

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

God loves each and every one of us, deserving and underserving. He wants us not only to love him in return, but also to love one another. And here in a nutshell we have the whole teaching of the Bible. The only real failure of Christians is the failure to love. It teaches us how to love our heavenly Father, with all our heart and all our soul. He teaches us how to love our neighbour as ourselves. And these are the two great commandments of our faith.

It would be fair to say that the whole purpose of Jesus' life on earth was to worship and serve his heavenly Father AND you could say that his whole life was one of total service to others. Is there a contradiction here? No for he spoke of the two great commandments. The first – that we should love God. The second – that we should love our neighbour. He did not say that they were the same thing, rather that they are like two sides of one coin. If we want the total gospel, we must have both. He himself showed us how to do this.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Lord enable your Church to be the safe harbour as we search and explore our vocation in life and in service. Make it a lighthouse too, enabling us all to navigate our lives with skilfulness and joy, risking an adventure in Christ, as we hear him calling us, believing that we will find, and live more deeply your life in our own depths. Amen

FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND (FHL)

Today we welcome to the parish FHL – Friends of the Holy Land. The speakers will outline the hardship and challenges that face our Christian brothers and sisters who live in that special place. Through the sale of Christmas cards and other items they invite us today to support them at this particularly difficult time.

Week 30 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 1 (A)

Sunday 29 Oct.

8.45am Mass (Leslie Birkbeck RIP)
10.15am Mass (John Winfield RIP)
2.00pm Mass in Polish
6.30pm Mass (Lyn Knott RIP)

Monday 30 Oct.

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (Leslie Birkbeck RIP)

Tuesday 31 Oct.

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

Wednesday 1 Nov.

ALL SAINTS

9.00am Mass (Eileen Alexander RIP)
6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Justin Gosling RIP)

Thursday 2 Nov.

All Souls

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass (Hugh McCormack RIP)

Friday 3 Nov.

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Kathleen Brady RIP)

Saturday 4 Nov.

St Charles Borromeo

10.15am Mothers Prayers
11am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
11-11.30am Confessions
12pm Mass (Malcolm Woodman RIP)

MASS INFORMATION

Wednesday 1st November is a Holy Day, so there will be Masses at 9am and 7pm.

PARISH OFFICE

Please see new parish office opening hours are now 8.15am until 12.15pm Tuesday to Friday.

CHILDRENS' MASSES

Calling all children and families - 10.15am Mass on Sunday 3rd December (1st Sunday of Advent) will be a Children's Mass. Some of the children of our Parish will be leading us in the readings and prayers, and we will be inviting all of the children present to come up and sit on the Sanctuary steps during the Liturgy of the Word. Fr Jamie will be addressing his Homily to the children (but we will let the adults listen in too...). We are looking forward to welcoming you to this Mass, and we intend to continue holding a Children's Mass on the first Sunday of every month during term-time. We hope to see many of you there!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION

There will be a meeting in the Parish Centre, on **THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER AT 8pm**, for parents who wish to enrol their children in the 2024 preparation programme. It is essential that parents attend this meeting to receive enrolment forms and a copy of the programme. If you have any queries, please contact Hilary Webb at humwebb53@gmail.com

ANNUAL BEREAVEMENT SERVICE

The Churches in Abingdon will come together on **Sunday 5th November** for the *Annual Bereavement Service*. This year it will take place at Christ Church, Northcourt Road, Abingdon at **3pm**. All Welcome.

BLESSING OF THE GRAVES

Will take place on Sunday 5th November at 10.15am in our churchyard, and 1pm at the cemetery in Spring Road.

READERS NEEDED

More readers are urgently needed for each of the Sunday Masses. Please contact Pat Lonergan on 07521 333430 or at patrloner@gmail.com for more information.

SPECIAL AND UNIQUE TALK – ALL INVITED

The Catholic grandparents' Association invite everyone to the parish centre on **Tuesday 7th November** at 7pm for a special and unique talk given by Joanna Bogle, writer, broadcaster, biographer and historian, who will speak about *Feasts and seasons: Celebrating the Church's Calendar* in the run-up to Advent and Christmas.

SECOND COLLECTION ON SUNDAY 5th NOVEMBER

The second collection next Sunday (5th November) will be for the Diocese of Bamenda in Cameroon which is twinned with our Portsmouth Diocese.

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.
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.

FUTURE DATES

- **Sun 5th Nov:** Blessing of graves 10.15am in our churchyard and 1pm at Spring Road cemetery.
- **Sun 5th Nov:** CiA Annual Bereavement service at 3pm – this year at Christ Church, Northcourt Road.
- **Wed 8th Nov:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.
- **Thu 16th Nov:** Meeting in the parish centre at 8pm for parents who wish to enrol their children in the 2024 First Holy Communion programme.

THANK YOU FROM CAFOD

The *CAFOD Family Fast Day* raised £1,358 from our parish. Many thanks for your generosity.

A SIMPLE SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS

We are a *LiveSimply* Parish and, in the spirit of living more simply and sustainably as individuals and as a parish, we hope to share suggestions at the beginning of Advent for celebrating a simpler Christmas this year. Please send suggestions, big or small to carolesawyers27@gmail.com or put them in an envelope marked *Simple Christmas* and drop it into the presbytery.

CHURCH TWINNING – BARN DANCE

This will be on Saturday 18th November. Come and join us for a Barn Dance with a difference at Trinity Church Hall, Conduit Rd featuring French 'Bourree' and English Barn Dancing, accompanied by Natalan, a ceilidh band from Argentan in Normandy. We will start at 5.30pm with a workshop to learn the Bourree dance steps followed by refreshments. The Barn Dance proper starts with the Bourree dance session from 7.30 to 8.30pm, followed by refreshments, finishing with an English Barn Dance from 9 to 10pm. Tickets are £10 a person (children free) and there are a limited number. For more details or to book tickets, please contact Anne Dodd (peteranne@aol.com) or Pat Warren (patwarren14@hotmail.com)

WE PRAY FOR:

- Maria Fleming, RIP. Funeral Wed 8th November at 12noon.
- Errol Midwinter, RIP.