

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

John's was a voice crying in the wilderness, a lonely voice that many of his contemporaries ignored. The voice of the prophet is not the only voice that is ignored. There are many lonely voices in our world today that go unheeded. Somewhere at this moment, a child is crying, crying for love or maybe simply for bread. Somewhere a young person is crying, crying for a listening ear or an understanding heart. Somewhere a deserted wife and mother is crying, crying for the support of a husband. Somewhere old people are crying, crying from a word from their children. There are a thousand lonely voices, a thousand unheard cries in our world coming from the victims of injustice or neglect. Lord help us listen to these voices. Above all help us to listen to your voice, whispering to us in the wilderness of our hearts, telling us that we are loved by the Father, and that we are to love one another.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father, your Divine Son taught us to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into His vineyard. Bless our Diocese with selfless hearts that are willing to serve your Church. Raise up from our homes, courageous and humble hearts to the Priesthood and Diaconate and faithful people to the consecrated life, and holy men and women to the Sacrament of Marriage. May our lives be always centred on our Lord in the Eucharist, and may we be devoted sons and daughters of Mary, our Mother, in making you known and loved.

ADVENT WREATH

The Advent Wreath in our homes and churches is a focal point for our prayer and preparation for the birth of our Saviour. As the candlelight burns brighter each Sunday of Advent, may our minds and hearts be enlightened too.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLS SERVICE

Join us in our church at **4pm** this **Sunday 10th December** for our Christmas Carol service, followed by refreshments in the parish centre.

Second Sunday of Advent: Cycle 2 (B)

Sunday 10 Dec.

8.45am Mass
10.15am Mass

Second Sunday of Advent

(*Special Intention*)
(Marguerite Innes & Mary Glynn RIP)

2.00pm Mass in Polish
6.30pm Mass

(*Special Intention*)

Monday 11 Dec.

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass

(Jim O'Leary RIP)

Tuesday 12 Dec.

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

Wednesday 13 Dec.

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass

St Lucy

(*Special Intention*)

Thursday 14 Dec.

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass

St John of the Cross

(*Special Intention*)

Friday 15 Dec.

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass

(*Special Intention*)

Saturday 16 Dec.

11am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
11-11.30am Confessions
12pm Mass

(*Special Intention*)

HIGH TEA FOR SENIORS AND HOUSE BOUND

This will take place this Saturday 16th December from 2.30-4.30pm in our parish centre. If you would like to come, please phone Ab. 534873 to let us know or for more information.

CHRISTMAS TREES

We are looking for volunteers to help set up the Christmas Trees in the Church on Wednesday 20th December at 10.30am. If you can help please contact Jo Milham 07980383417

FOLLOW ADVENT ON OUR WEBSITE

Our parish website has an interactive Advent calendar on the 'Home' page and some interactive reflections in the 'What's On' section, which you may find helpful during this Advent season and up to Christmas. Do take a look.

LENTEN PROJECT 2024

During the season of Advent, the PPC ask you to think about charities which we could sponsor during Lent 2024. We would ideally like to fundraise for 2 charities - one local/UK based and one worldwide. Please give this some consideration and send suggestions, with an outline of the charity, to the Parish Office **by Monday 8th January 2024**. Thank you.

ADVENT PLEDGES FOR A SIMPLE CHRISTMAS

Please take home a leaflet from the back of the church with some ideas about pledges for a simple Christmas. We invite everyone to make a pledge about what action they will take. From the first Sunday of Advent (3 December) the pledges will be displayed in church - remember to bring yours and pin it to the ribbons - or leave it in the basket and somebody will pin it up for you.

SUPPORTING THE HOMELESS

Our Advent collection this year will be supporting the homeless through the work of *Emmaus Oxford*. We began our collection at the start of Advent (3rd December) and this will end on **Wednesday 13th December**. A list of items which would be welcomed is available at the back of the church, on the noticeboard outside, and on the *News* page of our website. A box is available at the back of the church for you to put in your contributions. All donations will be presented to representatives from *Emmaus Oxford* at a school assembly at St Edmund's School on 15th December, which will also be attended by some students from OLA School. Both schools have been very actively supporting our parish with this Advent appeal. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN THE MARKET PLACE

Everyone is warmly welcomed to the Christmas Carol Singing in the Abingdon Market Place this Saturday 16th December 2023 from 10am - 12 noon. Hosted by the Church in Abingdon (CiA), this year there will be Children's crafts, Christmas nibbles, and a Nativity crib scene family dress-up/photo opportunity!

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Sunday:** Carol service in our church at 4pm, followed by refreshments in the parish centre.
- **Monday:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11.30am to 2.30pm.
- **Wednesday:** *Mothers Prayers in French* in parish centre 8pm
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.
- **Saturday:** Christmas High Tea in the parish centre from 2.30-4.30pm. For info, please ring Ab. 534873.

FUTURE DATES

- **Mon 18 Dec:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11.30am to 2.30pm.

THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS GIVING

If you have already begun your Christmas shopping - or are thinking about doing so - why not pick up the *CAFOD* booklet of *World Gifts* from the back of the church and in the porch. Every gift you buy helps real people and makes a massive positive difference.

HELP NEEDED ON CHRISTMAS DAY

This year on Christmas Day we will be inviting 60 people to have a two-course lunch for free with us at Peachcroft Christian Centre. We need a number of volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please email jay.elliott@peachcroftcc.org as soon as possible. More information on the help needed is available on the *News* page of our parish website.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

This Advent season, if you are not familiar with this Sacrament, there are leaflets to help you, available at the back of the church, with separate ones for adults and children.

POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE FOR COP28

"Today, the world needs alliances that are not against anyone, but in favour of all," he said. "It is urgent that religions, without falling into the trap of syncretism, give a good example. Working together, not for one's own interests or those of one party, but for the interests of our world." He added that the most important topics currently are "peace and the climate." Pope Francis thus invited all religious representatives to be an example and "show that change is possible" by bearing witness to sustainable and respectful lifestyles.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed on Tues 12th December and then from Tuesday 26th December until Tuesday 2nd January.