

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

REFLECTION

“This is my son the beloved. Listen to him”.

We have a lot of voices that we listen to today: voices on news programmes, celebrity viewpoints or influential people in our lives. But in today's gospel, God commands us to listen to Jesus. God calls us as a community to be people who read the gospels and take Jesus at his word. If we do listen, we are likely to hear a very specific, counter-cultural, but life affirming message, which brings good news. It is about God's love for us and the importance of showing compassion to others especially to those who are vulnerable in society. Like Peter, we are called to learn the lesson of this mountain top experience – to be quiet and listen to Jesus. Like Peter, we may want to hold on to a good thing, rather than go down the mountain and face the trials of life. Like Peter, we may want to avoid the crosses of life, as far as we can. But, if we listen to Jesus, rather than doing all the talking we will be able to journey with him, ultimately to Jerusalem and Calvary.

PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

All of us are on a journey – from our conception until death – and beyond. We continually move forward on that journey of our life. We need to place our hands in God's to keep us in paths that are safe.

In our relationship with God, we are called like children to a deeper sense of trust in Him. As the Good Shepherd, Christ invites us to follow Him, to rely upon Him in order that we grow in freedom and be led to green pastures. Certainly, we need to take time to listen, look, slow down, reflect and go beyond our superficial desires. Each of us needs time to realise that God may be (in fact he most certainly is) calling each and every one of us daily! As Jesus said come, follow me.

MASS INFORMATION

This week here will be no Mass on Monday 7th, Wednesday 9th or Friday 11th August.

Week 18 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 1 (A)

Sunday 6 August

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

8.45am Mass (Special Intention)
10.15am Mass (Dean Jeacock RIP)
2.00pm Mass in Polish
6.30pm Mass (Special Intention)

Monday 7 August

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

Tuesday 8 August

St Dominic

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

Wednesday 9 August

St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

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

Thursday 10 August

St Laurence

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass (Special Intention)

Friday 11 August

St Clare

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

Saturday 12 August

12pm Mass (Special Intention)

CONFESSIONS AND ADORATION

Please note that there will be no Confessions or Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on **Saturday 12th and Saturday 19th August**. However, there will be Mass as usual at 12 midday on both these dates.

PARISH OFFICE

The parish office will be closed from **11.30am on Thursday 10th August until Tuesday 29th August**.

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 was read at last Sunday's Masses and which you can read on the *News* page of our parish website.

RCIA/JOURNEY IN FAITH SESSIONS – VIA ZOOM

What is Love? What is Happiness? What is the meaning of my Life? Who is Jesus? Who do they say that I am? I am with you always. Peace be with you. Do not be afraid. Come and see. You might wish to find out more about Jesus, would like to receive baptism, become a Catholic, or may be a Catholic but not confirmed? If so, RCIA/Journey in Faith could be for you. "Come and See" the way we welcome new people into the Catholic Church with an introduction to RCIA on **Tuesday 12th September at 7.30pm**. Sessions begin on **19th September at 7.30pm**. If you are interested, please contact Pauline Hanley email: pehanley@hotmail.com or Tel: 07506 753085 for further information and meeting link.

SVP – CASH4COINS

Going away on holiday or returning? Please consider keeping any remaining cash to donate for the work of our parish SVP group. We will be collecting any donations in the Autumn on **Sunday 24th September**. Sterling currency will also be welcomed. Thank you.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Tuesday 15th August is a holy day – the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. There will be Masses at 9am and 7pm.

VACANCY AT ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL

St Edmund's school is looking to welcome an enthusiastic, dynamic and committed **Teaching Assistant**, supportive of our school mission and Catholic ethos to join our happy, motivated children. Please contact The School Business Manager (01235 521558 or clomas2266@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk) to request an application pack. Closing date: **Friday 1st September 2023 at 12.00 noon**.

CHURCH TWINNING VISIT TO ARGENTAN

Thurs 12th to Mon 16th October 2023. Celebrating 25 years of twinning with Abingdon churches, 15 people have been invited to commemorate this link. We would stay with host families where possible, and a varied programme is being prepared for us. Ideally transport is by private car (sharing spaces) using the Portsmouth to Caen ferry. If interested, contact Pat Warren 07526 033715 or email patwarren14@hotmail.com

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.
- **Wednesday:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.

FUTURE DATES

- **Mon 21st August:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11.30am to 2.30pm.
- **Tue 12th Sept:** RCIA introduction session at 7.30pm. See message on main body of this newsletter for information.

YEAR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In recent Pastoral Letters, I have been encouraging everyone in the Diocese to adopt and put into practice the 'six holy habits.' What are these? First, to keep Sunday special, as a family day, by attending Mass, the 'source and summit' of the Christian life, supporting your parish community. Secondly, to resolve to spend at least five minutes a day in prayer, at whatever time you find best, using the Scriptures, maybe the Gospel of the day. Thirdly, to keep Friday as a day of penance in honour of the Lord's Passion, intentionally serving the poor and needy. Fourthly, at least once a fortnight, to pay a private visit to church for a short period of prayer before the Tabernacle. Fifthly, to go to Confession once a month or so, like a spiritual check-up when you can personally experience God's love and mercy. And sixthly, to join a small group for formation, prayer and fellowship, where you can share with others your own experience and hear what God is doing in the lives of others. If we adopt these six holy habits in the right spirit, entrusting ourselves to the Lord and His grace, they offer a practical programme to bring about deep spiritual renewal in ourselves and in our parish communities.

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.