

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: 8.15am - 12.15pm 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 – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

It is not always easy to believe that Christ is present in our world. Like doubting Thomas, we all experience moments of doubt and uncertainty. But as we assemble here each Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist, we ought to experience a great strengthening of our faith. Let us not hide our doubts but bring them to Christ.

Whilst Jesus was alive, Thomas was as strong as an oak. But when Jesus was put to death, he became a reed shaking in the winds of doubt. The truth was, though he didn't realise it at the time, that it was the Master who was the oak, and he was a mere sapling growing in his shade. When the oak fell he was defenceless. All of us are shaken by the words of doubt. We need to look at the Lord's wounds and hear his gentle voice saying to us: "Cease doubting and believe." Then, with Thomas, we shall make bold to say: "My Lord and my God".

VOCATIONS PRAYER

Dear Lord, I come before you, acknowledging your sovereignty over all things. Guide our youth I pray, with your gentle hand. May your voice be the one they hear amidst the clamour, calling them to a life of service and devotion to your Holy name. Grant them courage, O Lord, to embrace the vocations you have destined for them. May their hearts and minds be open to your divine will. Give them the strength and perseverance to follow their calling and instil in them a spirit of humility to serve you fruitfully and selflessly. May they find joy in the journey of their vocation, knowing that in each step they fulfil your purpose for their lives. In Jesus' name we entrust our young people to your loving care. Amen.

LENTEN FUNDRAISING CAR WASH

The young people of our parish will be washing cars for the Lenten projects today, **Sunday 27th April** during the 10.15am Mass. If you would like your car washed on that day, please park in the OLA car park.

Second Week of Easter: Cycle 1 (C)

Sunday 27 April

8.45am Mass
10.15am Mass
6.30pm Mass

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

(Marian Schmatz & Family RIP)
(Fuensantas Montero RIP)
(Florence Young RIP)

Monday 28 April

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass

St George

(Mark Castle Intentions)

Tuesday 29 April

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

St Catherine of Siena

Wednesday 30 April

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass

2nd week of Easter

Thursday 1 May

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass

2nd week of Easter

(Clementina Guarracino RIP)

Friday 2 May

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass

St Athanasius

Saturday 3 May

11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
11-11.30am Confessions
12pm Mass

Saints Philip & James

THANK YOU

Special thanks to all who helped in any way in making our Easter feasts so wonderful - from those who prepared the Church by cleaning and decorating beautifully, to all the readers and ministers, and particularly our choirs and musicians. My thanks as ever for your kindness to me in your Easter offerings. It is very much appreciated.

Fr Jamie

EASTER COLLECTION

The Easter Collection is an opportunity for us to give thanks to God for the ministry of our priest, Fr Jamie. You can still make your donation online this week using the link on the *Home* page of our parish website. Thank you.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the pupils and staff at St Edmund's School, who raised £178 for our Lenten projects from their non-uniform day. Our online collection, accessible in the *What's On* section of our parish website, remains open this week, and so far has raised £1,562. There is still a little time left to make your contribution, and the PPC will announce the full total as soon as we can.

ALPHA COURSE IN SPANISH

Looking for answers? Alpha in Spanish. Alpha Course en Español. Estás interesado? Por favor contáctame al mblegge@gmail.com

EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church there to support families affected by the disaster. CAFOD has partnered with the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), a coalition of leading UK aid charities, to launch a wide relief effort. You can donate online on the *News* page of our parish website, or by calling 0303 303 3030. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10.

OPEN DOORS

There will be **no** Open Doors sessions on the following dates as we don't meet on Bank Holidays: 5th May (May Day) and 26th May (Late May Bank Holiday).

'YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES' PRAYER

O Lord, graciously look down upon us your servants and upon our work to build Your Holy Church here in this place. Enlighten our minds and lead us into all truth as we seek to do Your will. Abundantly bless our labours, that Your Holy Church may serve You ever more faithfully to the glory of Your Holy name. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT COURSE

CHARIS Portsmouth is arranging a new Life in the Spirit course online on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm, starting Thursday 8th May. There are seven sessions (with a week off over half-term at the end of May) and a Holy Spirit Day live at English Martyrs Church in Reading on Saturday 7th June. You can register for the course using the link on the *News* page of our parish website.

WE PRAY FOR:

- Florence Young, RIP
- Tereza Cole-Morgan, RIP. Funeral Friday 16th May at 12 noon.

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Monday:** Open Doors in the parish centre from 10.30am to 2.30pm.
- **Tuesday:** JTiF (*Journeying Together in Faith*) in the parish centre at 7.30pm.
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am **in term time**.

FUTURE DATES

- **Tue 6th May:** JTiF (*Journeying Together in Faith*) final session in the parish centre at 7.30pm.

JUBILEE REFLECTION – TRIBUTE TO POPE FRANCIS

Hope was as the heart of Pope Francis's papacy. He chose Francis as his papal name in honour of Saint Francis of Assisi. Throughout his public life, Francis was noted for his humility, emphasis on God's mercy, international visibility as pope, concern for the poor, and commitment to interreligious dialogue. Pope Francis said of himself: *"The pope is a man who laughs, cries, sleeps well and has friends like everyone else; a normal person."* It is this humble attitude and the normalcy that he brought to the papal office that captivated audiences, both young and old.

Dedicatedly serving to the end, he made his last public appearance on Easter Sunday, the day before he died. Pope Francis promoted equity and an end to poverty and suffering across the globe. And above all, he was a pope for everyone. He was the People's Pope - a light of faith, hope, and love. Pope Francis used *"Pilgrims of Hope"* as the theme for the 2025 Jubilee, emphasizing the importance of hope and the journey of faith. The Jubilee encourages Catholics to renew their hope in Christ and to see themselves as pilgrims, constantly journeying towards God. This theme also highlights the importance of walking together in faith and being agents of hope for others. As Cardinal Kevin Farrell said: *"With immense gratitude for his example as a true disciple of the Lord Jesus, we commend the soul of Pope Francis to the infinite merciful love of the One and Triune God."*

25 YEARS of CHURCH TWINNING

To celebrate, we will be hosting visitors from our twin towns of St Niklaas, Schongau and Argentan from Thurs 12 - Mon 16 June. We will organize a programme of daily events, but we are looking for hosts to offer accommodation for the 4 nights or provide an evening meal for one or two guests on the Saturday. All the guests speak good English, so there will be no language problems. If you can help or need more details, please contact Pat Warren: patwarren14@hotmail.com 07526 0033715 or Anne Dodd: peteranne@aol.com 01235 525997.