

# ***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](mailto: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**

As we gather in the house of our heavenly father, Christ our Saviour is in our midst as he promised. St Paul says to us in today's 2<sup>nd</sup> reading: *"The Lord is very near, so there is no need to worry. If you need anything, pray for it."*

Today is known as Gaudete Sunday, a day to rejoice. A lot of people confuse joy with pleasure, but there is a world of difference between them, and unless you know this difference, you have not yet begun to live. People who have tasted real joy are suspicious of pleasure, because pleasure sometimes can be the death of joy. Joy consists in having a love affair with life. It is having a heart for all your companions on the road of life. It is a blend of laughter and tears. It is knowing how to share with other people. It is looking for the happiness that comes in small packages. It is making the most of the present, enjoying what is at hand right now. Joy is love bubbling over into life. And surprisingly, it can co-exist with pain. Joy is the flag you fly when Christ, the Prince of Peace, is in residence within your heart.

### **VOCATIONS**

O Jesus, Leader of leaders and shepherd of all, your Word illuminates the path to servanthood, guiding us in the footsteps of the greatest leaders. O Jesus, thank you for the call you place in our hearts – a divine invitation to serve your people, echoing the wisdom of the Bible in our daily walk. O Jesus, ignite within us a fervent desire to embrace our service with humility and strength, as you teach us by your own life. O Jesus, may we be beacons of your light, drawing from the well of your love and compassion, as we lead others to the waters of your grace. O Jesus, bless us with discernment and courage, to answer your call with a resounding 'yes', reflecting your heart in all that we do. Amen.

### **CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE**

Our **Parish Carol Service** is on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### **Third Week of Advent: Cycle 1 (C)**

#### **Sunday 15 December THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8.45am Mass (Kamtchum family, in thanksgiving)  
10.15am Mass (Ewart Hemmings, RIP)  
6.30pm Mass (Fr John Huninche, RIP)

#### **Monday 16 December**

8.30am Rosary  
9.00am Mass (*Special intention*)

#### **Tuesday 17 December**

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 18 December**

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

#### **Thursday 19 December**

9.00am Rosary  
9.30am Mass (Ted Kelly & Fiona McGuirk RIP)

#### **Friday 20 December St Lucy**

6.30pm Rosary  
7.00pm Mass (Mary Kelly intentions)

#### **Saturday 21 December**

11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
11-11.30am Confessions  
12pm Mass (Joan & Leslie Ashton, RIP)

### **LENT 2025 – PARISH CHARITY FUNDRAISING**

During the season of Advent, the parish pastoral committee (PPC) ask you to think about charities which we could sponsor during Lent 2025. Ideally, we would like to fundraise for 2 charities – one local/UK based and one worldwide. We are only able to consider registered charities. Please give this some consideration and send suggestions to the parish office *by Friday 3 January 2025*. Thank you.

## SEEKING HELP TO ERECT CHRISTMAS TREES

We will be preparing our church for Christmas and would like help to erect the tall Christmas trees on the sanctuary. If you are able to help on **Tuesday 17th at 10am** please contact Jo Milham on 07980283417. Many thanks.

## ADVENT COLLECTION 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 **until Monday 16th December only**, for you to put in your donations. **Please do not put any donations in the church after this date.** Thank you in advance for your support.

## CHRISTMAS CRIB OFFERINGS

It won't be long before the Christmas crib in our church is put up – the outdoor one is already there thanks to the volunteers who worked on it last week. This year, our Christmas Crib offerings will go to the *Knights of the Holy Sepulchre (KHS)*, who financially support Christians in the Middle East, and, above all, pray for them. They fund many works that support the Christians living in the Holy Land, thus ensuring that they survive and that the holy sites are still populated by Christians and do not become museums. The Knights do everything they can to help with practical projects to stabilise Christian communities, and also fund-raise to maintain schools, formation, charitable and social activities. The need to help this year is hugely urgent, because of the war in the Holy Land. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## 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.

## OPEN DOORS

Our final session of 2024 is Monday, 16th December, when we will be serving a festive roast lunch. **There will be no Open Doors on 23rd December and 30th December.**

Our first session of 2025 will be on Monday, 6th January. During January, February and March, *Open Doors* will also be offering a warm space to those who need it during the winter months and session times will be extended slightly to run from 10.30am to 2.30pm every Monday.

## 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.
- **Thursday:** Mothers' prayers in French at 8pm in the parish centre.
- **Saturday:** Mothers' prayers in English in the church at 10.15am

## FUTURE DATES

- **Sun 22nd Dec:** Parish Carol Service at 4pm in the church.
- **Mon 6th Jan:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 10.30am to 2.30pm.
- **Fri 10th Jan:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.

## MOTHERS' PRAYERS

Mothers, grandmothers and aunts, why not join us in praying for our children. Mothers' prayers in **French** will take place on Thursday this week at 8pm in the parish centre, and mothers' prayers in **English** on Saturday at 10.15am in the church. All welcome.

## ADVENT PLEDGES

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

## FESTIVE RAFFLE

The *Friends of St Edmund's School* are running an online raffle this Christmas to raise much needed funds for our school, please consider buying some tickets, there are some great prizes on offer, including £100 cash. Visit: <https://go.rallyup.com/friends-of-st-edms/Campaign/Details> **The prizes will be drawn on 18th December.**

If you are interested in fundraising and would like to join the *Friends of St Edmund's*, the group is open to parents, teachers and parishioners and they would be very grateful of your help. Please contact them at [friendsofsteds@mail.com](mailto:friendsofsteds@mail.com)

## 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](mailto:christmaslunch24@peachcroftcc.org)

## WE PRAY FOR:

- Mary Brassill, RIP. Funeral on Wednesday 18th December at 10am.