

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

In a few days we celebrate the birth of Christ our Saviour. We are asked to prepare our hearts to receive him like Mary did. Mary will help us too. Christ came most readily to those who had most need of him, that is, to the unfortunate, the sinful, the destitute – those who were 'empty'. We come to him with our own 'emptiness'.

Lord Jesus, come into our weakness. Come into our fears. Come into our anxieties. Come into our failures. Come into our divisions. Come into our grieving. Come into our loneliness. Come into our darkness. Come into our doubting. Come into our despair. Come into our poverty of heart. Come into our searching. Come into our joys and hopes. Come into our dying. Come into our living. Come, Lord Jesus, come. **MARANATHA!**

VOCATIONS

My God, my infinite Source and eternal Guide, hear my fervent plea! In the depths of my soul, I trust in your divine providence, for you call forth servants from among us to tend your flock. I surrender my will to yours, imploring you to awaken hearts to your call. Dear Lord, stir the embers of devotion into a raging fire within those you have chosen. May they hear your voice, unmistakable and clear, cutting through the clamour of this world, beckoning them to sacred service. My God, I beseech you to make your appeal irresistible to their spirits. Let not fear or doubt stifle the blossoming of their vocations. Grant them the courage to step forward for service. My God, bless these shepherds with strength, wisdom and compassion. May your grace help them to surrender to your plan. You are the Potter, we are the clay. Mold our hearts to what you set before us. We say 'yes' to the work of your hands. Amen.

PARISH CLOSURE DATES

Please note that the parish office will be closed from Monday 23rd December until Thursday 2nd January inclusive.

Fourth Week of Advent: Cycle 1 (C)

Sunday 22 Dec.

8.45am	Mass	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
10.15am	Mass	(Private intention)
4.00pm	Carol Service	(John Stephen Brady, RIP)
6.30pm	Mass	(Jane & Wallace Ellwood, RIP)

Monday 23 Dec.

8.30am	Rosary	
9.00am	Mass	(<i>Special intention</i>)

TUESDAY 24 DEC.

6.00pm	First Mass of Christmas	(<i>Special intention</i>)
8.30pm	Christmas Vigil with Carols	
9.00pm	Mass	(Private intention)

WEDNESDAY 25 DEC.

8.00am	Mass	CHRISTMAS DAY
9.30am	Mass	(John Nelson, RIP)
11.30am	Mass	(Pat & Geoff Castle intentions)
		(Paterson family intentions)

Thursday 26 Dec.

10.00am	Mass	St Stephen
		(Private intention)

Friday 27 Dec.

6.30pm	Rosary	St John, Apostle
7.00pm	Mass	(<i>Special intention</i>)

Saturday 28 Dec.

11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	The Holy Innocents
11-11.30am	Confessions	
12pm	Mass	(<i>Special intention</i>)

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

All collections on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are for the Christmas offering, which supports our priest, Fr Jamie. You can also donate online using the link on either the *Home* page or *News* pages of our website. Thank you for your generosity and support.

LENT 2025 – PARISH CHARITY FUNDRAISING

During the season of Advent, the parish pastoral committee (PPC) ask you to think about charities which we could sponsor during Lent 2025. Ideally, we would like to fundraise for 2 charities – one local/UK based and one worldwide. We are only able to consider registered charities. Please give this some consideration and send suggestions to the parish office by Friday 3 January 2025. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS CRIB OFFERINGS

This year, our Christmas Crib offerings will go to the *Knights of the Holy Sepulchre (KHS)*, who financially support Christians in the Middle East, and, above all, pray for them. They fund many works that support the Christians living in the Holy Land, thus ensuring that they survive and that the holy sites are still populated by Christians and do not become museums. The Knights do everything they can to help with practical projects to stabilise Christian communities, and also fund-raise to maintain schools, formation, charitable and social activities. The need to help this year is hugely urgent, because of the war in the Holy Land. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

OPEN DOORS

There will be no Open Doors on 23rd December and 30th December.

Our first session of 2025 will be on Monday, 6th January. During January, February and March, *Open Doors* will also be offering a warm space to those who need it during the winter months and session times will be extended slightly to run from 10.30am to 2.30pm every Monday.

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our Advent appeal for the homeless. This week, five volunteers packed 55 shoeboxes and wrapped each one in Christmas wrapping paper. Other gifts, too big to fit in the shoeboxes, filled two large cardboard boxes. We also thank them for all their hard work. May those less fortunate than ourselves, who have found themselves in a difficult situation, receive some joy from knowing that people **do** care.

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.

FUTURE DATES

- **Mon 6th Jan:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 10.30am to 2.30pm.
- **Fri 10th Jan:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Church in Abingdon (CiA) welcome everyone to participate in a 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity'. This year the theme adopted by the CiA for the week from 18 - 25 January 2025, will be *Serving Others in our Local Community*. There will be no United Service, but Midday Prayers (St Nics) will take place from Monday 20th to Friday 24th January at 12 noon, with refreshments provided. Each day there will be talks by various local groups who work with the hungry, the fatherless, the lonely, the bereaved and refugees. They will tell us about the work they are doing and why, their connections with churches and other community groups, as well as shared witnesses from their users and volunteers.

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 Rd Community Centre, OX14 5NR	Weds 1pm to 2.30pm

LOST PROPERTY

A gentle reminder that property left behind in the church will be put on the shelf in the porch for a period of 2 weeks, after which it will be disposed of. Thank you for helping us to keep the church tidy.

**May God's blessings and peace be with you
this Christmas and always.**

