

# ***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](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**

A lamp that gives no light is useless. A fruit tree that produces no fruit is worthless. A Christian who doesn't love their neighbour is in the same category. But it was God who first loved us. He wants us to repay his love by loving one another. We know we fail to love others as we should, but we don't fail to persevere. If only the heart was right we could give so much more. But, alas, the heart is often empty. It is often cold and unwelcoming. It is often hard and unyielding. It is often weighed down with worry. It is often sad and lonely. It is often in darkness. It is often wounded. And it is sometimes broken. We have to heal the wounds of the heart in order to be able to love. Lord, touch our hearts and heal them, so that we may be able to bear the fruits of love.

## **PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

Loving God, you call all who believe in you to grow perfect in love by following in the footsteps of Christ your Son. Call from among us more men and women who will serve you and witness for your kingdom for the Church and the whole world. Help the men and women of our parish to hear your call to serve you in the many different ways they offer themselves to build up the community. Open the hearts of many, raise up the faithful servants of the gospel, dedicated holy priests, deacons, brothers and sisters who will spend themselves for your people and their needs. Bless those who are serving now with courage and perseverance. Grant that many will be inspired by their example and truth. Amen.

## **LENTEN PROJECTS FUNDRAISING UPDATE**

With just a couple more funds to come in, we have so far raised roughly £11,000 for our two charities – *Friends of the Holy Land* and *Helen & Douglas House*. We will announce the final sum as soon as we have it.

## **SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER: Cycle 2 (B)**

### **Sunday 5 May**

8.45am	Mass	<b>6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> (Alberto Incarbona RIP)
10.15am	Mass	(Bishop Declan Lang Intentions)
2pm	Mass in Polish	
6.30pm	Mass	(Buster Field RIP)

### **Monday 6 May**

8.30am	Rosary	
9.00am	Mass	(Mike Paterson Intentions)

### **Tuesday 7 May**

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 8 May**

6.30pm	Rosary	
7.00pm	Mass	(In Thanksgiving)

### **Thursday 9 May**

8.30am	Rosary	
9.00am	Mass	(Pat & Geoff Castle Intentions)
7.00pm	Mass	( <i>Special Intention</i> )

### **Friday 10 May**

6.30pm	Rosary	
7.00pm	Mass	( <i>Special Intention</i> )

### **Saturday 11 May**

11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
11-11.30am	Confessions	
12pm	Mass	( <i>Special Intention</i> )

## **THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MAY**

The *Ascension of the Lord* is celebrated this Thursday and is a Holy Day. Masses will be at 9.00am and 7pm.

## **SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MAY**

The second collection next Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May is for the *Catholic Communications Network*.

## NEW TO THE PARISH?

If you have joined our parish in the last year or so, you are warmly invited to a festive evening to welcome you, on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May** at 7pm in the Parish Centre. If you haven't yet signed up, please contact Eliane as soon as possible on 07932350951 so that we can cater for numbers.

## CAR WASHING FOR OUR LENTEN PROJECTS

Due to bad weather last Sunday, this had to be postponed and a new date will be given shortly.

## ARE YOU IN NEED, OR WANT TO HELP OTHERS?

For nearly two centuries the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) has been seeking and finding those in need and responding in love. As well as visits, we can offer practical and financial help where possible. We always maintain confidentiality. Our SVP members meet every fortnight on a Wednesday evening. If you are in need or know someone who is, do contact our parish SVP group via the parish office and we will see what we can do to help. Equally, if you would like to get involved in any way, please do contact us.

## DON'T FORGET THE FOODBANK

Please remember the foodbank either at Christ Church, Northcourt Road or at the Preston Road Community Centre at Midget Close. More people than ever are being driven to food banks and the sharp increase in people needing help is outstripping food donations. You can find out what items are particularly needed by visiting their website (search 'Abingdon food bank'), and they are also happy to receive monetary donations.

## CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

Please remember in your prayers the young people from our parish who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN

Please also pray for the children who will be making their First Holy Communion on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May and pray for their families as well.

## CAFOD APPEAL FOR SUDAN

Sudan is in a crisis due to a war in the region for a year and a prolonged drought and shortage of food. You can contribute to the help which CAFOD is providing, using the link we have on the *News* page of our parish website.

## DONIE ON SHALOM WORLD TV

Parishioner Donie Kearney is featured in an episode of the series 'Mary My Mother' on Shalom World TV. You can watch it online using the link on the *News* page of our parish website, or type in this web address: [www.shalomworld.org/episode/a-miraculous-deliverance-from-alcoholism-donie-kearney](http://www.shalomworld.org/episode/a-miraculous-deliverance-from-alcoholism-donie-kearney)

## 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.
- **Wednesday:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am *in term time*.

## FUTURE DATES

- **Fri 17<sup>th</sup> May:** Festive evening for new and current parishioners. Please see information in the main section of this newsletter.

## MONTH OF MAY

The month of May is traditionally known as 'Mary's Month'. Why not join other parishioners before the weekday Masses to pray the Rosary together?

## DON BOSCO BOYS' CAMP

This camp will be going ahead again this summer from Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July to Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August for boys of secondary school age (leaving Yr6 to leaving Yr11) at St. Cassian's, Kintbury. There will be plenty of sport, outings, competitions, and games to ensure that boys will have a fantastic week. This will continue to take place within the context of the celebration of the Catholic Faith, including daily Mass and morning prayer. The cost of the camp is £230 (part bursaries may be available on application). For more information please email: [dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

## THE GREAT FEASTS

We've only recently celebrated the great feast of Easter with such holy joy. The miraculous event gives the whole Christian community the confidence to share in Christ's victory over sin and death and reassure us that life and love is eternal. The next great feast to celebrate marks forty days after Easter, when Christ finally ascends to his heavenly home with his Father. There follows an intense wait in the whole Church to finally rejoice in the coming of the one Christ promises – the comforter, the consoler, the Paraclete – the power and presence of God in the Church today – the Holy Spirit. That period between Ascension and Pentecost is the first novena – 9 days of prayer to welcome the arrival of the Holy Spirit this Pentecost into our hearts, 50 days after Easter.

## ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL

We are looking to welcome two enthusiastic, dynamic, and committed part time Teaching Assistant's supportive of our school mission and Catholic ethos to join our happy, motivated children. Please visit the School Website <https://st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk/> for further details of all the vacancies. Closing date: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 12.00 noon.