

# ***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](mailto: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 Pharisees were mainly concerned with externals, so that their worship of God became a matter of untoward show. They gave God the service of their lips, but their hearts were far from him. That danger is present for us all – mere externalism. We are about to begin our great weekly act of worship. Are we going to worship our Father with our hearts or with our lips only? For it is not clean fingernails or hands that make a person clean in the sight of God. To be truly clean is to be clean of heart. For the heart is what I AM deep down. It is real for me. And while we are all capable of deception, a corrupt heart will sooner or later show itself in the face. At the same time a clean heart like a clear mountain lake shines in the face. Jesus looked at the Pharisees and said to them: *“These men are no better than whitewashed tombs, they are clean on the outside, but inside they are full of corruption”*. But he looked at Nathaniel and said: *“Here is a true Israelite, a man whom there is no trace of deceit”*. In other words, here was a transparent person. Here was a man who was clean of heart, and therefore clean all over.

## **PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons and religious. Send your Holy Spirit to help others respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth and young adults.

*“The entire People of God is responsible for promoting vocations and does so chiefly by persistent and humble prayer for vocations”*. (Pope John Paul II *Ecclesia in America*, No. 40).

## **PARISH OFFICE**

The parish office will be closed on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

## **SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY**

The second collection on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September will be for the Catholic Education Service.

## **Week 22 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 2 (B)**

### **Sunday 1 September**

8.45am Mass (Pat & Geoff Castle Intentions)  
10.15am Mass (Dean Jeacock RIP)  
6.30pm Mass (Tony Lee RIP)

### **Monday 2 September**

8.30am Rosary  
9.00am Mass (Edward & Jean Cooper RIP)

### **Tuesday 3 September St Gregory the Great**

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 September**

6.30pm Rosary  
7.00pm Mass (Celia Edwards & Celia Jones RIP)

### **Thursday 5 September**

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

### **Friday 6 September**

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

### **Saturday 7 September Our Lady on Saturday**

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

## **SVP – HERE TO HELP**

Our parish St Vincent de Paul (SVP) society group is here to help those in need as best we can, and if we can. If you are in need, or know somebody who is, please don't hesitate to contact us via the parish office. Equally, do let us know if you would like to find out more about us and what we do, or would like to become involved.

## YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES:

The next important step on our path following Bishop Philip's Pastoral Ten Year Plan is to come and hear what our Pastoral Area "Design" group are suggesting is the best way forward for us in English Martyrs Vale of White Horse. A meeting will be held in the parish centre on **Tues 10<sup>th</sup> September** from 7pm. It will be hosted by the Parish Finance Team and Parish Pastoral Council jointly. It is open to all parishioners who are keen to support and be part of a bright future together. Do come along. Thank you.

## PILGRIMAGE TO CARMELITE PRIORY, BOARS HILL

The Friday prayer group are organising a pilgrimage to the Carmelite Priory at Boars Hill. This is taking place on **Sat 14<sup>th</sup> September** from 2.30pm to 6.00pm. The journey from our church to Boars Hill is open to everybody and can be undertaken on foot, by bus, by bike or by car, with prayer integrated into the journey. *Proposed times for each group will be:*

- Walking group leaves at 2.30pm;
- Cycling group leaves at 4.00pm;
- Travel by bus group leaves at 3.15pm;
- Travel by car group leaves at 4.25 pm;
- Home-based spiritual companions pray from 4.30pm at home.

Please register your interest/participation using this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/99t81F26af> or pick up a form from back of church. **For any queries**, phone Sabina on 07449825161.

## BECOMING A CATHOLIC: RCIA SESSIONS

Do you want to find out more about Jesus? Would you like to become a Catholic, be baptised or confirmed into the Catholic Church? Are you a Catholic who has never been confirmed, or maybe have a relative or friend who is interested in finding out about the Catholic faith? - if so, RCIA could be for you. Since Jesus first invited His followers to, "Come, follow me", the image of journey has been used to describe Christian faith. For each of us faith is a journey marked with moments of conversion along the way .... we move from unbelief to initial faith, from fear to love. Our weekly sessions begin on **Wed 18<sup>th</sup> September** at 7.30pm-9.00pm via zoom. If you would like to meet the RCIA team before we begin, you are invited for coffee and cake on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September after 10.15 am mass in the parish centre. For further details and zoom link please email Pauline Hanley: [pehanley@hotmail.com](mailto:pehanley@hotmail.com)

## VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

We desperately need fresh volunteers to come forward. Firstly, our Baby & Toddler group on a Friday morning needs some help to bring the toys from the garage and clear them away at the end. If you can help, please contact the office or speak to Fr Jamie directly. Also, in order to re-launch Children's Liturgy at the 10.15am Mass for 20-25 minutes and rejoin the congregation for the Eucharistic Prayer, we really need some young mums and dads to try this. Again, please contact the office or speak to Fr Jamie.

## PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Monday:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11am to 2pm.

## FUTURE DATES

- **Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.
- **Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Pilgrimage to Carmelite Priory at Boars Hill from 2.30pm.
- **Tue 24<sup>th</sup> Sept:** *Alpha* course begins in the parish centre from 7pm to 9.30pm.

## SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation begins today, a time during which the ecumenical family from around the world comes together to listen to and care for the world, our common home. The season begins on 1st September and concludes on 4th October, the Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. The message from Pope Francis and other resources for the season, can be viewed on the *News* page of our parish website.

## ALPHA COURSE

*Alpha* is for everyone. If you want to know more about Jesus, this might be the course for you. It will take place in the Parish Centre on Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 9.30pm for 11 weeks, beginning on **24<sup>th</sup> September**. The full programme can be seen on the poster on our parish noticeboard, in the parish centre, and on our parish website, where you can also download it. Flyers are also available at the back of the church.

If you have any questions or can let us know that you will volunteer your help, please email either Jimena: [jimena.belmonte@gmail.com](mailto:jimena.belmonte@gmail.com) or Sandar: [sandarwade@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sandarwade@yahoo.co.uk)

## CATHY'S MOBILE CAR WASH

Parishioner Cathy Castle runs her own mobile vehicle cleaning service, and she is asking for your support to raise £1000 to roof a church in Africa which is getting damaged due to rain. This church is close to her heart and her family has helped to look after this parish since before she was even born. She will be in the car park before the 8.45am Mass this Sunday and also on 8<sup>th</sup> September. If you are interested, you could drop your car from 7.45am or you could book in advance by phoning her on 07511 505469. As she is mobile, she covers a wide local area, so please do give her details to others. Thank you for your support.

## WE PRAY FOR

- Margaret Baskerville, RIP. Funeral at 2pm on Tues. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept.
- Denis Brophy, RIP. Funeral 12noon on Mon. 9<sup>th</sup> Sept.