



Our Vision of the parish we would like to become ..

... 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.

Back to School – Back to Mass

“If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me.” We hear these words in the Gospel this Sunday. A first century Jew would have immediately understood the ‘cross’ to be the dreaded instrument of humiliation, torture and death used by the Romans. We probably understand the cross more as the daily struggle and suffering that we endure.

The Covid-19 pandemic has given us fresh insight into the cross of suffering and death, the fragility of human life and our utter dependence upon God. Not being able to provide the sacraments to people at their time of greatest need was a cause of real sadness for me. So, opening the church for people to celebrate Sunday Mass has been a great blessing. To see how much people value celebrating the Eucharist and the reverence with which they receive the Lord in Holy Communion has been humbling.

Great care has been taken to make coming to Mass at English Martyrs as safe as it can be. We exercise social distancing, restrict the number of people in the building, require hand sanitiser to be used, wear face coverings and disinfect the building frequently. Because of all these measures, many of our most vulnerable parishioners have felt safe to return to Mass. And, having come once, they come back each week. But many of every age, language and background, have not yet returned. Isolation will ultimately not only weaken our community but our faith too.

So, to enable everyone to come together to keep the Lord's Day holy, and to compensate for the reduced capacity in church I will add as many Sunday Masses as are needed.

From Sunday 6th September Sunday Mass times will be: Saturday Vigil 6.00pm, Sunday 7.30am, 9.30am, 11.30am, 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

Having to book can be off putting, but it also affords us the opportunity to commit in advance to celebrating the Lord's Day with others. You can register online through www.englishmartyrsrdg.eventbrite.co.uk . But if you struggle with booking online, ask a friend or fellow parishioner to help or call 07966090100 and someone will do it for you.

I encourage you to make this new academic year an opportunity for us all to grow in faith and to bring new people into relationship with Jesus. I am excited about the future for English Martyrs. I hope you are too. “If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

Fr Michael



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 1st Sept at 7pm, <https://englishmartyrs-september-1st.eventbrite.co.uk>
- ◆ Friday 4th Sept at 7pm, <https://englishmartyrs-september-4th.eventbrite.co.uk>

Next Sunday Masses are:

- ◆ Saturday 5th September, evening vigil Mass at 6pm (**not streamed**)
- ◆ Sunday 6th Sept, 7.30am (not streamed)
- ◆ Sunday 6th Sept, 9.30am (not streamed)
- ◆ Sunday 6th Sept, 11.30am (**streamed**)
- ◆ Sunday 6th Sept, 5pm (not streamed)
- ◆ Sunday 6th Sept, 7pm (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 31st 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 31st August** and somebody will book for you.

First Friday Praise and Worship

Friday 4th September

Sr Vivian will be leading this on Zoom at 7.30pm. This month's theme: The More—choosing Jesus for love's sake.

Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://zoom.us/j/91325383198?](https://zoom.us/j/91325383198?pwd=MWlrchGvNW1zemVzTkFWcHlIZEVMdz09)

[pwd=MWlrchGvNW1zemVzTkFWcHlIZEVMdz09](https://zoom.us/j/91325383198?pwd=MWlrchGvNW1zemVzTkFWcHlIZEVMdz09)

Meeting ID: 913 2538 3198

Passcode: 193440

Additional Mass Times

Starting next weekend [5-6 Sept] Sunday

Mass times will be as follows:

Saturday Vigil Mass 6.00pm

Sunday 7.30am

Sunday 9.30am

Sunday 11.30am

Sunday 5.00pm

Sunday 7.00pm

Why not make a 'new academic year resolution' to try out coming back to Mass?



Congratulations



to Maria and Francisco Vento who celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary this weekend.

May God bless them with many more happy years together.



Welcome back

Barbara returns to work this week but in a slightly changed, part-time role. We will make every effort to respond to callers to the Parish Office, telephone calls and emails but thank you in advance for your patience.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Boniface Rodrigues and Donald Fernandes both of whom will have their funerals this week. May they rest in peace and all who grieve them find comfort and support.



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.



Anointing of the sick

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.

Mass Intentions: Twenty-second week in Ordinary Time		
<i>Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>		
Saturday 29th August (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6pm	Deceased members of the McCormack and Martland families RIP
Sunday 30th August	8am	Helena Laurencio RIP
	11.30am	Maria and Francisco Vento 50th Wedding Anniversary
	5pm	People of the Parish
Monday 31st August St Bartholomew	No Mass	
Tuesday 1st September	7pm (public Mass— book online)	Hugh Faringdon Burrett RIP
Wednesday 2nd September	7pm	Private intention
Thursday 3rd September Feast: St Gregory the Great	7pm	Private intention
Friday 4th September Memorial: St Cuthbert	7pm (public Mass— book online)	Fr. George Lyons RIP
Saturday 5th September	No morning Mass	
<i>Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>(all Masses available to book online)</i>		
Saturday 6th September (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6pm	Deceased members of the Nanayakkara family
Sunday 30th August	7.30am	People of the Parish
	9.30am	Mick Mc Soley RIP
	11.30am	Thomas Mansell RIP
	5pm	Fr. Anthony Quinn RIP
	7pm	Fr. Christopher Sexton 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

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.