

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: 9am - 12.30pm Tuesday to Friday
Office Email: abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

We live stream all services

Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230
Visits at JR Hospital: 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

Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871 www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Confessions: Saturdays 11.00 – 11.30am or by appointment

YOU WILL BE MY WITNESS

A few weeks ago, we heard Bishop Philip's Pastoral letter 'You will be my Witness' when he revealed his vision for the Diocese, and the draft of his strategic plan for our feedback. Please read this either in hard copy, if you took one, or on our website *News* page.

We are now inviting as many of you as possible to offer feedback that we as a parish can then forward to Portsmouth as they finalise the plan for us by summer 2023. If you would like to do this, please collect a copy of the feedback form from the table at the back of the church, or download it from the *News* page of our website. You do not need to complete each section of the form if you feel unable to.

We ask you to return your completed form **not later than Monday 5th December** and invite you to a discussion for this stage of the Bishop's plan **in the parish centre at 7pm on Tuesday 6th December**. Thank you.

HELP THE MINI VINNIES AT ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL

The *Mini Vinnies* (children's branch of the *SVP*) have chosen to support the homeless and vulnerable, through *Emmaus*, as their 'Christmas Project'.

If you would like to contribute, we will have a box available in the church from Sunday 20th November until Sunday the 4th December.

The following items are especially welcomed (for men and for women, but mostly for men):

- Warm hats,
- new pants,
- new socks,
- gloves,
- scarves,
- torches,
- *Greggs* gift food vouchers,
- chocolates.

Thank you for your support.

First Week of Advent

Sunday 27 Nov

8.45am	Mass	First Sunday of Advent (Denis O'Driscoll RIP)
10.15am	Mass	(John Nelson RIP)
2.00pm	Mass in Polish	
6.30m	Mass	(Private Intention)

Monday 28 Nov

8.30am	Rosary	
9.00am	Mass	(Vicki Corbett RIP)

Tuesday 29 Nov

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

Wednesday 30 Nov

6.30pm	Rosary	St Andrew
7.00pm	Mass	(Antonio Oliver RIP)

Thursday 1 Dec

9.00am	Rosary	
9.30am	Mass	(Hector, Ezequiel & Gustavo Garcia RIP)

Friday 2 Dec

6.30pm	Rosary	
7.00pm	Mass	(Private Intention)

Saturday 3 Dec

11am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	St Francis Xavier
11-11.30am	Confessions	
12pm	Mass	(James Molloy RIP)

CHRISTMAS LUNCH FOR SENIORS

The Christmas lunch for seniors will take place on **Sunday 11th December** in the parish centre. For catering purposes, please could you sign up on the form which is on the table at the back of the church. Raffle prizes welcome and helpers needed also. Please contact Mary 534873 or Jo 526177. We look forward to seeing you.

ADVENT PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we begin this Advent, give light to our eyes and peace to our hearts. May the Lord find us watching and waiting in joy when He comes. Increase our strength of will for doing good, so that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever. Amen. *Follow Advent on our parish website.*

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS

Give a gift of hope this Christmas. In Advent, let's share the promise of hope that has been made to us with our sisters and brothers around the world. You can buy CAFOD's World Gifts for family and friends this Christmas online at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> or pick up a catalogue which are available in the church and the church porch.

PARISH YOUTH GROUPS

The youth groups are open to any child and young person in year 3 and above. We meet again this Saturday 3rd December from 3.20pm to 5pm in the parish centre. Do bring your child or children along, and they are welcome to bring a friend – the more the merrier for fun activities and building up friendships.

ABINGDON FOOD BANK CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

Donations of the items listed below are welcomed. Please take your donations to one of the collection points by 9th December, and make sure the best before dates are for 26th December or later. Thank you.

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| * Large tins of ham | * Tins of fruit |
| * Tins of salmon | * Crisps and savoury snacks |
| * Tins of potatoes | * Jars of pickles/chutney |
| * Tins of carrots | * Crackers for cheese |
| * Tins of peas | * Sweet biscuits |
| * Gravy granules | * Cakes |
| * Cranberry sauce | * Sweets |
| * Stuffing mix | * Tins of custard |
| * Soft drinks | * Jars of jam/chocolate spread |
| * Toiletry gift sets | * Christmas puds (standard size) |

Collection points are at:

- Waitrose Abingdon, Abbey Close
- North Foodbank, Christ Church, Northcourt Rd
- South Foodbank, Preston Road Community Centre

WELCOME

The Diocesan Vocations Team will be speaking at all Masses NEXT SUNDAY 4th December. They will be led by Fr. John Cooke.

LENT CHARITYFUND RAISING 2023

During the season of Advent, the PPC ask you to think about charities which we could sponsor during Lent 2023. We would ideally like to fundraise for 2 charities, one local/UK based and one world- wide. Please give this some consideration and send suggestions to the parish office by Monday 10th January 2023.

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Monday:** Journeying Together in Faith (JTIF) at 7.30pm in the parish centre. All welcome.
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.
- **Saturday:** Parish Youth Groups activities in the parish centre 3.30-5pm. School years 3 upwards welcome.

FUTURE DATES

- **Sat 3rd Dec:** Mothers Prayers, Church
- **Sun. 4th Dec:** Parish AGM in the parish centre after the 6.30pm Mass.
- **Mon 5th Dec:** Journeying Together in Faith (JTIF) at 7.30pm in the parish centre. All welcome.
- **Tue. 6th Dec:** *You Will Be My Witnesses* meeting at 7pm in the parish centre.
- **Sun 11th Dec:** Parish Christmas lunch for seniors.
- **Sun 18th Dec:** Celebration of Fr Jamie's 40th anniversary of ordination, in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass. All welcome.

PPC AGM

All are invited to the PPC AGM on Sunday 4th December at 7.30 pm (after evening mass) in the parish centre. This the first opportunity since 2019, to meet together and to look at our emerging parish life since the lockdown. ALL ARE WARMLY INVITED TO ATTEND.

CHRISTMAS DAY DELIVERY GIFT BAGS

This is happening again, led this year by Peachcroft Christian Centre. We visit those on their own on Christmas Day, have a little chat on the doorstep, and give them a bag of gifts, including Christmas Cards made by St. Edmund's Primary School and a table decoration made by pupils at OLA. There are two different opportunities to be involved. 1) Packing the bags on Sat 17 Dec at 2pm for 1 – 2 hours at Peachcroft. 2) Delivery of the bags on Christmas Day which we do by car, two people doing it (we can put people together). Usually takes one hour, and exact timings up to you but usually late morning to early afternoon. There is a short safeguarding recruitment process for this role. Please contact Jay at jay.elliott@peachcroftcc.org

MOTHERS PRAYERS

Will be happening again in the Church, by Our Lady's statue, on Saturday 3rd December 10.15 – 10.50. Every mother and grandmother is most welcome to come and pray for their children, using set prayers. *"Ask and it will be given to you for everyone who asks receives"*

WE PRAY FOR:

- Justin Gosling RIP. Funeral Tue. 6 Dec. at 10.30am
- Fr Robin Sanders RIP. Funeral Mass with Bishop Philip at Holy Rood, 3rd Dec at 3pm.