

Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon
1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL
St Edmund Campion Deanery, Old Berkshire – Thames ISIS Pastoral Area

Parish Priest: Fr. Jamie McGrath Tel: 01235 520375
Parish Secretary: Lisa Paterson Tel: 01235 520375
Office Hours: 9am-12pm Monday to Friday
Office Email: abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
We live stream most services (the 10.15am Mass on the first Sunday of every month is not live streamed).
Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230
Visits at Oxford Hospitals: Fr Pius 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: Saturday, 11.00 – 11.30am or by appointment

Parish Life

TODAY we will be serving Tea, Cake and Mince Pies after 10.15am mass. Proceeds will go to our homeless charity.

TODAY PARISH CAROL SERVICE at 4.00pm. Please join us and have a good sing! Refreshments afterwards in the Parish centre.

First Holy Communion 2020. The programme for 2020 starts in January. If you haven't already enrolled your child, please contact Fr. Jamie to obtain an enrolment pack. Please phone Ab. 520375 or email abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Any queries please contact Errol Midwinter on Ab. 522679.

For the parents of new FHC children. Whilst the children are in their sessions, we would like to invite you to breakfast and a time of listening and discussion on whatever you would like to talk about. We are offering a relaxed, informal, social and supportive time for parents in the parish centre after you have been in the church with your children for the first few minutes of each session. We will have a small team to be with you and as well as discussing whatever you wish, we can talk about practical ways of bringing God into the family with all the busyness of life and offer simple resources. We very much look forward to meeting you all then.

The Baby and Toddler group reopens after our Christmas break on Friday, 10th January 2020 in our parish centre on Oxford road at 9.30am.

CHRISTMAS PLEDGE TREE Please put your pledge in the box on the table at the back of church so that it can be hung on the tree. There are spare pledge cards at the back of church. Your pledge can be as a family or as an individual - and no name is needed.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 22 December

8.45am Mass Sheila Finch RIP
10.15am Mass John Stephen Brady RIP
4pm Carol Service
6.30pm Mass Anne Mahon Intentions

Monday 23 December

8.30am Rosary
9am Mass Private Intention

Tuesday 24 December THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

6pm First Mass of Christmas
Matthew Carey & Winifred & Hubert Carey RIP
8.30 for 9pm Christmas Vigil with Carols

Wednesday 25 December THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

8am Mass Private Intention
9.30am Mass Nicki Jaques RIP (Birthday)
11.30 Mass Deceased members of Fominyam family RIP
4.30pm Polish Mass
N.B. No evening Mass

Thursday 26 December ST STEPHEN

N.B. No morning Mass
12noon Mass Private Intention

Friday 27 December ST JOHN

6.30pm Rosary
7pm Mass Sylvia Oliver RIP (Anniversary)

Saturday 28 December THE HOLY INNOCENTS

11am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
11-11.30am Confessions
12 noon Mass Sr. Niamh Rodda Intentions

The winter edition of Christian Focus can be found at the back of the church. There is an article by one of our parishioners on the newly canonised John Henry Newman.

BIBLE ALIVE – This booklet is an excellent aid to reading and understanding the Holy Scriptures. The January edition is now available at the back of the church (only £2.50).

Advent Collection for the Homeless 2019 Please donate SHAMPOO, TOOTHPASTE, SOAP, NEW SOCKS. The items will be delivered weekly to a hostel for the homeless in Oxford. There is a box for your donations at the back of the Church. With Grateful Thanks.

Light for the Blind - Father Thomas Supporters should receive a copy of the Christmas newsletter from the *Light for the Blind* charity before Christmas. If you did not receive one then please take one from the pile on the table at the back of the church. Anyone else who would like to know about Fr Thomas' work with the dying and destitute in India - please take a newsletter.

Parish Office will be closed from **TOMORROW** Mon 23rd and re-open on Monday 30th Dec.

We will be running the **Alpha Course** again next term, on Tuesday evenings, starting mid-January. Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that explore the Christian faith in a relaxed and safe way. Great for both those new to faith and those who are wanting to look at faith again. www.alpha.org.uk. Please contact clare@claresimpson.com for more details.

The monthly **Healing Mass** will be taking place at the Carmelite Priory, Boars Hill, on Tuesday 7th January at 7pm. Several parishioners go regularly and you will be made very welcome.

Parish Lent Project 2020 Looking ahead to the Lent Project 2020, do you wish to propose a charity? While thinking this Advent and Christmas season about those who are less fortunate than we are, please think about whom you would like the parish to help through our next Lent Project and send your proposal to the Parish Council, through the parish office by Friday 17 January 2020. Many thanks.

Money Matters 15th December 2019
Envelopes £263.48 Loose Plate £571.57
Average weekly Gift Aid Standing Orders £995
Many thanks

Counters: C. Macfarlane, T. Murphy, G. Brady
Cleaners: F. & C. Calnan

Parish Events for the Week

TODAY Refreshments after 10.15am Mass

N.B. All take place in the Parish Centre unless specified

Future Diary Dates

23rd – 27th December Parish Office closed

Youth Events

SATURDAY 11TH JANUARY

** Children of Our Lady (COOL) group meets from 3.30 to 5.00pm in the Parish Centre (primary school years 3 to 6 are all invited).*

** St Edmund's Knights meet from 3.30-5.00pm in the Parish Centre (young people in secondary school are all invited).*

Reminders of future events are always included in the parish weekly newsletter and the full programme can be viewed in the youth section on our parish website at:

www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/events

More info: bhabayeb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

In mid January, we will be running an 8 week course on the **Bible**, called Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible. It gives the big picture of the Bible and God's unfailing love for us. It shows the connections between the Old and New Testaments and how the Catholic Faith is rooted in Scripture. 30 min DVD presentation then discussion and sharing. It will run on Thursday mornings and possibly another day/time. Please contact clare@claresimpson.com if you are interested, as we need to order the booklets in advance.

Everyone is welcome to join Mothers' Prayers which will be meeting in the Church, by Our Lady's statue, on Saturday 11th January 1015am - 1045am. This is a wonderful chance to pray for our children, grandchildren, godchildren using a little booklet of prayers. We have experienced so many wonderful answers to prayer. We come together to offer all our burdens in the safe hands of God. There is also a Mothers Prayers group in Spanish - please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Faith Development

Come and join the traditional New Years Day Walk in support of Christian Aid, 1st January 10am Abingdon Baptist Church OX14 5AG Route Circular via Drayton with a distance of 5 miles (or less if you choose!) Refreshments will be provided at the finish. Only £1 payable on the day.