

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

As we assemble to celebrate the Eucharist on the feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth, let us remember that we are not a bunch of individuals without any close ties. Together we form the family of the People of God. We pause to reflect on our unity and ask God to remove what might divide us.

Grant us, Lord, children who will be strong enough to know when they are weak and who will be unbending in honest defeat, yet humble and gentle in victory. Grant us children whose wishes will not take the place of their deeds, children who will know you and know themselves. Lead them not in the path of ease and comfort, but rather in the path of difficulties and challenges. Grant us children whose hearts will be clear, whose goals will be high. Children who will master themselves before seeking to master others. And after all these things are theirs, add, we pray, a sense of humour, so that they can be serious yet never take themselves too seriously. Give them the humility and simplicity of true greatness. Then we, their parents, will dare whisper – we have not lived in vain.
(Prayer of General MacArthur)

VOCATIONS

Loving and generous God, it is You who call us by name and ask us to follow You. Help us to grow in the love and Service of our Church as we experience it today. Give us the energy and courage of Your Spirit to shape its future. Grant us faith-filled leaders who will embrace Christ's mission of love and justice. Bless this parish by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends, who will serve Your people as Sisters, Priests, Brothers, Deacons and Lay Ministers. Inspire us to know You better and open our hearts to hear Your call. Bless those who are serving now with courage and perseverance, and grant that many will be inspired by their example and faith. Amen.

PARISH CLOSURE DATES

The parish office will be closed from Monday 23rd December until Thursday 2nd January inclusive.

Octave of Christmas: Cycle 1 (C)

Sunday 29 December THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

8.45am Mass (Special intention)
10.15am Mass (Paul, Stella & Simon Worrallo, RIP)
6.30pm Mass (Special intention)

Monday 30 December

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (Lily & Gerry Fox, RIP)

Tuesday 31 December

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

Wednesday 1 January Mary, the Holy Mother of God

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Special intention)

Thursday 2 January St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass (Margaret Shrimton)

Friday 3 January

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Bishop Philip, in thanksgiving)

Saturday 4 January

11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
11-11.30am Confessions
12pm Mass (Special intention)

THANK YOU

My thanks to all who made our Christmas Masses so wonderful: those who made the church so splendid with decorations, our marvellous choirs and musicians, our altar servers and lay ministers, the cleaning team, and all of you for being present. Grateful also, for your kindness in the Christmas offering for myself.
Fr Jamie.

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.

OPEN DOORS

There will be no *Open Doors* on 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.

PRAYER LIFE OF THE PARISH

As well as all the liturgical and sacramental celebrations in our parish, there's lots of other prayer forms available:

- **The Charismatic Prayer Group** meets at the home of Mike and Maria Pia Oliver. They were recently blessed by a couple from trinity Church, as well as two non-believers, offering thanksgiving to Jesus for all his graces. Then the 16 people present sang Christmas carols accompanied on Aedrin's guitar. They will resume in the new year with online sessions. All are welcome, and please ring 01235 528528 for details.
- Then, quite recently begun, is the **Faith in Action Prayer Group** which meets every fourth Friday of the month in the parish centre at 7.30pm. For information, please call, text or WhatsApp Sabina on 07449 825161. Also, more details are on the flyer at the back of the church.
- Our parish **Grandparents' Association** meet regularly to pray and plan for ways to help our families and pass on the faith. This Christmas they've prepared a lovely nativity card and prayer, which you can collect from the table at the back of the church.
- We also have faithful **Mothers' Prayers** groups in English, French and Spanish.
- People gather every Saturday to **Adore the Lord** in the Blessed Sacrament.
- Other groups meet daily to recite the **Rosary** before Mass.
- Both our marvellous choirs help us pray: "*He who sings prays twice.*" (*St Augustine*)
- And finally, our parish pilgrimages are an important help to our prayer life too – this year to Lindisfarne, Holy Island.



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.
- **Wed 8th Jan:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.
- **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, but please do not leave your donations in our church. 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

YEAR OF JUBILEE

The Holy Father has designated that 2025 is a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years. This is a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. The theme for this jubilee is "*Pilgrims of Hope*" and is a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. The following shrine churches have been chosen by Bishop Philip as particular places of pilgrimage, and for the granting of the indulgence in the Year of Jubilee 2025: St Thomas, Jersey; Bournemouth Oratory; St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth; St Edmund's, Southampton; St James and St William of York, Reading; St Joseph's, Guernsey. More information will be available on our parish website.