

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 – THE HOLY FAMILY

On this feast we think of the Holy Family. But we also think of our own families, and of the family of the Church. Sadly, all our families are wounded by sin and division. We ask God to heal these wounds and divisions today.

Your children are not your children. They came through you but not from you. And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you. You may give them your love but not their thoughts. You may house their bodies but not their souls, for their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams. You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you. For life goes not backward nor carries with yesterday. You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Lord, you told us *“The harvest indeed is great, but the labourers are few. Pray therefore for the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest.”* We ask you to strengthen us as we follow the vocation to which you have called us. We pray particularly for those called to serve as priests in our Diocese. We pray for those called to serve as sisters, brothers and deacons. Father, we pray for those whom you have called, those you are calling now, and those you will call in the future. May they be open and responsive to the call of serving your people in the Church. We ask this through Christ our Lord. St Edmund of Abingdon, pray for us. Amen.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Many thanks to everyone who so generously contributed to the Christmas offering. *Fr Jamie.*

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL

Next Sunday (7th January) our second collection will be for the annual *White Flower Appeal*, to support Life.

Christmastide

Sunday 31 Dec.

8.45am Mass
10.15am Mass
6.30pm Mass

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

(*Special intention*)
(*Special intention*)
(Private intention)

Monday 1 Jan.

11.30am Rosary
12 noon Mass

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

(Ian Edwards, intentions)

Tuesday 2 Jan.

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

Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

Wednesday 3 Jan.

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

Thursday 4 Jan.

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

Friday 5 Jan.

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

Saturday 6 Jan.

11am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
11-11.30am Confessions
12pm Mass (Ann Walsh, RIP)



THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS

In his 'Urbi et Orbi' message on Christmas day, Pope Francis said: "The message of Bethlehem is indeed 'good news of great joy' (Lk 2:10). What kind of joy? Not the passing happiness of this world, not the glee of entertainment but a joy that is 'great' because it makes us great. For today, all of us, with all our shortcomings, embrace the sure promise of an unprecedented gift: the hope of being born for heaven. Yes, Jesus our brother has come to make his Father our Father; a small child, he reveals to us the tender love of God, and much more. He, the Only-Begotten Son of the Father, gives us 'power to become children of God' (Jn 1:12). This is the joy that consoles hearts, renews hope and bestows peace. It is the joy of the Holy Spirit: the joy born of being God's beloved sons and daughters". Pope Francis also spoke of peace, and you can view his full message on the *News* page of our parish website.

HOMELESS COLLECTION - THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all that so generously donated to our collection for the homeless this Advent. Christmas cards were also made for them by the Mini Vinnies group at St Edmund's School. The presentation was made at a school assembly, with representatives from OLA also attending. Brad gratefully accepted the gifts on behalf of *Emmaus Oxford*, mentioning how *Emmaus* had helped him so much when he was homeless, and how hard he found it during the winter and Christmas period. Our donations will help *Emmaus* with their work with many homeless people at this difficult time in their lives. They provide a home for as long as it is needed, and meaningful work for people who have experienced homelessness so that they can get back on their feet. There is a picture, taken at the presentation, on the noticeboard outside our church, and also on the *News* page of our website.

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

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Saturday:** Mothers' Prayers at 10.15am in the church.

FUTURE DATES

- **Mon 8 Jan:** Open Doors in the parish centre from 10.30am to 2.30pm.
- **Fri 12th Jan:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time
- **14th Jan:** Peace Sunday. More information in the next newsletter.

ABINGDON FOOD BANK

Please continue to support the Abingdon Food Bank. The collection points are at:

LOCATION OF FOOD DONATION POINT	OPENING HOURS
Waitrose Abingdon, Abbey Close, OX14 3HL	7.30am to 9pm (8pm Sat)
North Foodbank, Christ Church, Northcourt Rd. OX14 1PL	Tues & Fri 10am to 1pm
South Foodbank, Preston Road Community Centre, OX14 5NR	Weds 1pm to 2.30pm

OPEN DOORS/WARM SPACE

There are no sessions on 1st January. 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.

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.

PARISH OFFICE

The parish office will reopen on Tuesday 2nd January.