

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 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

Christ likened the Kingdom of God to a tree in the branches of which all the birds of the sky are able to find shelter. Therefore, in a Christian community there should be no strangers, no outsiders, no rejects. Everybody should feel welcome and at home. Christ accepts us therefore we should accept one another. We all should pause to see if there is anyone we are rejecting. So much of our lives are spent in keeping other people out. We have private rooms, private houses, private clubs and so on. Of course, there are times when everybody needs to be alone. Yet, there is a sense in which our size as human beings can be measured by the circles we draw to take other people in. The smaller the circle, the smaller the person. A strong person isn't afraid of people who are different from themselves. A wise person welcomes them. By shutting them out, they deny themselves the riches other people's experiences. They starve the mind and harden the heart. When a wise man names his brothers and sisters, he draws no circle smaller than the first one ever drawn on this earth. In the beginning God gave the earth its shape. He made it round. He included everybody. So should we.

PARISH DAY

We come together this Sunday as a community a parish family to celebrate the gift that each person represents in our parish. Everyone is valuable and valued. We pray that God will continue to bless us all – all of us – as we grow together under our patrons Our Lady & St Edmund. We will celebrate again the joy we have in the generosity we've shared this year with the children of Lebanon. We thank the SVP of our parish for their display outlining the quiet but practical ways they find in serving the poor in our community. Please pay them a visit. And of course enjoy the BBQ. God bless you all.

PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Let us pray today that men and women called to proclaim the Kingdom of God as priests, deacons, and in the consecrated life, will be given the strength to overcome

Week 13 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 1 (A)

Sunday 2 July

10.30am Mass (Private Intention)
2.00pm Mass in Polish
6.30pm Mass (*Special Intention*)

Monday 3 July

St Thomas, Apostle

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (O'Brien Family Intentions)

Tuesday 4 July

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

Wednesday 5 July

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Philip Brown RIP)

Thursday 6 July

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass (*Special Intention*)

Friday 7 July

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Peter & Anthony O'Riordan RIP)

Saturday 8 July

11am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
11-11.30am Confessions
12pm Mass (*Special Intention*)

every obstacle to their response through the prayers and the practice of virtue. We pray especially for Ambrose Chou ordained a Deacon this Sunday, today on his way to the priesthood. Send your Holy Spirit on him for the service of the Church, and the love of your people.

YOUTH GROUPS

Our Youth groups meet again on **Saturday 8th July** from 3.30pm to 5pm in the parish centre. This will be the last session until September. All children in the school year 3 and above are very welcome. We could also do with some parent volunteers. Please consider coming along to help with supervision and refreshments. Thank you.

USING YOUR CARD TO GIVE

On **Sunday 9th July** there will be a collection for *Light for the Blind* and **16th July** *Apostleship of the Sea*.

LIGHT FOR THE BLIND

Fr Thomas will be making his appeal for the *Light for the Blind* charity at all the Masses on **Sunday July 9th**. All are invited to the Parish Centre after the 10.15am Mass to meet Fr Thomas and enjoy some Indian themed refreshments. You will also be able to make a donation after each Mass or using the link on the *News* page of our parish website and the contactless machine.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP)

For nearly two centuries the *St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)* has been seeking and finding those in need and responding in love. Today, the SVP in England and Wales represents almost 10,000 members across around 1,000 groups. If you are aware of a need, contact us at presidentf020723@svp.org.uk or through the parish office.

CLERGY CONFERENCE

This past week the Clergy of the Diocese met in Basingstoke to discuss the Bishop's ten year plan. You will be my witness the theme was Leadership and managing change. Over the coming years each of the 24 Pastoral areas (ours is English Martyrs Vale of White Horse) faces some very challenging changes, not least the challenge of moving from the existing parishes with its 10 churches into one single parish. Change is not easy but we're reminded of St Henry Newman's quote "To live is to change and to change often is to live perfectly". Please pray for the whole Diocese as we face challenges together.

YEAR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In his Pastoral Letter in February Bishop Philip dedicated this year as "The Year of the Holy Spirit". It is the grace of the Holy Spirit that renews us, our hearts and souls and brings our faith alive. The Bishop challenged us to establish or pledge to develop six "holy habits"

- To keep Sunday special attending Mass
- To pray with scripture for five minutes daily
- To do some penance on Fridays for the poor and needy
- Fortnightly, to visit the Blessed Sacrament in prayer
- To go to confession monthly
- To join groups for formation, prayer, fellowship

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Parish Day. Morning Mass at 10.30am in the garden by the parish centre followed by BBQ.
- **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.
- **Saturday:** Youth groups meet in the parish centre from 3.30 to 5pm.

FUTURE DATES

- **Wed 12th July:** Mothers' prayers in French at 8pm in the parish centre.

PRO-LIFE PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

Archbishop Kevin McDonald will be leading this year's Pilgrimage to Walsingham in Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life, on **Sat 5th August** at 12 noon Pilgrim Mass in the Chapel of Reconciliation. If interested, for coach details please go to www.prolifepilgrimage.org or call 01858 571242 / 07779 122365.

FORTY MARTYRS OF ENGLAND & WALES

To find the TV programmes on the *Forty Martyrs of England and Wales* mentioned in last week's newsletter, you can follow the link on the *News* page of our parish website or go to: <https://www.shalomworld.org/show/40-martyrs-of-england-&-wales> You can catch up on all the episodes already broadcast, and new episodes are added each week.

CHURCH TWINNING VISIT TO ARGENTAN

Thurs 12th to Mon 16th October 2023. Celebrating 25 years of twinning with Abingdon churches, 15 people have been invited to commemorate this link. We would stay with host families where possible, and a varied programme is being prepared for us. Ideally transport is by private car (sharing spaces) using the Portsmouth to Caen ferry. If interested, contact Pat Warren 07526 033715 or patwarren14@hotmail.com communities in Abingdon.

CAFOD

Mission Unleashed: an event with Cardinal Tagle. The Church has a mission but what is it? And how should we do it? Cardinal Tagle of the Philippines has responsibilities for evangelisation and mission in the Vatican and is an inspirational speaker. Join CAFOD online for Mission Unleashed: Embracing the Social Dimension of Evangelisation hosted by CAFOD on 14 July 7:00-8:30pm. Please see www.bigmarker.com/cafod/evangelisation to book your place for this webinar and be sent the recording. All welcome.