

# ***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**

## **REFLECTION**

The world, Jesus says is like a field in which wheat and weeds grow side by side. The Church is the same, and so is each one of us. Each of us is a mixture of good and evil. Let us pause for a moment to look into the field of our lives to see what is growing there. "I found one great lesson from my years in prison camps. I learned how a person becomes evil and how he becomes good. When I was young, I thought I was infallible, and I was cruel to those under me. I was madly in love with power and, in exercising it, I was a murderer and an oppressor. Yet, in my most evil moments I thought I was doing good and I had plenty of arguments with which to justify my deeds. It was only when things were reversed, when as a prisoner I lay on rotten straw, that I began to feel within myself the first stirrings of good. Gradually, I came, to realise that the line that separates good from evil passes not between states, or even between classes, or between political parties – but through every human heart. Even in hearts that are overwhelmed by evil, one small bridgehead of good is retained. And in the best of all hearts there remains an unuprooted corner of evil". (Gulag Archipelago Vol II)

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

The duty of fostering vocations rests with the entire Christian community. Look out and encourage and invite. We can all plant the seed. Lord, you have always been our Good Shepherd and great High Priest. In every age we believe you call us to be of special service to your holy people. Send your spirit, Lord, so that all those you call will know how to respond with a generous heart and come to experience the peace which is a sign of your love for us.

## **PARISH OFFICE**

The parish office will be closed on the following dates:  
**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July** and from **11.30am on Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> August until Tues 29<sup>th</sup> August.**

## **Week 16 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 1 (A)**

### **Sunday 23 July**

8.45am Mass (D'Silva Family RIP)  
10.15am Mass (Jack McCoull RIP)  
2.00pm Mass in Polish  
6.30pm Mass (*Special Intention*)

### **Monday 24 July**

8.30am Rosary  
9.00am Mass (In Thanksgiving Sofia Kolb)

### **Tuesday 25 July**

#### **St James, Apostle**

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 26 July**

#### **St Joachim & St Anne**

6.30pm Rosary  
7.00pm Mass (Jeremiah & Edith Collins RIP)

### **Thursday 27 July**

9.00am Rosary  
9.30am Mass (Helen & Rodney Newman Diamond Anniversary)

### **Friday 28 July**

6.30pm Rosary  
7.00pm Mass (Private Intention)

### **Saturday 29 July**

#### **Ss Martha, Mary & Lazarus**

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

## **OPEN DOORS**

Open Doors is continuing over the Summer on a fortnightly basis on 24th July, 7th August & 21st August and then every Monday (except Bank Holidays) from 4th Sept, from 11.30am to 2.30 pm in the Parish Centre. We offer tea, coffee, lunch. If you or someone you know are on your own or would like more company, do come along – you will be very welcome.

## PARISH WILDFLOWER MEADOW

Last week we appealed for help in the care of our wildflower meadow, which has been lovingly cared for by Steve Stevens since it became part of our common efforts to become a Live Simply Parish in 2016. Grateful to those of you who have generously offered your help to continue the work. Since Laudato Si was issued by Pope Francis the care of our planet and the need to be more aware of our environment has become paramount. As our Parish Live Simply team ages there is always the need to appeal for fresh volunteers. If you would like to get involved please let us know via the Parish Office.

## WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS & ELDERLY

Dear Lord, we thank you for the grandparents and elderly relatives throughout the world, their lives and their vocation. We are grateful for their love, care and advice that they give to each of us. Protect them dear Lord in all that they do, as we continue to be blessed by their wisdom in our communities. Guide them in their earthly pilgrimage and always keep them close to your heart, so that they continue to generously respond to your call. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

## RCIA/JOURNEY IN FAITH SESSIONS – VIA ZOOM

What is Love? What is Happiness? What is the meaning of my Life? Who is Jesus? Who do they say that I am? I am with you always. Peace be with you. Do not be afraid. Come and see. You might wish to find out more about Jesus, would like to receive baptism, become a Catholic, or may be a Catholic but not confirmed? If so, RCIA/Journey in Faith could be for you. "Come and See" the way we welcome new people into the Catholic Church with an introduction to RCIA on **Tuesday 12th September at 7.30pm**. Sessions begin on **19th September at 7.30pm**. If you are interested, please contact Pauline Hanley email: [pehanley@hotmail.com](mailto:pehanley@hotmail.com) or Tel: 07506 753085 for further information and meeting link.

## SVP – CASH4COINS

Going away on holiday or returning? Please consider keeping any remaining cash to donate for the work of our parish SVP group. We will be collecting any donations in the Autumn – date to be given nearer the time. Sterling currency will also be welcomed. Thank you.

## SUPPORTING THE FOODBANK

LOCATION OF FOOD DONATION POINT	OPENING HOURS
Waitrose Abingdon, Abbey Close, OX14 3HL	7.30am to 9pm (8pm Sat)
North Foodbank, Christ Church, Northcourt Rd, OX14 1PL	Tues & Fri 10am to 1pm
South Foodbank, Preston Road community Centre, OX14 5NR	Weds 1pm to 2.30pm

## 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.
- **Friday:** *Baby & Toddler* group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.

## FUTURE DATES

- **Mon 7<sup>th</sup> August:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11.30am to 2.30pm.

## YEAR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In his Pastoral Letter in February Bishop Philip dedicated this year as "The Year of the Holy Spirit". It is the grace of the Holy Spirit that renews us, our hearts and souls and brings our faith alive. The Bishop challenged us to establish or pledge to develop six "holy habits"

- To keep Sunday special attending Mass
- To pray with scripture for five minutes daily
- To do some penance on Fridays for the poor and needy
- Fortnightly, to visit the Blessed Sacrament in prayer
- To go to confession monthly
- To join groups for formation, prayer,

## CHURCH TWINNING VISIT TO ARGENTAN

Thurs 12th to Mon 16th October 2023. Celebrating 25 years of twinning with Abingdon churches, 15 people have been invited to commemorate this link. We would stay with host families where possible, and a varied programme is being prepared for us. Ideally transport is by private car (sharing spaces) using the Portsmouth to Caen ferry. If interested, contact Pat Warren 07526 033715 or [patwarren14@hotmail.com](mailto:patwarren14@hotmail.com)

## CAFOD

CAFOD Portsmouth is hosting two meetings in September so that volunteers and supporters can find out more about our work. The first meeting is on **Saturday 9th September at St Bedes Church hall, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX** from 10:30 am to 12:30pm. The second meeting is on **Saturday 16th September at St Michael & All Angels Church hall, Dunsbury Way, Leigh Park PO9 5BD** from 10:30am to 1:30pm (lunch is provided). Everyone is welcome but please book so that we have an idea of numbers by emailing Jo Lewry: [portsmouth@cafod.org.uk](mailto:portsmouth@cafod.org.uk)

## WE PRAY FOR:

- Margaret Gosling RIP. Funeral Wed 26<sup>th</sup> July at 12.30pm.
- John Carey RIP. Funeral Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> July at 1pm.
- Anthony Leach RIP. Funeral 2<sup>nd</sup> August at 11am.
- Patricia Salazar RIP.