

## Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

15-16 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](http://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](mailto: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***

## Public Masses this week

**Public weekday Masses** that you can book this week are:

- ◆ Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm, <https://englishmartyrs-august-18th.eventbrite.co.uk>
- ◆ Friday 21<sup>st</sup> Aug at 7pm, <https://englishmartyrs-august-21st.eventbrite.co.uk>

**Next Sunday Masses** are:

- ◆ Saturday 22nd August, evening vigil Mass at 6pm
- ◆ Sunday 23rd August, 8am (not streamed)
- ◆ Sunday 23rd August, 11.30am
- ◆ Sunday 23rd August, 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 17th 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 17th August** and somebody will book for you.

## 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

Sunday 16th Aug	Mon 17th Aug	Tues 18th Aug	Wed 19th Aug	Thurs 20th Aug	Fri 21st Aug	Sat 22nd Aug
8am Mass—not streamed	11am Spiritual connection: <a href="#">A Biblical Walk Through Mass</a>	3pm Divine Mercy Join us on <a href="#">Zoom</a>	10am Emmaus group Details available on the parish calendar	10am Thursday <a href="#">Emmaus Group</a>	3pm Divine Mercy Join us on <a href="#">Zoom</a>	2.30—4 Craft and chat room on Zoom. Email <a href="mailto:cath_harrington@compuserve.com">cath_harrington@compuserve.com</a> for invite.
11.30 am <a href="#">Mass</a>	3pm Divine Mercy Join us on <a href="#">Zoom</a> just <a href="#">click on the link</a> .	4pm pray the rosary. To join <a href="#">click on the link</a> .	3pm Divine Mercy Join us on <a href="#">Zoom</a> just <a href="#">click on the link</a> .	3pm Divine Mercy Join us on <a href="#">Zoom</a> just <a href="#">click on the link</a> .	4pm pray the rosary. To join <a href="#">click on the link</a> .	3pm Divine Mercy Join us on <a href="#">Zoom</a> just <a href="#">click on the link</a> .
3pm <a href="#">Divine Mercy Chaplet</a> (zoom)	4pm pray the rosary. To join <a href="#">click on the link</a> .	7pm <a href="#">Mass</a> (booking available via this link)	4pm pray the rosary. To join <a href="#">click on the link</a> .	4pm pray the rosary. To join <a href="#">click on the link</a> .	4pm pray the rosary. To join <a href="#">click on the link</a> .	4.15-5.15 Youth hangout 12-15yrs Contact via Sr Vivian
5pm Mass—not streamed	No Mass	9pm <a href="#">Night prayer</a> (on zoom)	7pm <a href="#">Mass</a>	7pm <a href="#">Mass</a>	7pm <a href="#">Mass</a> (booking available via this link)	6pm <a href="#">Mass</a>
9pm <a href="#">Night prayer</a> (on zoom)	7pm Monday Emmaus Group		9pm <a href="#">Night prayer</a> (on zoom)	9pm <a href="#">Night prayer</a> (on zoom)	9pm <a href="#">Night prayer</a> (on zoom)	9pm <a href="#">Night prayer</a> (on zoom)
	9pm <a href="#">Night prayer</a> (now on zoom)					



## Dial-a-Mass change of number to 0118 9070117



If you have a weekend package or free local calls, this will still be free. Otherwise it will be charged at your provider's local rate.

### 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**.



Anointing of the sick

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 at these times 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.

**Online Diocesan Course for Catechists** Sessions run 3.30 pm until 5.00 pm on Thursdays 27th Aug, 3rd Sept, 10th Sept, 17th Sept, and 24th Sept. Certificate issued on completion of the 5 sessions. The course is free, open to everyone and led by Sr Hyacinthe.

To register for the course on Zoom follow the link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErdOuvqj8rH939R-0n1G6B6QdInITQbt5n>



<b>Mass Intentions: Twentieth week in Ordinary Time</b>		
<b><i>Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i></b>		
<b>Saturday 15th August (Vigil Mass for Sunday)</b>	<b>6pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 16th August</b>	<b>8am</b>	Private intention
	<b>11.30am</b>	Christine George RIP
	<b>5pm</b>	Fr. Francis Hartley RIP
Monday 17th August	No Mass	
Tuesday 18th August (public Mass—book online)	7pm	Private intention
Wednesday 19th August	7pm	Private intention
Thursday 20th August Memorial: St Bernard	7pm	Private intention
Friday 21st August (public Mass—book online) Memorial: St Pius X	7pm	Private intention
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> August	No morning Mass	
<b><i>Twenty first Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></b> <b><i>(all Masses available to book online)</i></b>		
<b>Saturday 22nd August (Vigil Mass for Sunday)</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Gregory Nanayakkara RIP
<b>Sunday 23rd August</b>	<b>8am</b>	Fr. Geoffrey Nixon RIP
	<b>11.30am</b>	People of the Parish
	<b>5pm</b>	Fr David Rea 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