

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***

Public Masses this week

Public weekday Masses that you can book this week are:

- ◆ Tuesday 25th August at 7pm, <https://englishmartyrs-august-25th.eventbrite.co.uk>
- ◆ Friday 28th Aug at 7pm, <https://englishmartyrs-august-28th.eventbrite.co.uk>

Next Sunday Masses are:

- ◆ Saturday 29th August, evening vigil Mass at 6pm
- ◆ Sunday 30th August, 8am (not streamed)
- ◆ Sunday 30th August, 11.30am
- ◆ Sunday 30th 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 24th 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 24th 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, 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 a newsletter by 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 go to the website and register again. It only takes a few moments.

**PARISHIONER
REGISTRATION**

Sunday 23rd Aug	Mon 24th Aug	Tues 25th Aug	Wed 26th Aug	Thurs 27th Aug	Fri 28th Aug	Sat 29th Aug
8am Mass—not streamed	11am Spiritual connection: A Biblical Walk Through Mass	3pm Divine Mercy Join us on Zoom	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	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.	3pm Divine Mercy Join us on Zoom just click on the link.
5pm Mass—not streamed	No Mass	9pm Night prayer	4pm pray the rosary. To join click on the link.	4pm pray the rosary. To join click on the link.	7pm Mass	4.15-5.15 Youth hangout 12-15yrs Contact via Sr Vivian
9pm Night prayer (on zoom)	7pm Monday Emmaus Group		7pm Mass	7pm Mass	9pm Night prayer	6pm Mass
	9pm Night prayer		9pm Night prayer	9pm Night prayer		9pm Night prayer



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**.



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.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Natasha Jordan RIP, Baby Martin Paul Ryan RIP and Helena Sidorowicz RIP

For James Murray RIP—Requiem Mass at English Martyrs Fri, Aug 28th at 10:30am.

Boniface Rodrigues RIP - Requiem Mass at English Martyrs Wed, Sept 2nd, 10:00am.

Donald Fernandes RIP—Requiem Mass at English Martyrs Thurs, Sept 3rd, 11.30am.

Mass Intentions: Twenty-first week in Ordinary Time

<i>Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>		
Saturday 22nd August (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6pm	Gregory Nanayakkara RIP
Sunday 23rd August	8am	Fr. Geoffrey Nixon RIP
	11.30am	People of the Parish
	5pm	Fr David Rea RIP
Monday 24th August St Bartholomew	No Mass	
Tuesday 25th August	7pm (public Mass— book online)	Jim Ryan RIP
Wednesday 26th August	7pm	Donald Fernandes RIP
Thursday 27th August Memorial: St Monica	7pm	Louie Fearnis RIP
Friday 28th August Memorial: St Augustine	7pm (public Mass— book online)	Archbishop JH King RIP
Saturday 29th August Memorial: the beheading of John the Baptist	No morning Mass	
<i>Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (all Masses available to book online)</i>		
Saturday 29th August (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6pm	Deceased members of the McCormack and Martland families RIP
Sunday 30th August	8am	Helena Laurengo RIP
	11.30am	Maria and Francisco Vento 50th Wedding Anniversary St Bartholomew
	5pm	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

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