



NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH - The Bishop of Portsmouth, who officiated at the solemn opening of the Church of the English Martyrs, Tilehurst Road on Friday together with distinguished priests a portion of them shown.

ENGLISH MARTYRS CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

JUNE

30th June 12noon - 4pm Summer Fayre - English Martyrs School

JULY

12th July 7.30pm A celebration through the eyes of our children and youth.

21st July 8.30pm Fund raising Dance at the Irish Club, Reading.

AUGUST

11th August Flower Festival.
18th August 7.30pm Sunset Prayers each night.

SEPTEMBER

5th Sept' 7.30pm History Evening.
12th Sept' 7.30pm Bishop Crispian concelebrating Mass
All past clergy have been invited.
Reception in the hall to follow this event.
Ecumenical Service of Praise and Thanksgiving
Reception in the hall to follow this event.
15th & 16th Sept' Summery of Bishop Crispian's Homily from 12th September.

All Masses Sean to return to say some Masses this weekend.
Reception in the hall to follow this event.



THE SERVICE - In the course of the service the congregation look on, many from the local community.

FAMOUS ARTISTES TO APPEAR AT READING.

The first of a series of Internatioanal Celebrity Subscription Concerts at the Town Hall, Reading, will take place on Saturday, October 9th, when Kreisler, the world-famous violinist, will make his only appearance. At his last recital in London at the Royal Albert Hall, he attracted an audience of over 10,000 people despite the fact that it was a warm summers day.

NEW CATHOLIC CHURCH AT READING.

MR. POWYS-LYBBE'S HANSOME GIFT.

The new Catholic church of the English Martyrs, the building of which was made possible by a gift of £10,000 from Mr. R. Powys-Lybbe, of Sreatley, was opened on Tuesday. The church, which is in the uncommon Lombardic style, is situated at the corner of Liebenrood Road and Tilehurst Road, Reading. The opening of the church was marked by the celebration of pontifical High Mass by the Bishop of the diocese, the Bishop of Portsmouth (the Rt. Rev. William Cotter) Those taking part were the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Canon Watson, V. G. (Gosport), the Rt. Rev. Mgr. M. I. Morrissy (Plymouth) the Rt. Rev. W. E. Kelly, O.S.B. (Abbot of Douai), the Rt. Rev. M. F. Cabrol, O.S.B. (Abbot of Farnborough), the Very Rev. Canon A. G. Coughlan (East Hendred), the Very Rev. Canon J. H. King (Winchester), and the Very Rev. C. Arthur (Faringdon). The Very Rev. Canon I. G. Kuner (Southsea) was the master of ceremonies. There were also present Fathers J. Kernan (Reading), F. O'Farrell (Aldershot), D. O'Mahoney (Southampton), F. Railey (Havant), J. J. Hally (Lyndhurst), F. Green (Newbury), E. H. Clark (E. Cowes), L. Doran (Freshwater), J. Doran (Abingdon), J. Doran (Eastleigh), T. O'Conner (Chrsitchurch), J. Connolly (Southampton), P. Curtin (Maidenhead), J. Hayes (Woolstan), H. Doran (Basingstoke), J. P. Murphy (Alton), A. Akel (Bitterne), A. J. Hurley (Southampton), J. Conolly (Wokingham), F. Pinkman (Winchester), W. J. Blake (Aldershot), J. Hetherington (Copnor), A. G. McDonald (Reading), R. E. Scantlebury (Reading), A. Hawarden Salesian School Farnborough Gregory, O.F.M. (Ascot), J. Bouniel (White Fathers Bishop's Waltham), H. L. Bilsborrow (Campen Glos.), P. Twomey (Camberley), J. Hughes (Henley), M. Williams (Caversham), E. C. Jarvis (Goring), and M. Hegerty (Basingstoke). The choir was under the direction of Father A. G. McDonald. The donor, Mr. R. Powys-Lybbe, was among the congregation.

