

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

BAMENDA SUNDAY

This Sunday finds us on the threshold of the 50th Anniversary year of the formation of the link back in 1974 when Bishop Derek Worlock of Portsmouth met the first Bishop of Bamenda Paul Verdzekov. The twinning is a response to the Vatican II document, *Gaudium et Spes*, which urged us to treat one another in a spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood – to look after and love one another. Initially, priests of the Portsmouth Diocese went to serve as missionaries in Bamenda, but since the decline in the number of vocations, we have been grateful for the generous ministry of priests from Bamenda – currently we have five priests serving in our Diocese and hopefully another priest will be joining them soon. The Archdiocese of Bamenda continues to be blessed with vocations – 13 priests were ordained this year!

We have also been able to send grants to work in partnership with the people of Bamenda on a variety of projects over the years and that is thanks to your very generous response to our annual appeal this Sunday. Many thanks indeed and your ongoing support is much appreciated.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Almighty God, you have entrusted to your Church a share in the ministry of your Son our great high priest. By the grace of your Holy Spirit inspire the hearts of many to offer themselves for ministry in your Church, that strengthened by his power, they may work for the increase in your Kingdom in our world today; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS SUNDAY

The second collection this Sunday (5th November) will be for the **Diocese of Bamenda in Cameroon** which is twinned with our Portsmouth Diocese. Donations can be made after Mass, on the electronic device at the back of the church, or online via the *News* page of our website, or as usual in the retiring collection.

Week 31 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 1 (A)

Sunday 5 Nov.

8.45am Mass (Abbey Wilson RIP)
10.15am Mass (Giuseppina Magnaghi RIP)
2.00pm Mass in Polish
6.30pm Mass (Elizabeth Gayther RIP)

Monday 6 Nov.

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (Errol Midwinter RIP)

Tuesday 7 Nov.

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

Wednesday 8 Nov.

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

Thursday 9 Nov.

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass (Paterson Family Intentions)

Friday 10 Nov.

St Leo the Great

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Private Intention)

Saturday 11 Nov.

St Martin of Tours

11am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
11-11.30am Confessions
12pm Mass (Bridget Dyjak RIP)

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed on Friday 10th November. It will also be closed from Tuesday 26th December and will re-open on Tuesday 2nd January.

BLESSING OF THE GRAVES

Will take place this **Sunday 5th November** at 10am in our churchyard, and 1pm at the cemetery in Spring Road.

PARISH AGM

Our Parish AGM will take place on **Sunday 19th November** at 7.30pm in the parish centre. All parishioners are invited to attend.

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 lead 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 this **Sunday 5th November** for the *Annual Bereavement Service*. This year it will take place at Christ Church, Northcourt Road, Abingdon at **3pm**. All Welcome.

READERS NEEDED

More readers are urgently needed for each of the Sunday Masses. Please contact Pat Lonergan on 07521 333430 or at patloner@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.

PARISH OFFICE

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

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Sunday:** Blessing of graves 10.15am in our churchyard and 1pm at Spring Road cemetery.
- **Sunday:** CiA Annual Bereavement service at 3pm – this year at Christ Church, Northcourt Road.
- **Wednesday:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.
- **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

- **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.
- **Sun 19th Nov:** Parish AGM at 7.30pm in the parish centre.

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:

- Errol Midwinter, RIP. Funeral Fri 24th Nov at 1.30pm
- Maria Fleming, RIP. Funeral Wed 8th Nov at 12noon.
- Bridget Jones, RIP. Funeral Wed 15th Nov at 11am
- Jim O'Leary, RIP. Funeral Fri 17th Nov at 11.30am