

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 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

God is continuously calling us to a better life through his word. Jesus compared the word of the God to a seed which a man plants in the ground. For the seed to grow it needs to be planted in good soil. What kind of soil do we offer God's word? If our lives are barren it can only mean that we have not allowed God's word to take root in our hearts. But God hasn't given up on us. And when we receive his word he makes our barren lives fruitful. Parents, teachers, priests and many others spend much of their lives implanting words. Naturally, they want to reap a harvest. But the harvest is often slow in coming. A handful of grains of wheat was found in the tomb of one of the kings of ancient Egypt. Someone planted and watered them. To the amazement of everyone, the grains came to life and began to grow, after five thousand years of lying in the tomb. The word of God once dropped into the human heart never dies.

PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father
Your Divine Son taught us to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into His vineyard. We ask you to bless our Diocese with selfless hearts that are willing to serve Your Church. Lord Jesus raise up from our homes, those called by your Father, courageous and humble men to the Priesthood, generous servants to the Diaconate, faithful people to the consecrated life, and holy men and women to the Sacrament of Marriage. Holy Spirit help us to live our lives in universal vocation to holiness, by listening to the Father's voice and responding with sacrificial love. Grant also that each vocation may serve as an example of Christ's Love. May our lives always be centred on our Lord in the Eucharist.

PARISH OFFICE

The parish office will be closed on the following dates:
Friday 21st & 28th July and from **11.30am on Thurs 10th August until Tues 29th August.**

Week 15 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 1 (A)

Sunday 16 July

8.45am Mass (Beck Family RIP)
10.15am Mass (Michael Ellwood RIP)
2.00pm Mass in Polish
6.30pm Mass (Tony Ryan RIP)

Monday 17 July

St Bonaventure

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (Gerard Hannigan RIP)

Tuesday 18 July

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

Wednesday 19 July

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Christina Quinn RIP)

Thursday 20 July

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass (Colin White RIP)

Friday 21 July

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Pat & Geoff Castle Intentions)

Saturday 22 July

St Mary Magdalene

11am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
11-11.30am Confessions
12pm Mass (Stanislaw Dyjak RIP)

LIGHT FOR THE BLIND

We are delighted to report that last Sunday's appeals will have raised circa £5k when all donations are finally in. Your wonderful generosity has given Fr Thomas a timely boost, and he sends his heartfelt thanks and blessings to you for your continuing support. His medical procedure has been delayed, and we will bring you news of his condition in due course. He is enormously comforted knowing your thoughts, love and prayers are with him.

SECOND COLLECTION

This **Sunday 16th July** the second collection is for the *Apostleship of the Sea (Stella Maris)*. In addition to making a donation in the church in the red boxes **after** Mass, or using the contactless card facility at the back of the church; you can also make donations online using the links on the *News* page of our website.

PARISH WILDFLOWER MEADOW

The small wildflower meadow, between the church and the parish centre, was created as part of our parish awareness of nature as we became a *Live Simply* Parish in 2016. Steve Stevens, a parishioner and keen naturalist, has overseen its care until recently but it now needs (an)other volunteer(s) to do an audit of the increasing number of wildflowers growing in the small meadow and to oversee the care of it. If you can offer to do this or would just like more information, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you.

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS & ELDERLY

Sunday 23rd July "His Mercy is from Age to Age" (Lk 1:50). This year we will celebrate the third World Day for grandparents and the elderly. Pope Francis in 2021 declared that this special day celebrating grandparents and elderly is to be held on the fourth Sunday of July. This is close to the liturgical memorial of Saints Joachim & Anna, the grandparents of Jesus. The theme this year coincides with that of the World Youth Day in Lisbon.- "His Mercy is from age to age" Let us pray for all the grandparents and elderly in the parish as well as Isaac, Luke and Matias who will be with the Holy Father in Portugal.

RCIA/JOURNEY IN FAITH SESSIONS – VIA ZOOM

What is Love? What is Happiness? What is the meaning of my Life? Who is Jesus? Who do they say that I am? I am with you always. Peace be with you. Do not be afraid. Come and see. You might wish to find out more about Jesus, would like to receive baptism, become a Catholic, or may be a Catholic but not confirmed? If so, RCIA/Journey in Faith could be for you.

"Come and See" the way we welcome new people into the Catholic Church with an introduction to RCIA on Tuesday 12th September at 7.30pm.

Sessions begin on 19th September at 7.30pm.

If you are interested please contact Pauline Hanley email: pehanley@hotmail.com or Tel: 07506 753085 for further information and meeting link.

OPEN DOORS

Open Doors is continuing over the Summer on a fortnightly basis on 24th July, 7th August and 21st August (note: no session on 17th July) and then every Monday (except Bank Holidays) from 4th September, from 11.30 am to 2.30 pm in the Parish Centre. We offer tea, coffee, lunch and conversation in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. If you or someone you know are on your own or would like more company, do come along – you will be very welcome.

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Friday:** *Baby & Toddler* group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.

FUTURE DATES

- **Mon 24th July:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11.30am to 2.30pm.

YEAR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In his Pastoral Letter in February Bishop Philip dedicated this year as "The Year of the Holy Spirit". It is the grace of the Holy Spirit that renews us, our hearts and souls and brings our faith alive. The Bishop challenged us to establish or pledge to develop six "holy habits"

- To keep Sunday special attending Mass
- To pray with scripture for five minutes daily
- To do some penance on Fridays for the poor and needy
- Fortnightly, to visit the Blessed Sacrament in prayer
- To go to confession monthly
- To join groups for formation, prayer,

CHURCH TWINNING VISIT TO ARGENTAN

Thurs 12th to Mon 16th October 2023. Celebrating 25 years of twinning with Abingdon churches, 15 people have been invited to commemorate this link. We would stay with host families where possible, and a varied programme is being prepared for us. Ideally transport is by private car (sharing spaces) using the Portsmouth to Caen ferry. If interested, contact Pat Warren 07526 033715 or patwarren14@hotmail.com

CAFOD

CAFOD Portsmouth is hosting two meetings in September so that volunteers and supporters can find out more about our work. The first meeting is on **Saturday 9th September at St Bedes Church hall , Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX** from 10:30 am to 12:30pm. The second meeting is on **Saturday 16th September at St Michael & All Angels Church hall , Dunsbury Way , Leigh Park PO9 5BD** from 10:30am to 1:30pm (lunch is provided). Everyone is welcome but please book so that we have an idea of numbers by emailing Jo Lewry: portsmouth@cafod.org.uk

WE PRAY FOR:

- John Carey RIP. Funeral Thurs 27th July at 1pm.
- Margaret Gosling RIP. Funeral Wed 26th July at 12.30pm.