leaves a massive 'Mick' shaped hole in our hearts.” Linda

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

For the parish to contact you it is important for the parish to be GDPR compliant. You must have registered with the parish since **March of this year so the office has the most up to date details**. 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.

This is really important.

If you registered a long time ago, or can't remember if you are registered or not please go to the website and register again. It only takes a few moments.

PARISHIONER
REGISTRATION

Online updates—opportunities to connect and grow spiritually

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

Sunday 9th Aug	Mon 10th Aug	Tues 11th Aug	Wed 12th Aug	Thurs 13th Aug	Fri 14th Aug	Sat 15th 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 just click on the link .	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 .	4pm pray the rosary. To join click on the link .	4.15-5.15 Youth hangout 12-15yrs Contact via Sr Vivian
3pm Under fives liturgy on Zoom Join Zoom Meeting	7pm Monday Emmaus Group	9pm Night prayer (now on zoom)	7pm Mass	7pm Mass	7pm Mass (booking available via this link)	6pm Mass
Bring your Teddy Bear and share your week with us.	9pm Night prayer (now on zoom)		9pm Night prayer (now on zoom)	9pm Night prayer (now on zoom)	9pm Night prayer (now on zoom)	9pm Night prayer (now on zoom)
5pm Mass				9pm Night prayer (now on zoom)		

Changes to Masses

There is no longer a Mass on Monday evenings or on Saturday mornings. Thank you to all who have provided recordings of readings for these Masses when they were being livestreamed.

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 then 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: Nineteenth week in Ordinary Time

<i>19th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>		
Saturday 8th August (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6pm	Prabath Perrera intentions
Sunday 9th August	8am	John Dunne RIP
	11.30am	People of the Parish
	5pm	Niroshan Chandra RIP
Monday 10th August St Laurence	No Mass	
Tuesday 11th August St Clare (public Mass—book online)	7pm	Kevin Murphy O'Connor RIP
Wednesday 12th August	7pm	Hugh Faringdon Burrett RIP
Thursday 13th August	7pm	Terence Morse RIP
Friday 14th August St Maximilian Kolbe (public Mass—book online)	7pm	Lucy and Kevin Mc Sharry
Saturday 15th August	No Mass in the morning	
<i>Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (all Masses available to book online)</i>		
Saturday 15th August (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 16th August	8am	Private intention
	11.30am	Christine George RIP
	5pm	Fr. Francis Hartley 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

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