

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

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of Epiphany of the Lord, when we recall the wise men who came a great distance to adore Christ, to give him their homage much more than gold, frankincense and myrrh. They had searched for the star, searched for the truth, and had found that the truth had a name, Jesus. Everything changed as a result. They had found that reassurance, that pearl of great price and had given up what they had to give Jesus, the best they had. Like the wise men, we must search for the truth, we must follow the star wherever it leads us. All of us have a calling to follow the Lord and we need to focus harder on hearing God's voice. The Magi were almost certainly not kings, and we are not sure if they were rich. But one thing is certain – they were wise. They recognised Christ is the Saviour of the World. Whereas his own people, the Jews, for the most part rejected him. What does Christ mean to me? To what extent is he the 'star' that I follow? He is the one who reveals God's love, the Good Shepherd, the Light of the World.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

O God in Baptism you called me by name making me a member of your people – the Church. I praise you for your goodness, I thank you for your gifts. Father look upon your Church with love. Bless us with generous single men and women, with loving wives and husbands, with understanding parents, and trusting children, and with dedicated priests, sisters, deacons and brothers. Father grant me the grace to know your will in my own life. Help me to discern my own vocation and to embrace it freely and generously as a journey toward you.

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL

This Sunday (7th January) our second collection will be for the annual *White Flower Appeal*, to support Life through the work of the *Society for the Protection of Unborn Children* (SPUC). You can also make a donation using the link on the *News* page of our parish website. Please take a White Flower sticker to wear.

Epiphany of the Lord

Week 1 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 2 (B)

Sunday 7 Jan.

8.45am	Mass	EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Nicole Allsopp RIP)
10.15am	Mass	(RoseMary Oliver RIP)
2.00pm	Mass in Polish	
6.30pm	Mass	(Nellie Browne RIP)

Monday 8 Jan.

8.30am	Rosary	The Baptism of the Lord
9.00am	Mass	(Alexandra Paterson Intentions)

Tuesday 9 Jan.

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

Wednesday 10 Jan.

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

Thursday 11 Jan.

9.00am	Rosary	
9.30am	Mass	(<i>Special Intention</i>)

Friday 12 Jan.

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

Saturday 13 Jan.

11am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Our Lady on Saturday
11-11.30am	Confessions	
12pm	Mass	(<i>Special Intention</i>)

PEACE SUNDAY

Next Sunday (14th January) is designated by the Bishops of England and Wales as the Sunday to promote the Pope's Message for *World Peace Day*. There will also be a collection for *Pax Christi*, the International Catholic Movement for Peace.

CARING FOR THE PLANET

The Church in Abingdon (CiA) welcome everyone to participate in a 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' with the theme of 'Caring for our Planet'. This year the united service will take place at Our Lady & St Edmund's on Sunday 21st January 2024 between 4-5pm with a talk which it is anticipated will prove very interesting by speakers Martin and Margot Hodson. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the service. From Monday 22nd to Friday 26th January there will be each day a series of talks, conversations and prayer with a number of different speakers at St Nicholas' Church from 12 to 1pm. We do hope that you will be able to attend some or all of these events. More details, of the programme, will be available after Christmas.

OPEN DOORS/WARM SPACE

The first session of 2024 will be on Monday, 8th January in the parish centre. In anticipation of colder weather, *Open Doors/Warm Space* sessions will be slightly longer during January, February, and March. Sessions will run from **10.30 am** until 2.30 pm. We offer a warm space, friendly conversation, refreshments, and a hot lunch to anyone in the Parish or local community who is on their own or would just like more company or who would appreciate a warm space for a few hours. Do come along - you will be very welcome.

VACANCIES AT ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL

Our caring, Catholic school has been described as one which 'inspires pupils with determination to change the world' (Ofsted 2020). Now St Edmund's school is looking to welcome an enthusiastic, dynamic and committed:

- *Part time Teacher,*
- *Higher Level Teaching Assistant,*
- *Teaching Assistant*
- *Nursery Teaching Assistant*

supportive of our school mission and Catholic ethos to join our happy, motivated children. Please visit the School Website <https://st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk/> for further details of all the vacancies. Closing date: Friday 12th January 2024 at 12.00 noon.

VACANCY AT ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Headley Way, is seeking to recruit a Deputy Headteacher from April or September 2024. For more information, please contact the school office or visit the school website www.st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk/about-us/vacancies

ARE YOU IN NEED?

Our parish SVP group is always ready to help where we can. As well as visits, we can offer practical and financial help where possible, and we always maintain confidentiality. If you are aware of a need, please do contact us through the parish office. Our SVP members meet every fortnight on a Wednesday evening.

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

FUTURE DATES

- **Sun 14th Jan:** Peace Sunday.

ABINGDON COMMUNITY FRIDGE

Abingdon Community Fridge fights food waste by redistributing surplus food from local businesses and members of the community. The *Abingdon Community Fridge* is open to all. For more information you can use the link on the News page of our parish website or email:

info@abingdoncommunityfridge.org.uk They are located at Hadland Road Community Centre, OX14 3YH and are open on:

- Mondays: 4.00-4.30pm
- Thursdays: 1.00-2.00pm
- Saturdays: 10.30-11.30am

BURNS NIGHT

Celebrating Burns Night on Saturday 27th January at 7.30pm, Conduit Centre Trinity Church Abingdon OX14 1DB. Tickets £25 including meal and drinks Tickets available from Abingdon Bookstore and via www.abingdonpassionplay.co.uk Anne Green Ab. 520171 and Mary Mulqueen Ab. 534873. Proceeds in aid of Abingdon Passion Play which takes place on the 22nd June 2024.

MARYS MEALS FUNDRAISER 2024

Wonderful news!! OXFORD GOSPEL CHOIR RETURNS! Saturday 27th January at 7.30pm here in our church. If you can pre buy your tickets before 21st January, we can take part in the Double the Love campaign and literally double the amount that goes to the charity. Please contact Sue Richards on 07598 315375 for more information.

CAFOD SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you enjoy working with children and young people? Could you help to inspire and empower children and young people in your local Catholic schools by delivering an assembly or a workshop? Supported by CAFOD with training and all resources provided please consider the role of CAFOD school volunteer. For more information contact Jo Lewry jlewy@cafod.org.uk or phone 07710 094447