

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

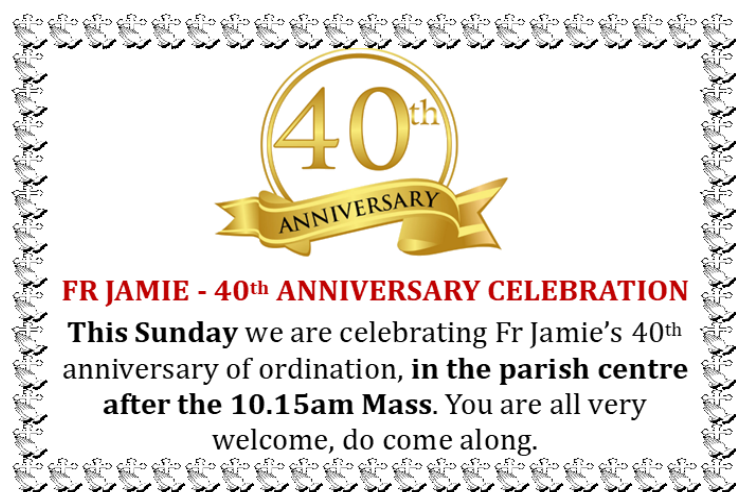
Parish Priest: Fr. Jamie McGrath Tel: 01235 520375
Parish Secretary: Lisa Paterson Tel: 01235 520375
Office Hours: 9am - 12.30pm Tuesday to Friday
Office Email: abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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
Primary School: St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558

Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871 www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Confessions: Saturdays 11.00 – 11.30am or by appointment



FR JAMIE - 40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

This Sunday we are celebrating Fr Jamie's 40th anniversary of ordination, **in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.** You are all very welcome, do come along.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS RETREAT DAY

The Dominican sisters will be running a retreat day for all existing and prospective Eucharistic Ministers on **Saturday 21st 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.

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.

The Dorchester branch of the SVP are twinned with that in Turt, Romania, very close to the Ukraine border. The Catholic priest there, Fr Remus, has largely completed a house intended to receive teenagers leaving orphanages, but in the present emergency he wants to press into using this to house refugees from Ukraine, since the numbers are rising very quickly again as winter bites. Several SVP groups are aiming to raise £9000 to enable the work to be completed, and especially to get a wood burning boiler installed for necessary heating. Time is of the essence! If you are able to contribute to this project, please contact John Radice from Dorchester, whose email is: dorchestersvp@gmail.com Thank you.

4th Week of Advent (Year A)

Sunday 18 Dec

8.45am	Mass	4th Sunday of Advent
10.15am	Mass	(John McCarthy, RIP)
2.00pm	Mass in Polish	(Fr Jamie intentions)
6.30m	Mass	(Private intention)

Monday 19 Dec

8.30am	Rosary	
9.00am	Mass	(Mary McShane, RIP)

Tuesday 20 Dec

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

Wednesday 21 Dec

6.30pm	Rosary	
7.00pm	Mass	(Carol O'Dwyer, RIP)

Thursday 22 Dec

9.00am	Rosary	
9.30am	Mass	(Jack McCarthy, RIP)

Friday 23 Dec

6.30pm	Rosary	
7.00pm	Mass	(John Stephen Brady, RIP)

Saturday 24 Dec

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

6pm	First Mass of Christmas	
8.30pm	Christmas Vigil with Carols	
9pm	Mass	

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.**

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS ON OUR WEBSITE

Check out the Advent calendar on our *Home* page and reflection in the *What's On* section.

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.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

24th December:

First Mass of Christmas	6.00pm
Christmas Vigil with Carols	8.30pm
Mass	9.00pm

25th December: 8.45am; 10.15am & 12.00pm

Mass in Polish	2.00pm
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MONDAY 26th DECEMBER – St Stephen's Day. Mass will be at 10am

DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTION

Pope Francis is asking the faithful to pray during December that volunteer organisations, and that those who work in them may work as *"artisans of mercy."* He encourages volunteer organisations and volunteers to continue in their labour promoting human dignity and the common good, working *"not just for the people, but with the people, being close to them, and listening to their needs."* You can view his message on the *News* page of our website.

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 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 soon for you to give to others.

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Celebration of Fr Jamie's 40th anniversary of ordination, in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass. All welcome.

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.

BISHOP PHILIP'S SIX HOLY HABITS

Bishop Philip reminds us that he has asked us to adopt **six holy habits**.

1. To keep Sunday special, as a family day, by attending Mass, the 'source and summit' of the Christian life, supporting your parish community
2. To resolve to spend at least five minutes a day in prayer, at whatever time you find best, using the Scriptures, maybe the Gospel of the day.
3. To keep Friday as a day of penance in honour of the Lord's Passion, intentionally serving the poor and needy.
4. At least once a fortnight, to pay a private visit to church for a short period of prayer before the Tabernacle.
5. To go to Confession once a month or so, like a spiritual check-up when you can personally experience God's love and mercy.
6. To join a small group for formation, prayer and fellowship, where you can share with others your own faith-experience and in turn hear what God is doing in the lives of others.

BABY & TODDLER GROUP

There will be no session on Friday 23rd December, but the group re-starts on Friday 13th January.

PRAYER FOR ADVENT – WEEK 4

Heavenly Father, the whole meaning of Christmas can be explained in one little four-letter word - LOVE. You sent your gift of pure love to us that first Christmas. Love descended from heaven to be born of a virgin. Love lay in the scratchy hay of a manger in a meagre barn in Bethlehem. This final week of Advent helps us to reflect on the magnitude of love that was made manifest in Jesus and fill our hearts and minds with the significance of that truth. Thank you, Lord. Amen.

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 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....