



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.

The number of confirmed Covid-19 cases in the UK continues to rise. There is undoubtedly considerable fear and anxiety as we all worry about what is going to happen next. Another lockdown? What about Christmas?

The truth is that we do not know what is going to happen next. We are not in control. The invitation therefore is once again to faith in the living God and trust in His providence. It is a good time to cultivate a routine of daily prayer. Speak with God about your deepest fears and anxieties. Ask Him to help you, your loved ones, as well as the peoples of the world. Draw close to Him and He will draw close to you. You will become more aware of His consoling presence.

Consider participating in Alpha online which begins this week. It is an excellent way of exploring faith, building friendships, and experiencing the presence of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. Alpha could not be starting at a better time as we head into an autumn of uncertainty. Join Alpha yourself and invite your friends to do likewise. I invite everyone in the Parish to pray for Alpha in the coming weeks that all who participate may experience the person of Jesus in a new way and grow in faith and joy in the Holy Spirit.

If you are looking for a spiritual exercise this week you need look no further than the second reading of Mass this Sunday. It is from St Paul to the Philippians (2:6-11) and it was probably written in the early years following the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus into heaven. It is a beautiful hymn summarising Christian faith. It speaks of Jesus emptying himself, setting aside his glory and assuming the human condition. This is proposed as a vital model for the Christian. The Christian is to have the same attitude of humility and selflessness, of detachment and generosity.

You might like to pick up your Bible this week and ponder these verses from St Paul to the Philippians. The ongoing pandemic is a challenge to all of us, not to turn in on ourselves, but to live authentic Christian lives, modelled on the person of Jesus. Let us ask God to help us not to allow fear and anxiety to dominate but rather let us imitate the self-emptying of Jesus.

Fr Michael





Alpha online @ English Martyrs



We all have **questions**

Alpha will be starting in the week beginning September 28th—this week. There are 4 timings that we are offering for Alpha to help you find the one that best suits your life. A key part of Alpha is the small group discussion following the film. This is a time when people build a relationship of trust so once you have decided which time suits you, that will be your time every week. It is not possible to swap between the evenings/afternoon.

Times available 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, there are people outside every Mass this weekend.

Or 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 and bring a friend with you?

Find out if it is what you are looking for. You can log on through the calendar if you haven't booked already

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.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP AT EM

Friday 2nd October @19.35 -

Theme: Jesus Christ lives in you—

2 Corinthians 13:1-14

19:35 - Rosary

19:55 - Praise & Worship

20:20 - Scripture reading & reflection

20:40 - Worship

20:50 - Act of Consecration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

20:55 - Final Hymn

21:00 - Examen and Night Prayer

Details on the parish calendar.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN

Wed 23rd Sept – Sun 1st Nov
8am to 8pm

Vigil Location

Outside BPAS Abortion Centre
121 London St, Reading, RG1 4QA



Sign up at: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/reading-2>

There are also campaigns in Southampton, Bournemouth & Portsmouth

or contact us at:

40daysforlifereading@gmail.com
07436 018688

MESSAGE FROM THE CATHOLIC SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY : New students of the University of Reading are invited to join fellow students at the 5pm Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Peace Catholic church. Please book Mass on the parish website www.olop.org.uk.

CORONAVIRUS APPEAL.

CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development



survive rebuild heal

Text CAFOD to 70085 to donate £10

Texts cost £0 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text CAFODINFO to 70085

£17.84 could provide a package of nutritious food to strengthen the immune system of four malnourished children or pregnant women



Open your phone camera to scan

"Only together can we do this."
Pope Francis

This Family Fast Day please stand together with families facing the worst of coronavirus.

GIVE TODAY AND SAVE LIVES
cafod.org.uk/give

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

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

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 your self.

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.



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

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 Ninevah 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

Mass Intentions: Twenty-sixth week in Ordinary Time

<i>Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</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
Tuesday 29th September Feast: Ss Michael, Gabriel, Raphael	7pm (book online)	Thomas Boylan RIP
Wednesday 30th September St Jerome	7pm	Henry McBride RIP
Thursday 1st October St Therese of the Child Jesus	7pm	Claire Boyle RIP
Friday 2nd October The Holy Guardian Angels	7pm (book online)	Collette Bennett RIP
<i>Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>(all Masses available to book online)</i>		
Saturday 3rd October (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6pm	Eddie Ryan RIP
Sunday 4th October	7.30am	Canon John McNamara RIP
	9.30am	Maria Antonia Rodrigues RIP
	11.30am	Bridie McGlynn RIP
	5pm	People of the Parish
	7pm	Maggie Gordon



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.