



**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.

As we gradually move into the autumn, our thoughts turn to the Harvest and the gratitude we owe to so many workers and farmers for the fruits of the earth that we enjoy. The ideas of harvest and thanksgiving go together because, ultimately our thanksgiving is due to God, the Creator. It would be a shame to lose sight of this connection at this time of fear and anxiety over coronavirus.

Friday, 9 October is CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) Family Fast Day. This day gives us an opportunity to think about the Harvest, and the debt of gratitude we owe for the fruits of the earth that we enjoy and on which we depend.

We are to receive the gifts of God with gratitude and this time of year is an appropriate time to be conscious of our need to be grateful. Coronavirus highlights the need for this gratitude because life is fragile and a gift of God, but it also highlights the terrible plight of so many in the world who live in poverty, and who are therefore particularly vulnerable to the virus.

We are to nurture the gifts of God responsibly precisely because they are God-given. Pope Francis has been to the forefront in highlighting the need for Christians to nurture the gift of God's creation as God is the Creator. Christians also need to be active in highlighting climate change and the damage being done to the planet entrusted to us by Almighty God.

We are to share the gifts of God charitably because the gifts we have received from God are not private possessions for our own good only. They are entrusted to us for the good of humanity and for the advancement of the kingdom of God. And finally, we are to return the gifts of God abundantly. The Parable of the Talents reminds us that we do not simply return to God what He has given to us, but we return the gifts of God to Him abundantly and with interest.

Family Fast Day is indeed about fasting and doing without something we like. It is also about donating money and supporting poor people who are even more vulnerable as a result of coronavirus. And it is about being thankful to God, the Creator.

Fr Michael





# Alpha online @ English Martyrs



## We all have **questions**

Alpha has started but you can still join in if you would like to. There are 4 timings that we are offering for Alpha to help you find the one that best suits your life. A key part is the small group discussion following the film 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 8th October, 1.30—3pm**

**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](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 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**



## **ALPHA &**

## **PARISH EVANGELISATION**

Alpha is most fruitful in bringing people to a closer, personal relationship with Jesus and each other when it is supported by prayer. Please pray for all those taking part in Alpha.



In addition to your own individual prayers there are opportunities to pray together as a parish for the intentions of Alpha and parish evangelisation:

- ◆ livestreamed Holy Rosary on Wednesdays at 6.30pm;
- ◆ Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration on Saturdays 9-10am

Everybody welcome to join in when you can.



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

<b><i>Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></b>		
<b>Saturday 3rd October (Vigil Mass for Sunday)</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Eddie Ryan RIP
<b>Sunday 4th October</b>	<b>7.30am</b>	Canon John McNamara RIP
	<b>9.30am</b>	Maria Antonia Rodrigues RIP
	<b>11.30am</b>	Bridie McGlynn RIP
	<b>5pm</b>	People of the Parish
	<b>7pm</b>	Maggie Gordon
Tuesday 6th October	7pm (book online)	Mary Peacock RIP
Wednesday 7th October Our Lady of the Rosary	7pm	Fioza Francisca Dias Thanksgiving
Thursday 8th October St Therese of the Child Jesus	7pm	James Connolly RIP
Friday 9th October Feast: St John Henry Newman	7pm (book online)	Thomas Donohue RIP
<b><i>Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></b> <i>(all Masses available to book online)</i>		
<b>Saturday 10th October (Vigil Mass for Sunday)</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Sean McGuire RIP
<b>Sunday 11th October</b>	<b>7.30am</b>	Joe Jardine RIP
	<b>9.30am</b>	Roseline Fernandes RIP
	<b>11.30am</b>	Sophia Maria Henrietta Belcher RIP
	<b>5pm</b>	Kathy Lyons RIP
	<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:** phone and e-mail monitored.  
0118 957 2149  
englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:**  
Charlie McArthur  
Contact through parish office number.

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