

Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon ***1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL***

We are a **LiveSimply** parish aiming to live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor

Parish Priest: Fr. Jamie McGrath Tel: 01235 520375
Parish Secretary: Lisa Paterson Tel: 01235 520375
Office Hours: 9am - 12.30pm Tuesday to Friday
Office Email: abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

We live stream all services

Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230
Visits Oxford Hospitals: Priest/Chaplain 01865 221732
Visits and Help: Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office
Parish Website: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk
Primary School: St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 1199568 www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Confessions: Saturdays 11.00 – 11.30am or by appointment

REFLECTION: SEASON OF CREATION – POPE FRANCIS

How can we contribute to the mighty river of justice and peace in this Season of Creation? What can we, particularly as Christian communities do to heal our common home so that it can once again team with life? We must do this by resolving to transform our hearts, our lifestyles and the public policies ruling our societies. First let us join the mighty river by transforming our hearts. This is essential for any other transformation to occur; it is that ecological conversation" which Saint John Paul II encouraged us to embrace: the renewal of our relationship with creation so that we no longer see it as an object to be exploited but cherish it instead as a sacred gift from our creator. Furthermore, we should realise that an integral approach to respect for the environment involves four relationships: with God, with our brothers and sisters of today and tomorrow, with all of nature and with ourselves.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Last week we celebrated the feast of the TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS. The great sacrifice of Christ: God so loved the world that he gave his only son. To be a self-sacrificing person is implicit in our Baptism, as we strive to follow Christ and imitate his ways. The self-giving of Christ invites each of us to the same call. The insistence of that call, and it's constant tugging of our hearts, is what tends to nudge people to their vocation. We long to love whole heartedly, and we know the truth that – 'It is in giving that we receive". "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God". (Romans 8.)

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION 2023-24

This years' course for the sacrament of confirmation will commence in October. If your child is of the age of 12+ (school YR 8 in September) and would like to attend this year, there will be a meeting for children and parents on **Thursday 21st September at 7.30 in the parish centre**. If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please contact Tammy Lavers at: tammylavers@hotmail.co.uk

Week 24 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 1 (A)

Sunday 17 Sept.

8.45am Mass (Catherine Mullin RIP)
10.15am Mass (Anthony McDonald Intentions)
2.00pm Mass in Polish
6.30pm Mass (*Special Intention*)

Monday 18 Sept.

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (*Special Intention*)

Tuesday 19 Sept.

NO Mass See: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse for other Masses

Wednesday 20 Sept.

**Ss Andrew Kim Taegon,
Paul Chong Hasang &
Companions**

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Edna Harrold RIP)

Thursday 21 Sept.

St Matthew

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass (*Special Intention*)

Friday 22 Sept.

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (*Special Intention*)

Saturday 23 Sept.

St Pio of Pietrelcina

11am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
11-11.30am Confessions
12pm Mass (*Special Intention*)

SECOND COLLECTION THIS SUNDAY (17th SEPT)

The second collection **this Sunday (17th September)** is for *Home Missions*. You can place your donation in the red boxes **as you leave the church**, use the electronic device at the back of the church, or use the link on the *News* page of our website.

CLOSER TO CHRIST CAMPAIGN

The *Closer to Christ Campaign* is a fundraising initiative for the Diocese of Portsmouth. This will build upon the mission of our church, enabling us to continue our journey to become ever more outward facing and evangelistic, while meeting the immediate financial priorities of parishes, who are the backbone of our Church. Our parish is now part of this campaign and Bishop Philip has sent us a letter, which you can read on the *News* page of our parish website.

CREATION PRAYER WALK

For those who were unable to come on the walk last Sunday, there are copies of the walk with the short readings and prayers on the table at the back of church. It can be done at any time.

SVP – CASH4COINS

Going away on holiday or returning? Please consider keeping any remaining foreign cash to donate for the work of our parish SVP group. We will be collecting any donations after each Mass on **Sunday 24th September**. Sterling currency will also be most welcome. Your donation will help to transform the lives of others. Thank you.

ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL OPEN MORNING

St Edmund's primary school is holding an Open Morning on **Saturday 7th October from 10.30am - 12pm**. This is a good opportunity to visit the school and find out more about it.

ONLINE FORMATION SESSIONS FOR READERS

Throughout October the Liturgical Formation Team is running online sessions for all readers at Mass. They begin on Wednesday 4th October 7pm – 8pm and continue each Wednesday, concluding on November 1st. The themes include an Introduction to Sacred Scripture, the theology of the Word, Youth readers and Liturgy for children, how to proclaim the Word of God in Church and an introduction to Lectio Divina. We would like to encourage all our parish readers to take up this opportunity. Details can be found on our parish website on the *News* page. You will need the links you find there to join the sessions. *Fr. Jamie*.

YOU WILL BE MY WITNESS

On September 10th Bishop Philip wrote to us about “You will be my witnesses”. The new and final versions of our Ten Year Mission Plan for the whole Diocese (copies still available at the back of church). It has been two years in the making and we've all had access to the draft copy, upon which we were invited to comment. Please download the final version. It is available on the parish website on the *News* page. It's too long to print off individual copies but if any parishioner is struggling to get it, then please let Fr. Jamie know personally.

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Monday:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11.30am to 2.30pm.

FUTURE DATES

- **Sat 30th Sep:** Mother's prayers at 10.15am in the church.
- **Fri 6th Oct:** CAFOD Family Fast Day
- **Sat 14th Oct:** Youth groups games afternoon – open to all in school year 3 and above, 3.30-5pm in the parish centre.

CASO – CATHOLIC ACADEMY SCHOOLS OFFICE

In our Diocese the work of the schools comes under the Vicariate for Education, under Canon P. J. Smith, Episcopal Vicar. It is led by the Director of Education who ensures on behalf of the Bishop that all Catholic schools of our Diocese (independent, maintained, voluntary aided and maintained academies) operate as “Catholic Schools” in accordance with both canon and civil law. Thank you all for your support via the second collection last Sunday, which enables this crucial mission to continue.

CHURCH TWINNING – VISIT TO ARGENTAN

This takes place from Thurs 12th to Mon 16th October 2023. Celebrating 25 years of twinning with Abingdon churches, 15 people have been invited to celebrate. There are still a few places to fill, so please consider it – these trips are always really enjoyable. French language not required. We would stay with host families where possible, and a varied programme is being prepared for us. Travel is by private car (sharing spaces) and taking the Portsmouth - Caen ferry as foot passengers, our friends from Argentan meeting us from the ferry. Or you can drive all the way, as you wish. If interested, contact Pat Warren 07526 033715 or patwarren14@hotmail.com

ENGAGING THE DISENGAGED

The Diocese, in partnership with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, is hosting an online seminar on **Tuesday 21st November**, at 6 pm for Catholics wishing to bring people closer to Christ led by Evangelist Sherry Weddell. Tickets are £10 per person, and you can purchase them using the link on the *News* page of our parish website.

WE PRAY FOR

- Maureen Logan, RIP. Funeral Tue. 3 Oct. at 11am.