

**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 at JR Hospital: 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**

### THANK YOU

My thanks go to all who worked hard to make our Christmas a wonderful parish event: to the cleaners and flower group, altar servers, choirs, readers, stewards.... My thanks too, for all your cards and gifts and best wishes on my anniversary and for Christmas – you've been hugely generous to me and it is much appreciated. **Fr Jamie**

### CREATING WARM SPACES

Our parish will join in this national initiative between early January and the end of March on MONDAYS, between 11am and 4pm. We will offer hot lunches, drinks and snacks, games, listening and conversations in a warm and relaxing space. We are looking for volunteers to come for either part or all of the day. You do not need to commit to every week! We would also be grateful for anyone who can cook meals or snacks, probably at home, and bring them to the Parish Centre. Please contact us soon if you are interested so that we can make a rota and brief you further on the role. Email [clare@claresimpson.com](mailto:clare@claresimpson.com) or phone 847804.

**Who do you know** who would appreciate coming to a Warm Space, perhaps with us on a Monday or other places in the town on different days. Please think about your neighbours, friends and contacts, and mention it to them. Do give Clare's contact details to them or, with permission, give us their details. Flyers will be available for you to give to others.

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS RETREAT DAY

The Dominican sisters will be running a retreat day for all existing and prospective Eucharistic Ministers on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January from 10am to 3pm in our parish centre.**

**Please save this date in your diary as, importantly, it will also be an opportunity to renew or gain your faculty.**

### Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Year A)

#### Sunday 1 Jan

8.45am	Mass	<b>Mary, the Holy Mother of God</b> (Julie Lardner, RIP)
10.15am	Mass	( <i>Special intention</i> )
2.00pm	Mass in Polish	
6.30pm	Mass	(Statia Dunne, RIP)

#### Monday 2 Jan

8.30am	Rosary	<b>Ss Basil the Great &amp; Gregory Nazianzen</b>
9.00am	Mass	(Marie Lally, RIP)

#### Tuesday 3 Jan

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 4 Jan

6.30pm	Rosary	
7.00pm	Mass	( <i>Special intention</i> )

#### Thursday 5 Jan

9.00am	Rosary	
9.30am	Mass	(Marcella Incarbona, RIP)

#### Friday 6 Jan

8.30am	Rosary	<b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>
9.00am	Mass	( <i>Special intention</i> )
6.30pm	Rosary	
7.00pm	Mass	( <i>Special intention</i> )

#### Saturday 7 Jan

11am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
11-11.30am	Confessions	
12pm	Mass	( <i>Special intention</i> )

### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

There will be Masses at 9am and 7pm on this Holy Day of obligation on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January.**

## PARISH FUNDRAISER FOR MARY'S MEALS

You are invited to join us for an evening with the fabulous *Oxford Gospel Events Choir* (BBC Gospel Choir of the year finalists!) and with guest appearance by **Dr Patti Boulaye** OBE, to raise money for the charity *Mary's Meals*. *Mary's Meals* serve nutritious school meals to children living in some of the world's poorest countries. The promise of a good meal attracts these hungry children into the classroom, giving them the energy to learn and hope for a better future. More information on their website at: [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk)

This event will take place on **Saturday 14th January 2023 at 7.30pm in our church** (parking is available at OLA School OX14 3PS). Tickets £10 (children under 12 years £5) and will be available on the door (cash please). For more information contact Sue on 07598315375.

## ABINGDON FOOD BANK

Please continue to support the Abingdon Food Bank. However, please do not leave your contributions in our church. The collection points are at:

- Waitrose Abingdon, Abbey Close
- North Foodbank, Christ Church, Northcourt Rd
- South Foodbank, Preston Road Community Centre

**Thank you.**

## LENT CHARITY FUND RAISING 2023

During the season of Advent, the PPC ask you to think about charities which we could sponsor during Lent 2023. We would ideally like to fundraise for 2 charities, one local/UK based and one world- wide. Please give this some consideration and send suggestions to the parish office **by Monday 10th January 2023**.

## ENJOY QUIZZES?

An inter-church quiz has been arranged for the **20th January** at the Peachcroft Christian Centre. There will be teams of six and you will need to register your team with [emjay.haynes@gmail.com](mailto:emjay.haynes@gmail.com) **by the 6th January**. This is a chance for a fun evening with our fellow Christians - why not get a team together from our church....

## BIBLE ALIVE

Limited copies of the January edition are now available on the table at the back of the church. This publication is a useful aid for anyone who would like to reflect daily on the readings used in the Masses. Why not start the new year the way you hope to continue!

## ARE YOU IN NEED?

If you are in need or know someone who is, do contact our parish SVP group (St Vincent de Paul Society) via the parish office and we will see what we can do to help. We always maintain confidentiality. Our members meet every fortnight on a Wednesday evening.

## BABY & TODDLER GROUP

The group re-starts on Friday 13th January.

## PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

• **Sunday:**

### FUTURE DATES

- **Mon 9th Jan:** Journeying Together in Faith (JTIF) at 7.30pm in the parish centre. All welcome.
- **Fri 13th Jan:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.
- **Sat 14th Jan:** Youth groups meet in the parish centre from 3.30 to 5pm. All in year 3 or above are welcome.
- **Sat 14th Jan:** Oxford Gospel Events Choir in the church at 7.30pm. See main section of newsletter for further information and ticket prices.

## FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND (FHL)

*Friends of the Holy Land (FHL)* would like to thank all parishioners who raised £1014 through the various church collections, for Christians in the Holy Land. Conditions continue to be extremely challenging there, so please continue to remember *FHL* and those we support, in your prayers.

## REFLECTIONS ON THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The Greek word Epiphany (*επιφάνεια*), means *appearance* or *manifestation*. The "Epiphany of the Lord" is Jesus' manifestation not only to the three Magi from the East, but it's also a symbolic but real manifestation of the Christ to the whole world. These Magi, travelling from a foreign and non-Jewish nation, reveal that Jesus came for **all** people, and all are called to adore Him. God used what they were familiar with to call them to adore the Christ - He used a star. They understood the stars and when they saw this new and unique star over Bethlehem, they realised that something special was happening. So, the first lesson we take from this for our own lives is that God will use what is familiar to us to call us to Himself. Look for the "star" that God is using to call you. It's closer than you may think! A second thing to note is that the Magi fell prostrate before the Christ Child. They laid their lives down before Him in complete surrender and adoration, setting a perfect example for us. If these astrologers from a foreign land could come and adore Christ in such a profound way, we must do the same. The Magi bring gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, gifts that acknowledge this Child as the Divine King who would die to save us from sin. Gold is for a King, frankincense is a burnt offering to God, and myrrh is used for one who would die. Thus, their adoration is grounded in the truths of who this Child is. Let us reflect on what God is using to call us to Himself, and when we discover Him, let us not hesitate to acknowledge the full truth of who He is, and offer ourselves to Him in complete and humble submission.

## WE PRAY FOR

- Julie Lardner, RIP
- Sarah Duggan, RIP