



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.

Reports in the media this weekend suggest that there is widespread growth of coronavirus across the country and that we are potentially seeing the start of the second wave. It seems clear that there are challenging times ahead.

I am very grateful to the team of people in the parish who are doing so much to ensure that people who attend Mass at English Martyrs are safe. Every guideline is being followed and every precaution is being taken. The church is sanitised after every Mass. I am grateful to everybody who has been attending Mass for following the guidance that the stewards are seeking to implement.

Numbers at Mass are increasing each week which is wonderful to see. Think about encouraging family, friends and neighbours who are Catholic back to the celebration of Mass. Invite those who are not Catholic to Mass also that they might come to faith in Jesus who is truly present in the Eucharist and hear the Word of God proclaimed. Please also invite people, Catholic and not, to participate in Alpha which begins shortly. Many people have already signed up which is very encouraging. People who have signed up should think about inviting their friends. Please pray for Alpha in our parish in the coming weeks.

We hear from Isaiah this Sunday, "Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving." And from St Paul, "Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ." The Word of God speaks even more powerfully to us at a time such as this we are anxious and worried about what lies ahead. Isaiah and St Paul are encouraging us to avail of this time to turn back to God and to undergo profound personal change.

Then in the wonderful Gospel story we have that great line, "Why be envious because I am generous?" The one who was gracious and utterly generous is of course God, our loving Father. The story highlights that this graciousness and generosity of God is beyond our human understanding. Perhaps this Sunday we would do well not so much to try to understand the generosity of God, but simply to contemplate and accept his goodness and generosity. I invite us all to pray for one another and to continue to build relationships of great love and solidarity in our parish.

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 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.

Monday 28th September 2020
National Day of
Prayer & Fasting
For Life

A great prayer for Life is urgently needed. Pope St. John Paul II



28th September The vigil of the Feast of St Michael Archangel!

Join us in Prayer and Fasting:

Fasting

Fast from all food except bread and water for the day

Or

Fast from a particular food or luxury, e.g. chocolate, alcohol, cigarettes, TV.
Fast from whatever you can given your state of health etc, but make sure it is something that involves a sacrifice to yourself.

Prayer

We are asking people to say a Rosary (or an extra Rosary if you say it daily already).

You could also offer an extra effort such as going to Mass (or an extra Mass) on the day, or going to Adoration. You can even pray before a closed tabernacle if Adoration is not available near you.

And He said to them, This kind (of demon) can go out by nothing, but by prayer and fasting. (Gospel of Mark 9:29)

On Monday 28th September please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. **Last year this country saw the largest number of abortions ever.** Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed.

For information on the day of Prayer and Fasting contact;

The Good Counsel Network on 020 7723 1740.

www.goodcounselnetwork.com

And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least... God saw their efforts to renounce their evil ways. And God relented about the disaster which He had threatened to bring on them, and He did not bring it. (Jonah 3:5,10)

This poster was produced by *Sackcloth and Ashes* at The Good Counsel Network

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THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2020
(Please see our website for further information)

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Fawley Road, Reading RG30 3EP
Website: www.hughfaringdon.org
Telephone: 0118 957 4790
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Public Masses this week

Public weekday Masses that you can book this week are:

- ♦ Tuesday 22nd Sept at 7pm, <https://englishmartyrs-september-22nd.eventbrite.co.uk>
- ♦ Friday 25th Sept at 7pm

Next Sunday Masses are:

- ♦ Saturday 26th September, evening vigil Mass at 6pm (**not streamed**)
- ♦ Sunday 27th Sept, 7.30am (not streamed)
- ♦ Sunday 27th Sept, 9.30am (not streamed)
- ♦ Sunday 27th Sept, 11.30am (**streamed**)
- ♦ Sunday 27th Sept, 5pm (not streamed)
- ♦ Sunday 27th 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 21st September** and somebody will book for you.

Book early to avoid disappointment.

Mass Intentions: Twenty-fifth week in Ordinary Time		
<i>Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>		
Saturday 19th September (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6pm	John Marchant RIP
Sunday 20th September	7.30am	Ida Miraglia RIP
	9.30am	Kathleen Gaughan & Kevin Commins RIP
	11.30am	Anne and Harry Mullin 50th anniversary
	5pm	Gaurav Gill
	7pm	People of the Parish
Tuesday 22nd September	7pm (book online)	Prudence Scott RIP
Wednesday 23rd September	7pm	Fr. George Lyons RIP
Thursday 24th September	7pm	Thomas Boylan RIP
Friday 25th September	7pm (book online)	Sandza Antaino RIP
<i>Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>(all Masses available to book online)</i>		
Saturday 26th September (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6pm	Rufilna Goes RIP
Sunday 27th September	7.30am	People of the Parish
	9.30am	Brian Black
	11.30am	Kathleen Gaughan RIP
	5pm	Roy Melder Birthday
	7pm	Private intention



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.