

Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon
1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL

Parish Priest: Fr. Jamie McGrath Tel: 01235 520375
Parish Secretary: Lisa Paterson Tel: 01235 520375
Office Hours: 9am-12pm Monday to Friday
Office Email: abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
We live stream most services (the 10.15am Mass on the first Sunday of every month is not live streamed).
Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230
Visits at JR Hospital: Fr Pius 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: 11.00 - 11.30am or by appointment

Happy Christmas!

We welcome you all today to celebrate the birth of our Saviour. May all our families and friends be blessed with the peace His coming brings. Fr. Jamie.

Welcome!

Welcome to those who have stopped practicing their Catholic Faith regularly but are here in the Church for Christmas. Many people return to the Church after a period of time, as they sense a spiritual emptiness in their lives which only Christ can fill. We are really pleased that you are here and hope you will come again. It is normal to have questions about various aspects of faith and life and we would be very happy to listen and talk to those who would like this. Please just ring the parish number or email the parish office. You might also like to consider coming and trying the Alpha course, where every question is appreciated and there is a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere.

A Christmas Prayer

Father in heaven, as this day of joy returns and crowns another year with peace and goodwill we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus. May we be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. We thank you with open hearts for the greatest gift of love you have given us, your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer for Returners

Jesus, send your Holy Spirit into my heart in this moment. I need to experience You afresh and receive Your healing and forgiveness.

Enter my heart now. Many different memories, emotions and experiences lie hidden there.

Please come with Your light. Thank you that You are near. Give me the courage to respond to the invitation which is being given to me.

Amen.

CHRISTMAS

Wednesday 25 December THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

8am	Mass	Private Intention
9.30am	Mass	Nicki Jaques RIP (Birthday)
11.30	Mass	Deceased members of Fominyam family RIP
4.30pm	Polish Mass	

N.B. No evening Mass

Thursday 26 December ST STEPHEN

N.B. No morning Mass
12noon Mass Private Intention

Friday 27 December ST JOHN

6.30pm	Rosary	
7pm	Mass	Sylvia Oliver RIP (Anniversary)

Saturday 28 December THE HOLY INNOCENTS

11am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
11-11.30am	Confessions	
12 noon	Mass	Sr. Niamh Rodda Intentions

Parish Life

Parish Office will be closed until Monday 30th December.

BIBLE ALIVE – This booklet is an excellent aid to reading and understanding the Holy Scriptures. The January edition is now available at the back of the church (only £2.50).

CAKE & CONVERSATION resumes on Wednesday 8th January from 9.30 to 11am in the parish centre. Anyone whose first language is not English is warmly welcome to this friendly informal group.

The Baby and Toddler group reopens after our Christmas break on Friday, 10th January 2020 in our parish centre on Oxford road at 9.30am.

The RCIA Group resumes on Tuesday 14th January.

We will be running the **Alpha Course** again next term, on Tuesday evenings, starting mid January. Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that explore the Christian faith in a relaxed and safe way. Great for both those new to faith and those who are wanting to look at faith again. www.alpha.org.uk. Please contact clare@claresimpson.com for more details.

The monthly **Healing Mass** will be taking place at the Carmelite Priory, Boars Hill, on Tuesday 7th January at 7pm. Several parishioners go regularly and you will be made very welcome.

In mid January, we will be running an 8 week course on the **Bible**, called Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible. It gives the big picture of the Bible and God's unfailing love for us. It shows the connections between the Old and New Testaments and how the Catholic Faith is rooted in Scripture. 30 min DVD presentation then discussion and sharing. It will run on Thursday mornings and possibly another day/time. Please contact clare@claresimpson.com if you are interested, as we need to order the booklets in advance.

Everyone is welcome to join **Mothers' Prayers** which will be meeting in the Church, by Our Lady's statue, on Saturday 11th January 1015am - 1045am. This is a wonderful chance to pray for our children, grandchildren, godchildren using a little booklet of prayers. We have experienced so many wonderful answers to prayer. We come together to offer all our burdens in the safe hands of God. There is also a Mothers Prayers group in Spanish - please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Faith Development

Come and join the traditional New Years Day Walk in support of Christian Aid, 1st January 2020, 10am
Abingdon Baptist Church OX14 5AG
Route Circular via Drayton with a distance of 5 miles (or less if you choose!) Refreshments will be provided at the finish. Only £1 payable on the day.

Parish Events for the Week

N.B. All take place in the Parish Centre unless specified

Future Diary Dates

8th Jan Cake & Conversation resumes

10th Jan Baby & Toddler Group resumes

Youth Events

SATURDAY 11TH JANUARY

* *Children of Our Lady (COOL) group meets from 3.30 to 5.00pm in the Parish Centre (primary school years 3 to 6 are all invited).*

* *St Edmund's Knights meet from 3.30-5.00pm in the Parish Centre (young people in secondary school are all invited).*

Reminders of future events are always included in the parish weekly newsletter and the full programme can be viewed in the youth section on our parish website at: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/events

More info: bhabayeb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

More info: tipayouth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Love at Christmas

based on 1 Corinthians 13, by Sharon Jaynes

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to help one's wife with the boring housework. Love puts the Christmas present shopping on hold in order to run an elderly neighbour to the doctor.

Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has more expensive presents or even coordinated Christmas china and table linen.

Love doesn't yell the children to get out of the way. Love is glad that they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't only give to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, even irritating relatives. It believes all things, and encourages teenagers to aim high for their future. It hopes all things, endures all things, even a spouse who is depressed about their job prospects.

Love never fails other people. Computer games will crash, even cashmere jumpers will wear out, and golf clubs will get lost. But the gift of love will endure forever.

Money Matters: 22nd December 2018
Not available