"The English Martyrs"

The special preacher was father E. Rockcliff, S. J., of the Holy Name, Manchester, a member sitting for the Beatification of the English martyrs. In the course of the service he said they knew when a friend came to visit them for a day or two he went away with a mere snapshot memory of the place, a surface impression made up of simply the outstanding features. That was not to know a place. To know a place they needed the long exposure of the continued acquaintance, which gave definition to the details on which the charms so much, and perhaps entirely, depended. This was eminently true of the splendid company of men whom they grouped together under the term of the English martyrs, and all the more so because of their story was cast in the most perplexing and sad scenery. They lived surely in an age of discovery, however, and he boldly that not least important of the discoveries of modern times had been the discovery, of this period of English history. He was only giving the verdict of modern scholarship when he said what ever good came out of this great and sad upheaval, what ever redeeming features it had, it was a very sordid story. It was very far from being simply a religious revolution. It was a complexity of mundane politics, national interests, fiance, greed and ambition; these had ever so much more to do with it than the causes which, had given its name. Now as the mists of these three hundred years had resigned, they were able to see something of the position of these great men held, and the magnificent stand they made. His difficulty was how that they would be led at least to examine it for themselves. There was something worth finding these heroic pages.

Reaping the Harvest.

The story of these great men was not yet finished; the seeds of their magnificent work has been sown, and only part of the harvest has yet been reaped. There was strong invigorating fruit

still to be reaped. The very originators of the revolution themselves deplored with unmeasured terms the results that followed. But when the waters were once let free, there were no restraining them. He was not saying that there were no redeeming features of the story. The story of those who were not whirled away, but met the onrush and kept the balance, who stood for principles they believed to be absolutely sacred, was the most readming feature of the whole of this sad time. It is a story that must never be forgotten. England lost much which now she very much deplored; so that they had that slow groping back to the things that were so characteristic of the religious life; at any rate they had the admission of a gaping want which nothing else had filled and which they held nothing else could fill. If then the whole faith was never entirely torn out of this land they knew to whom they owed it. If they are now able to reconstruct and rebuild what was pulled down they new to whom they owed the solid ground on which they could lay these foundations. Surely then it was right that they should dedicate a church to men like these. England should be proud of them. They brought over the line which separated mediaeval history from modern times the best of mediaeval chivalry. If their story were only better known what fruit would be reaped. They had that church raised for the purpose of keeping alive that story, of bringing many to the knowledge that would benefit to them and to the country. They begged God to allow the English martyrs to shed a blessing upon them that they might learn from them how to hold a position, how to stand out for unpopular virtue, how to hate ignoble compromise, especially in these days of easy toleration that He would give them something of the magnificent cheerfulness in sacrifice and clearness of vision to see things that mattered, some of the splendid character and courage, that they would at least live for their faith as they so nobly died for it.

The Luncheon

A luncheon followed at Palm Lodge, Reading, at which the Rev. F. J. Kernan was supported by many of the priests and congregation presented at the opening of the church. In proposing the toast of "The donor of the church" the chairman said there was no disguising the fact that day Catholics in Reading were proud of themselves.

The Church

Situated on an exceptional open attractive site at the corner of Liebenrood Road and Tilehurst Road, the church commands attention from whatever direction it is approached. It is designed in the Romanesque style, and built entirely of brick, comprising a nave to seat 450 people surrounded on all four sides by processional aisles, a spacious sanctuary and apse; a baptistery; sanctuary and confessionals. Provision for side alters in the transepts and two shrines at the west end of the nave. A octagonal lantern, flanked by four turret, rises to a height of 50 feet over the sanctuary, and at the west end there is a campanile 65 feet high. Externally the church is faced with old English multi-coloured hand-made bricks.

Start of Catholicism in Reading

The revival of Catholicism in Reading is largely due through the efforts of Mistress Smart (the poets daughter) who came to Reading in 1752 to take charge of the "Reading Mercury" and who rented a room in Minister Street for the purpose of Catholic Worship; to the efforts in Reading of French emigrant priests who came over to escape from the French Revolution; the erection of St. James' Church, for which Mr. Weble, of Bulmershe Court, gave the site, and which was completed in 1840.