

# ***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 at JR Hospital: 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



Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871 [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

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

## **MASSES:**

Thank you for helping to keep each other safe by continuing to wear face masks/coverings, for sanitising your hands as you enter the church, and for maintaining a reasonable distance from others where feasible.

## **OFFICE CLOSURE**

The parish office reopens on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

## **NEWSLETTERS**

Please do take your newsletter home with you. Contributions for the newsletter should be sent by the Wednesday of each week. Thank you.

## **THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – MASS TIMES**

This feast is on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January. As it is a Holy Day, the Mass times will be at **9am and 7pm**. The Rosary will be prayed at **8.30am**.

“Epiphany” means manifestation. And the “Epiphany of the Lord” is Jesus’ manifestation not only to the three Magi from the East, but it’s also a symbolic but real manifestation of the Christ to the whole world. These Magi, travelling from a foreign and non-Jewish nation, reveal that Jesus came for all people and all are called to adore Him. The first lesson we can take from the search by the Magi is that God will use what is familiar to us to call us to Himself. Look for the “star” that God is using to call us - it’s closer than we may think! Also, the Magi fell prostrate before the Christ Child - they laid their lives down before Him in complete surrender and adoration, and they set a perfect example for us to do the same. The three gifts, presented to our Lord, show that the Magi acknowledged this Child as the Divine King who would die to save us from sin. Gold is for a King, frankincense is a burnt offering to God, and myrrh is used for one who would die. So, their adoration is grounded in the truths of who this Child is. Let us reflect upon these Magi and see them as a symbol of what we are called to do - accepting the full truth of who He is, and lying prostrate before Him in complete and humble submission.

## **Christmastide**

### **Sunday 2 January** **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

8.45am Mass (Francis Fernandes, RIP)  
10.15am Mass (Ewart Hemmings, RIP)  
2.00pm Mass in Polish  
6.30pm Mass (*Special intention*)

### **Monday 3 January**

8.30am Rosary  
9.00am Mass (Private intention)

### **Tuesday 4 January**

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 5 January**

6.30pm Rosary  
7pm Mass (*Special intention*)

### **Thursday 6 January** **The Epiphany of the Lord**

8.30am Rosary  
9.00am Mass (Naif & Nadège Habayeb, RIP)  
7.00pm Mass (*Special intention*)

### **Friday 7 January**

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

### **Saturday 8 January**

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

## **SUPPORTING THE CARMELITES**

Please consider helping the Carmelites at Boars Hill by joining in their raffle. You can view more about the prizes on the News page of our website and also get more information on how to take part at: [www.carmelite.uk.net/Christmas-raffle](http://www.carmelite.uk.net/Christmas-raffle). The draw takes place on 3<sup>rd</sup> January. Thank you.

## THANK YOU!

A very big and heartfelt thank you to all that sent Christmas greetings and contributed to the Christmas offering. Please continue to support your parish in 2022.

Fr Jamie

## LENT 2022 PARISH CHARITY FUNDRAISING

During the season of Advent, the PPC ask you to think about charities which we could sponsor during Lent 2022. We would ideally like to fundraise for 2 charities, one local/UK based and one worldwide. Please give this some consideration and send your suggestions for the charities to the parish office by **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2022.**

## LIGHT FOR THE BLIND

Regular supporters of Light for the Blind (Fr Thomas' charity, should have received a copy of the 2021 newsletter directly, which contains a Christmas message from Father Thomas. If you have not received a newsletter by post or hand delivered, there are a few at the back of church but please let Peter Dodd know and he will make sure that you always get future copies.

## JTiF - JOURNEYING TOGETHER IN FAITH

Sessions will resume in the parish centre from 7.30pm to 9pm, on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January. All welcome.

### A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

Lord, You make all things new.  
You bring hope alive in our hearts  
And cause our Spirits to be born again.  
Thank you for this new year  
For all the potential it holds.  
Come and kindle in us  
A mighty flame  
So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God  
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.  
Amen

## REMEMBER THE FOOD BANK

Please keep the foodbank in mind.... Urgent items needed are:

- Long life cow's milk (semi-skimmed or whole)
- Sugar
- Bottles of squash
- Tinned meat for hot meals – mince, stews, meatballs
- Instant coffee
- Cleaning spray
- J cloths (other brands are available!)
- Bleach
- Dried chickpeas and couscous.

*Donations can be dropped off at the Foodbank on Northcourt Road on Tuesdays and Fridays between 11am and 1pm.*

## WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF:

- Ewart Hemmings RIP. Funeral Thu. 6<sup>th</sup> Jan, 12 noon.
- Margaret Birks RIP.

## PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the Parish Centre after the 10.15am Mass.

## FUTURE DATES

- **Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.
- **Mon 10<sup>th</sup> Jan:** JTiF (Journeying Together in Faith), 7.30pm to 9pm in the parish centre. All welcome.
- **Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Peace Sunday.

## UPCOMING DIOCESAN COURSES

The *Formation for Mission* team will be running online courses in January and February 2022, which may be of interest to parishioners and catechists. The courses will be as follows **and more information and how to enrol on any of them can be accessed on the News page of our website.**

- **For Catechists: Essential Training for Catechists (5 Mondays, 10th Jan – 7th Feb, 7.30 to 9.00 pm)** followed by their new course, *Further Training for Catechists (5 Mondays, 21st Feb – 21st March, 7.30 to 9.00 pm)* – in the first course, we will look at the fundamental principles of catechesis to discover *what it is*, and in the second course, we will look at specific questions: *how to speak* to adults, young people and children about God, Jesus, salvation, the human person and the Church. Both courses are open to everyone – you don't have to be a catechist to sign up.
- **For those who care of children with Additional/special needs:** They are offering 3 workshops on **Thursdays 13th, 20th and 27th January, 7.00 - 8.30 pm** for the parents, catechists and priests of young Catholics with additional needs: *Being Acceptional*. Workshop 1. *At Mass:* inclusion in the Liturgy; Workshop 2. *In Catechesis:* sacramental preparation; Workshop 3. *In the Home:* the domestic Church for children with additional needs.
- **For Adults who wish to know their faith better:** They are offering a 6 week course on **Tuesdays 15th February - 22nd March, 7.00 - 8.30 pm**. This course, *Anchoring your Faith: the Mass*, will help you (re)discover the Mass, exploring its liturgy in the light of our faith. We will go through the Mass step by step but also through the essential truths of our faith, using Scripture, artworks, and breakout group activities.