

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 begin Advent, we naturally think of the coming of Christ. We live between two comings of Christ – his first coming in humility and weakness, and his second coming in majesty and power. With each passing year, as St Paul says, *“our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.”* Let us reflect on how much we need the Lord's salvation in our lives and in our world.

The hill flowers fade but will bloom again next year. But we never get back our youth. Life is a fragile gift which we enjoy only briefly; our life is like the warming of oneself in the sun. We live in a flash of light, but before we know it, evening comes and night falls. But the very fleetingness of life makes it all the more precious. Lord, may your gentle and sure light guide us on the unfolding road, so that we may walk with confidence towards the light that never fades and the life that never ends.

VOCATIONS

O my Lord, as the dawn breaks and the new day unfolds, I come before you with a heart full of hope and gratitude. Thank you for the gift of life and the calling you have placed in my heart. I pray for the courage to embrace my vocation and hear your voice guiding me as I journey towards the purpose you have designed for me. Awaken in me a passion for service, a love for your people, and a desire to bring your light into the shadows. Empower me to be a beacon of your love, a vessel of your peace, and an instrument of your will. In this morning prayer I commit my day and my life to you. May my actions reflect my dedication to my calling, and may my journey inspire others to discover theirs. In your loving name I pray. Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Please pray for Lisa Paterson, our parish secretary, who has suffered a fractured pelvis. She will be off for several weeks, and in the meantime, please make full use of our office answerphone.

First Week of Advent: Cycle 1 (C)

Sunday 1 December

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|---------|------|---|
| 8.45am | Mass | FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Ann Lucas intentions) |
| 10.15am | Mass | (Geoff Wyatt, RIP) |
| 6.30pm | Mass | (<i>Special intention</i>) |

Monday 2 December

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|--------|--------|-----------------------|
| 8.30am | Rosary | |
| 9.00am | Mass | (Noreen Landers, RIP) |

Tuesday 3 December St Francis Xavier

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

Wednesday 4 December

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|--------|--------|------------------------------|
| 6.30pm | Rosary | |
| 7.00pm | Mass | (<i>Special intention</i>) |

Thursday 5 December St Birinus

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|--------|--------|---------------------|
| 9.00am | Rosary | |
| 9.30am | Mass | (Private intention) |

Friday 6 December

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|--------|--------|------------------------------|
| 6.30pm | Rosary | |
| 7.00pm | Mass | (<i>Special intention</i>) |

Saturday 7 December St Ambrose

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|------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 11am | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament | |
| 11-11.30am | Confessions | |
| 12pm | Mass | (Isabella Rose intentions – 6 th birthday) |

YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES PRAYER

O Lord, graciously look down upon us your servants and upon our work to build Your Holy Church here in this place.

Enlighten our minds and lead us into all truth as we seek to do Your will.

Abundantly bless our labours, that Your Holy Church may serve You ever more faithfully to the glory of Your Holy name.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

PARISH AGM

Limited copies of the annual report from the recent AGM are available at the back of the church and also on the *News* page of our parish website.

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION

There will be a joint pastoral area Service of Reconciliation at 7pm at English Martyrs, Didcot on Thursday 12th December at 7pm, with an opportunity for individual Confessions.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY ISLAND

A short pilgrimage to *Holy Island, Lindisfarne* in Northumberland, is planned for 12th to 15th May 2025. Limited spaces are available, as travel will be by minibus. The price of £695 per person (£190 single supplement) includes 3 nights at the Lindisfarne Inn (www.inncollectiongroup.com/lindisfarne-inn/), with breakfast and dinner included, and minibus travel there and back. A quick response is needed as the hotel cannot hold places for long. If interested, please email contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk.

ADVENT COLLECTION FOR THE HOMELESS

Last year, our parish and our two schools were *extremely* generous with clothing and other donations for the homeless. This year we are aiming to give a shoe box full of 'goodies' and useful items to up to 50 homeless people in Abingdon and Oxford. Your donations **must be able to fit into a regular-sized shoe box (which we will provide)**. Please pick up an information leaflet as you leave church, which gives a list of items which might be suitable. A box will be available under the table at the back of the church **from Saturday 7th to Sunday 15th December only**, for you to put in your donations. Thank you in advance for your support.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

The season of Advent begins today. You might like to put the following dates in your diary:

- CIA Christmas Carol Singing in the Market Place on Saturday 14th December at 10am. All are welcome! For any further information please contact the CIA Administrator on 07896 860381.
- Our own **Parish Carol Service** will be on **Sunday 22nd December** at 4pm in our church. Do come along, and please do bring your children. This year we are inviting the children to dress up in nativity costume if they would like to.

Dates for our Christmas services are on our parish website – *Calendar, News* and *Mass Times* pages.

SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS

Please do pick up a leaflet in church today and make a pledge for a simple, sustainable Christmas. There will be a box to collect the pledges in church during Advent and we will present the pledges as part of the offertory gifts.

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Monday:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11am to 2pm.
- **Tuesday:** *Alpha* course in the parish centre from 7pm to 9.30pm.
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am **in term time**.

FUTURE DATES

- **Thu 12th Dec:** Joint pastoral area service of reconciliation at 7pm at Didcot.
- **Sat 14th Dec:** Christmas High Tea for Seniors from 2.30pm. For info, ring Ab. 534873.
- **Sun 22nd Dec:** Parish Carol Service at 4pm in the church.

CHRISTMAS HIGH TEA FOR SENIORS

This will be held on Saturday 14th December in our parish centre. For info, please ring Ab. 534873 – or you can sign up on the sheet at the back of the church.

FROM THE CHURCH IN ABINGDON

- Peachcroft Christian Centre is hosting a free two course lunch with entertainment on Christmas Day for those who are lonely at Christmas. Transport can be provided. If you are interested, please contact Kay Davies on 07787629198 or email: christmaslunch24@peachcroftcc.org
- Do you have a story or thoughts about what the Christian message means to you and would be willing to be published and share? CiA is looking for articles to be submitted to the Christian Forum in 'Around and About Abingdon' Please contact at first instance Debra Mc Knight at dhmcknight@aol.com

ADVENT OFFERINGS FROM THE CARMELITES

The Carmelite Priory at Boars Hill are offering a variety of online and residential retreats to provide an enriching experience this Advent as we await the Christ of God who comes to us at Christmas. Information and links for these are available on the *News* page of our parish website.

FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

An amazing £1,720 was raised by our parish through the recent sale of goods and Christmas cards. Thank you to the parish and especially Mary Mulqueen and Anne Green for their considerable efforts.

WE PRAY FOR:

- James Kavanagh, RIP. Funeral on Tuesday 3rd December at 11.30am
- Mary Brassill, RIP. Funeral on Wednesday 18th December at 10am.