

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

LENTEN REFLECTION

Today we ask who is truly blind? And what kind of blindness is harder to heal? All through the story we see the Pharisees become increasingly blind. Blind to the Son of God who stood in front of them.

This is the hardest blindness to heal, not that of the man born blind, but the men blind by choice. Why would you choose to be blind? Perhaps because you can get used to the darkness, just as you can get used to the light. Many of us if not blind certainly have blind spots in one kind or another. May the Lord open our eyes wide today to the needs of others.

PRAYER FOR LENT

When he was cured by Jesus another blind man knelt at his feet. Today we can share his prayer: Lord let me see. Let me see the things I need to see, the people I may have hurt, the wrongs that I have done. Let me see your goodness to me, let me experience your love for me. Lord that I may see. Amen

LENTEN FUNDRAISING PROJECT 2023

We are supporting **École Don Bosco, in Hadath, Baalbeck in Lebanon**, run by Salesian Sisters for our Lenten project for this year. Information on the school and current dates for your diary, are available on our parish website. If you are able to **organise and do** something, please submit your proposal to the parish office as soon as possible. **"TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THESE LEAST BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME"** (Matthew 25:40). Thank you.

You can follow Lent and the Lenten Fundraising project on the News or What's On pages of our website where you can also make your donations online.

CAFOD – FAMILY FAST DAY

Thank you for your kind donations, we raised a total of £1,730.30.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT: Cycle 1 (A)

Sunday 19 March

8.45am Mass (Pat & Wendy Cox RIP)
10.15am Mass (Private Intention)
2.00pm Mass in Polish
6.30pm Mass (Sandra Oliver Intentions
80th Birthday)

Monday 20 March

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (*Special Intention*)

St Joseph

Tuesday 21 March

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

Wednesday 22 March

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Tom Billington RIP)

Thursday 23 March

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

Friday 24 March

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Donald Langridge RIP)

Saturday 25 March

Annunciation of the Lord

11am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
11-11.30am Confessions
12pm Mass (*Special Intention*)

SECOND COLLECTION THIS SUNDAY

The second collection this Sunday (19th March) is for the *Clergy Assistance Fund*.

PARISH OFFICE

Will be closed on Tues 28th March.

CAR WASHING

The car wash which was scheduled for Sunday 12th March during the 10.15am Mass has been postponed to a date in April - to be confirmed later, when the weather conditions should be better. Apologies if you have been disappointed.

TREASURE HUNT – LENTEN FUNDRAISING

A fair-trade sponsored treasure hunt is being organised to raise funds for our Lenten project. Please collect a form with all the information you need from the table at back of the church and encourage your children to take part. You can also download it from the *News* or *Lenten Fundraising* pages on our website. There are prizes!

OLD WIRES – LENTEN FUNDRAISING

If you have any old or broken electric wires, Linda Gelens can raise money for the Lenten project from them. Please leave them in a bag under the table at the back of the church and **contact Linda to let her know to pick them up:** famgelens@gmail.com or 07934 766305. Thank you.

ROSES AND THORNS

Maria Pia Oliver, one of our parishioners has published a book *“Roses and Thorns”*. She is donating all proceeds to Helen & Douglas House. However, during Lent all proceeds from sales will benefit our own project in Lebanon. If you purchase it directly from Maria Pia, we will receive almost £8 per copy. The purchase price is £9.99. Contact Maria Pia or Mike directly on Ab.528528.

SCHOOL EXAM INVIGILATORS NEEDED

Our Lady’s Abingdon is seeking casual exam invigilators. Applicants should be happy to work as part of a team and be able to follow and adhere to regulatory rules and regulations. No experience is necessary as full training will be provided. For further details, please contact Mrs Julie Braley by email: headspa@ola.org.uk or call 01235 524658.

WARM SPACE

We continue to run a lovely Warm Space on Mondays 11am – 3pm in the parish centre. We offer conversation, deep listening, board games, children’s toys and a relaxed and warm environment!

NEW GIVING ENVELOPES

The new envelopes are available at the back of church. Please check for yours if you give weekly using the envelopes or have signed a Gift Aid form. If you were expecting envelopes and can’t see them, please let the Parish Office know or email accounts.abi@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Look for your name – all the numbers are different this year. The new envelopes start with the special collection for Holy Places on Good Friday and also include an envelope for the Lent Project collection on Palm Sunday.

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Monday:** *Warm Space* in the parish centre from 11am to 3pm.
- **Monday:** *Journeying Together in Faith (JTIF)* at 7.30pm in the parish centre. All welcome.
- **Friday:** *Baby & Toddler* group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.
- **Saturday:** FHC preparation, Session 6, 8.50am to 10am, in the church.
- **Saturday:** Youth groups meet in the parish centre from 3.30 to 5pm. All in year 3 or above are welcome.

FUTURE DATES

- **Mon 27th Mar:** *Journeying Together in Faith (JTIF)* at 7.30pm in the parish centre. All welcome.
- **Mon 17th Apr:** Golf Day at Drayton Park Golf Club for our Lenten fundraising project.
- **Sat 22nd Apr:** FHC preparation, Session 7, 8.50am to 10am, in the church.
- **Sat 22nd Apr:** Youth groups meet in the parish centre from 3.30 to 5pm. All in year 3 or above are welcome.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

You are invited to join in the Diocese on pilgrimage to Lourdes, leaving from Bournemouth airport on Monday 17th July and returning on Friday 21st July. If you would like to know more about joining in as a pilgrim or as a youth helper, serving our pilgrims and helping to make our pilgrimage a success, please email: lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

ISRAEL/PALESTINE

This Tuesday (21st) at 8pm there will be an opportunity to hear a first-hand account by a recently returned Ecumenical Accompanier of her 3 months with EAPPI, the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel. It will be a Zoom Meeting organised by Abingdon Peace Group. Further details on the poster on the Board outside church or from Anne Dodd 525997. For the Zoom link please email abingdonpeace@gmail.com

ST OSCAR ROMERO

Next Friday (24th) from 5.30 to 6.30pm there will be a lecture at Pembroke College Oxford on **Oscar Romero: the Witness of Relics**. The speaker is Dr Jan Graffius of Stoneyhurst College who has been working since 2007 in El Salvador conserving and displaying the poignant relics of Archbishop Oscar Romero and of the Jesuits and their associates who were murdered in 1989. The lecture is open to all and is part of a series of events across the country to mark the 43rd anniversary of the martyrdom of St Oscar Romero. It will be followed by a drinks reception. Further information from Anne Dodd 525997.