

***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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Confessions: Saturdays 11.00 – 11.30am or by appointment**

**REFLECTION OF POPE FRANCIS FOR SEASON OF CREATION**

“Let Justice and Peace Flow” is the theme of this years ecumenical Season of Creation. It is inspired by the Prophet Amos. “Let Justice flow like a river, righteousness like a never ending stream”. This is what God desires. This justice must flow forth wherever it is needed. God wants everyone to be just in every situation. When we “seek first the Kingdom of God” maintaining a right relationship with God, humanity, and nature then justice and peace can flow like a never failing stream of pure water, nourishing humanity and all creatures. On a beautiful summers day in July 2022 during my pilgrimage to Canada I reflected on this on the shores of Lac St Anne in Alberta. That lake has been a place of pilgrimage for many generations of indigenous people. Surrounded by the beating of drums, I thought; “How many hearts have come here with anxious longing, weighed down by life’s burdens, and found by these waters consolation and strength to carry on?” Here immersed in creation, we can also sense another beating; the maternal heartbeat of the earth. Just as the hearts of babies in the womb beat in harmony with those of their mothers, so in order to grow as people, we need to harmonise our own rhythms of life, with those of creation, which gives us life.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

Lord my God and my loving Father. You have made me to know you to love you, and to serve you, and thereby to find and fulfil my deepest longings. I know that you are in all things and that every path can lead me to you. But of them all there is one especially by which you want me to come to you. Since I will do what you want of me I pray you send you Holy Spirit to me: into my mind to show me what you want of me, into heart to give me the determination to do it, and to do it with all my love, with all my mind, and with all of my strength right to the end. Jesus, I trust in you. Amen

**Week 22 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 1 (A)**

**Sunday 3 September**

8.45am Mass (Edward & Jean Cooper RIP)  
10.15am Mass (Private Intention)  
2.00pm Mass in Polish  
6.30pm Mass (*Special Intention*)

**Monday 4 September**

8.30am Rosary  
9.00am Mass (Brenda Barnett RIP)

**Tuesday 5 September**

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

**Wednesday 6 September**

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

**Thursday 7 September**

9.00am Rosary  
9.30am Mass (Helen Birkbeck RIP)

**Friday 8 September Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

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

**Saturday 9 September**

11am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
11-11.30am Confessions  
12pm Mass (Paddy Rowley RIP)

**OFFICE CLOSURE**

The parish office will be closed from 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> September. Normal opening hours will resume on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September.

## RCIA/JOURNEY IN FAITH SESSIONS – UPDATE

There is a slight change this year as to how this will be organised, so please ignore previous newsletter announcements. We are unable, due to other circumstances, to run a full team programme this year. Those individuals who have already expressed an interest will be given instructions by Fr Jamie himself. So, for this year only, it is open only to adults wishing to be Baptised into the Church or received into the Church. Those interested, please contact Fr Jamie via the office to register. My thanks to the RCIA team for their devotion over the years, and hopefully the RCIA journey will be available once more next year.

*Many thanks. Fr Jamie*

## CLOSER TO CHRIST CAMPAIGN

The *Closer to Christ Campaign* is a fundraising initiative for the Diocese of Portsmouth. This will build upon the mission of our church, enabling us to continue our journey to become ever more outward facing and evangelistic, while meeting the immediate financial priorities of parishes, who are the backbone of our Church. Our parish is now part of this campaign and Bishop Philip has sent us a letter, which you can read on the *News* page of our parish website.

## CREATION PRAYER WALK

The *Season of Creation* runs from September 1st to October 4th (the feast day of St Francis of Assisi). As part of this, there will be a *Creation Prayer Walk* on **Sunday 10th September**, leaving the Parish Centre at 3pm. Starting first at the Parish Wildflower Meadow by the Parish Centre we will stop for reflection and prayer at 5 other 'green' places in the centre of town before coming back to the Parish Centre for refreshments. Everyone is very welcome.

In this *Season of Creation*, Pope Francis highlights the need for us to come together, *forming "streams, brooks and rivulets, merging finally together in a mighty river to irrigate the life of our marvellous planet and our human family for generations to come."* Reflections and resources for the Season of Creation can be viewed on the *News* page of our parish website.

## SECOND COLLECTION SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

The second collection next Sunday (10<sup>th</sup> September) will be for the *Catholic Education Service*.

## SVP – CASH4COINS

Going away on holiday or returning? Please consider keeping any remaining foreign cash to donate for the work of our parish SVP group. We will be collecting any donations after each Mass on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September**. Sterling currency will also be most welcome. Your donation will help to transform the lives of others. Thank you.

## PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Monday:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11.30am to 2.30pm.

## FUTURE DATES

- **Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Sept:** *Creation Prayer Walk* 3pm to 4pm. More details in the main body of this newsletter.
- **Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.
- **Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Mothers' prayers in French in the parish centre at 8pm.

## OPEN DOORS – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Open Doors is a warm and welcoming space for those in the Parish and local community who are on their own or who would like more company and is run by a team of volunteers from the Parish. We offer tea/coffee, lunch and conversation most Mondays from 11.30 am to 2.30 pm in the Parish Centre. We are looking for more volunteers, who can spare a few hours on a rota basis, to join our team. We would also be grateful to anyone who can offer to cook meals at home (again on a rota basis approximately once every 4 -6 weeks) and bring them along to the Parish Centre. If you are able to help, please contact Berny Pratt on 01235 525257. Many thanks.

## OUR LADY OF KNOCK

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is hosting a Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock, Co Mayo from November 9 to 14 to Pray for the Holy Souls. It will be by the Marian Fathers. The package includes: return flights by Aer Lingus from Heathrow Airport, half board, 5 nights, accommodation in ensuite twin rooms, hand-luggage (10 kgs), all transfers and Airport Development fee. The Retreat will include daily Mass and Hour of Mercy and retreats at Glendalough and Kylemore Abbey. Cost £800. All Welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information.

## CAFOD MEETING

Come and find out about CAFOD's work on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September at St Bedes Church hall, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX from 10:30 am to 12:30pm. CAFOD Portsmouth is hosting this meeting so that volunteers and supporters can find out more about our work. At this meeting Philippe Mougin CAFOD's Emergency Response Leader will talk about our work in Pakistan after last year's floods. Please book your place so that we have an idea of numbers, by emailing Jo at: [jlewry@cafod.org.uk](mailto:jlewry@cafod.org.uk)

## WE PRAY FOR

- Maureen Logan, RIP. Funeral Tue. 3 Oct. at 11am.