

**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](http://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](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Confessions: Saturdays 11.00 – 11.30am or by appointment**

### LENT

This year, Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday on 22nd February**. Masses will be at 9am and 7pm.

### LENTEN FUNDRAISING PROJECT 2023

Thank you, once again, to all those who submitted proposals for our Lenten project for this year. After careful consideration of them all, the PPC has chosen **ECOLE DON BOSCO, IN HADATH BAALBECK IN LEBANON**, run by Salesian Sisters. This school was opened in 1974 and is a centre for 1,200 children and young adults coming from 15 villages in the surrounding area. The small community works for the benefit of these schoolchildren, mostly coming from non-affluent families. In these extremely hard times for Lebanon, the school suffers from a dire shortage of necessary provisions that are vitally important for a good education and standard of living.

Ash Wednesday is on 22 February and Lent begins on Sunday 26 March. This gives time for individuals and small groups to formulate ideas and plans for fundraising. Information on the school and current dates for your diary, are available in the leaflet which is being distributed after all Masses this Sunday and copies will be available in the Church and on our parish website. If you are able to **organise and do** something, please submit your proposal to the parish office as soon as possible. **"TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THESE LEAST BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME"** (Matthew 25:40). Thank you.

### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

A Screening of *'The Letter'* will take place in the Parish Centre at **4.30pm on Sunday 19 February**. The 80-minute film stars Pope Francis as he invites community leaders from all over the world to come to Rome to talk about a change of heart in the light of the environmental crisis. The film follows his *Laudato Si* encyclical. The event is free, and there will be popcorn and Fairtrade nibbles! Further details from Margaret Hancox [margaretdhancox@gmail.com](mailto:margaretdhancox@gmail.com)

### Week 6 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 1 (A)

#### Sunday 12 Feb

8.45am Mass (John Arthur Beale RIP)  
10.15am Mass (Geoff Wyatt RIP)  
2.00pm Mass in Polish  
6.30pm Mass (*Special Intention*)

#### Monday 13 Feb

8.30am Rosary  
9.00am Mass (Private Intention)

#### Tuesday 14 Feb

**St Cyril & St Methodius**

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

#### Wednesday 15 Feb

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

#### Thursday 16 Feb

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

#### Friday 17 Feb

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

#### Saturday 18 Feb

11am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
11-11.30am Confessions  
12pm Mass (Robert Willaim Butt Pole RIP)

### PRAYER FOR VICTIMS OF THE EARTHQUAKE

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to bring to eternal life those have died in the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, to restore to health and well-being the injured and those suffering losses, to comfort the bereaved and to grant strength and perseverance to the rescue workers.

## A GAP YEAR OPPORTUNITY

Are you 18-30, or do you know someone who is? Do you want to develop a wide range of skills including leadership while learning about global justice and inspiring others to use their faith in action? CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, believes in equipping and inspiring young adults to contribute to a more just and peaceful world. Step into the Gap is a fully funded year of volunteering, with food, accommodation, stipend and training within a UK placement plus a Rome and Assisi pilgrimage. Visit the CAFOD website for more information: [cafod.org.uk/gapyear](http://cafod.org.uk/gapyear)

## LENTEN RETREAT

The Carmelite Priory at Boars Hill are offering a FREE online retreat using Zoom – **Lent: A Time of Grace and Prayer**, which invites us to reflect on Lent as a time of grace-filled encounter with God. The retreat runs over 6 evenings and you can view the details on the *News* page of our website, where you will also find the link to register. You can also contact by phone at 07849 596572 or by email: [ruth.preston@carmelite.org.uk](mailto:ruth.preston@carmelite.org.uk)

## WARM SPACE

We continue to run a lovely Warm Space on Mondays 11am – 3pm in the parish centre. We offer conversation, deep listening, board games, children's toys and a relaxed and warm environment!

## BABY & TODDLER GROUP

There will be no Baby and Toddler group on Fri 17<sup>th</sup> February due to half term.

## BISHOP PHILIP'S PRAYER BOOK

You can download it from the link on the *News* page on our website. Also, if you would like a larger print copy (A5) then please email: [events@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:events@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

## BISHOP PHILIP'S SIX HOLY HABITS – DAILY PRAYER

You may remember that Bishop Philip has been encouraging everyone in the Diocese to adopt and to put into practice six holy habits. Over the next weeks in the Diocesan e-News, he is going to explore in turn each holy habit to help us reflect more deeply on what is being asked and how we might respond. You can read the **second** of his reflections on *Daily Prayer*, on the *News* page of our parish website.

## POPE FRANCIS – FEBRUARY PRAYER INTENTION

Pope Francis' prayer intention for this month is for parishes. We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need. You can view his video on the *News* page of our parish website.

## WE PRAY FOR

- Josephine Pearson RIP. Funeral Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> March, 11am.

## PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Monday:** *Warm Space* in the parish centre from 11am to 3pm.
- **Tuesday:** Mothers' prayers, in French, in the parish centre at 8pm.
- **Friday:** *Baby & Toddler* group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time – NOT THIS WEEK

## FUTURE DATES

- **Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Screening of film *'The Letter'* in the parish centre at 4.30pm.
- **Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Feb:** *Journeying Together in Faith (JTIF)* at 7.30pm in the parish centre. All welcome.
- **Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb:** *Simple Soup Supper* after evening Mass, in the parish centre, in support of our Lenten project.
- **Thu 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb:** Grandparents' Association meeting in the parish centre at 2.30pm. All welcome.
- **Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Feb:** FHC preparation, Session 4, 8.50am to 10am, in the church.
- **Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Youth groups meet in the parish centre from 3.30 to 5pm. All in year 3 or above are welcome.

## FUNDRAISING FOR CAFOD

Do consider using your skills and talents to help CAFOD raise money for those living in poverty overseas. If you prefer to take on a sponsored challenge don't forget the CAFOD *BIG Lent Walk* - walking 5km for the 40 days of Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February. You can get more information for this and sign up the walk at: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

## GRANDPARENTS' ASSOCIATION (CGA)

*OPEN INVITATION TO ALL TO JOIN OUR CGA MEETING ON THURSDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY*, when the writer and broadcaster Joanna Bogle will be giving a talk in the parish centre at 2.30pm. **Everyone** is most welcome to come along, to meet Joanna and to listen to her talk about her life, her writings and much more. Further information from Clare 524861 or Mary 534873.

## FLAME YOUTH GATHERING

On **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March** a Diocesan contingent, led by Bishop Philip will be travelling to Wembley Arena to attend the biggest Catholic Youth Event in the country: *Flame 2023*, which is always an awesome and inspiring experience. All young people in school year 9 or above, are welcome to join in. There are only a few days left to take advantage of the discounted tickets, priced £27 each, available from [youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) Transport by coach from St John's Cathedral in Portsmouth to the venue has now been arranged. Seats on the coach are £30 each and must be booked via [youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk). **Book NOW!**