



## **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.

It was wonderful to see so many people returning to the celebration of Mass last Sunday. For the first time since the March lockdown it began to feel like a Sunday we once knew at English Martyrs. We can only hope and pray for the day when we can gather and pray once again without restrictions.

Our schools, Blessed Hugh Faringdon and English Martyrs, are up and running after the school holiday. The head teachers and staff have been doing wonderful work in challenging circumstances. I celebrated Mass for the staff at Blessed Hugh Faringdon on their first day back. This past week I spent some time at English Martyrs School. We wish them well in the weeks and months ahead.

Alpha will be an important focus in our parish throughout the autumn. It will be online due to current circumstances. Alpha is a good opportunity for anyone seeking to explore faith or wanting to know more about God. It is also an opportunity for Catholics to pray and discuss their faith with others, and to experience the grace of the Holy Spirit. Please think about participating in Alpha and encourage others to do so.

The theme of forgiveness is prominent in the Word of God this Sunday. We all know how important forgiveness is, but we also know how difficult it can be. Peter asks Jesus how often he must forgive his brother if he wrongs him. "As many as seven times?" Peter probably thought he was exaggerating in suggesting forgiveness as often as seven times. Seven was often considered to be the perfect number. But Jesus says, "Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times." Some translations go as far as saying seventy times seven! Either way the message is clear, we must always be ready to forgive.

Perhaps this Sunday we could think about forgiveness. Is there anyone we really need to forgive? We could pray for the grace to be able to forgive from the heart. Sometimes we need to forgive ourselves for things we regret about past behaviour. Maybe we could think about people whose ability to forgive has inspired us. Then we could contemplate the forgiveness of God, "The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy."

Fr Michael





# Alpha online @ English Martyrs (including a Youth Alpha)



We all have **questions**

Every day we ask so many questions. What shall we wear? What is the weather?  
How am I going to fit everything in my day?

*But what about the **deeper** questions?*

What is my purpose...? What happens when I die...? Why is there suffering...?

Alpha gives us the chance to ask these 'big' questions and to explore faith in a welcoming, encouraging environment. It offers us the chance to build relationships— with Jesus and each other.

Alpha will be starting in the week beginning September 28th. There are 4 timings that we are offering for Alpha to help you find the one that best suits your life.

These are:

**Tuesday evenings starting Tuesday 29th September at 8.00pm**

**Wednesday evenings starting Wednesday 30th September at 8.00pm**

**Thursday afternoons starting Thursday 1st October**

**Thursday evenings starting Thursday 1st October at 8.00pm**

We would love you to come along on this adventure! If you are interested in finding out more, Email [alphaatem@gmail.com](mailto:alphaatem@gmail.com) or go to the parish website and somebody from the team will contact you and answer any questions you may have.

**Why not give it a go? Find out if it is what you are looking for.**

## 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.

## Public Masses this week

Public weekday Masses that you can book this week are:

- ♦ Tuesday 15th Sept at 7pm, <https://englishmartyrs-september-15th.eventbrite.co.uk>
- ♦ Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Sept at 7pm (book on parish website)

Next Sunday Masses are:

- ♦ Saturday 19th September, evening vigil Mass at 6pm (**not streamed**)
- ♦ Sunday 20th Sept, 7.30am (not streamed)
- ♦ Sunday 20th Sept, 9.30am (not streamed)
- ♦ Sunday 20th Sept, 11.30am (**streamed**)
- ♦ Sunday 20th Sept, 5pm (not streamed)
- ♦ Sunday 20th Sept, 7pm (not streamed)

Whichever Sunday Mass you want to book (this includes Saturday evening at 6pm) , go to the parish website and follow the link.

If you are not able to access Eventbrite for any reason, ring 0118 957 2149 **between 2-4pm on Monday 14th September** and somebody will book for you.

Book early to avoid disappointment.



## Plant Sale at English Martyrs Church Sunday 20th September— after 9.30am, 11.30am and 5.00pm Masses.

Looking to brighten up your environment? Why not buy some plants ready to go to a new home? All proceeds to English Martyrs parish.

If you have plants to contribute or would like to help with running the sale please contact the parish office.

All arrangements will be COVID compliant.



### 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.



## Mass Intentions: Twenty-fourth week in Ordinary Time

<b><i>Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></b>		
<b>Saturday 12th September (Vigil Mass for Sunday)</b>	<b>6pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 13th September</b>	<b>7.30am</b>	Fr. Douglas Perkins RIP
	<b>9.30am</b>	Bonifacio Sisan Jr RIP
	<b>11.30am</b>	Terence Morse RIP
	<b>5pm</b>	Fr. John Healy RIP
	<b>7pm</b>	Fr. Charles Briggs RIP
Tuesday 15th September Our Lady of Sorrows	7pm (book online)	John Belcher RIP
Wednesday 16th September	7pm	Kate Knollys RIP
Thursday 17th September	7pm	Santana Gonsalves Thanksgiving
Friday 18th September	7pm (book online)	Johnny Deignan RIP
<b><i>Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></b> <i>(all Masses available to book online)</i>		
<b>Saturday 19th September (Vigil Mass for Sunday)</b>	<b>6pm</b>	John Marchant RIP
<b>Sunday 20th September</b>	<b>7.30am</b>	Ida Miraglia RIP
	<b>9.30am</b>	Kathleen Gaughan & Kevin Commins RIP
	<b>11.30am</b>	Anne and Harry Mullin
	<b>5pm</b>	Gaurav Gill
	<b>7pm</b>	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.