

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:

After the miraculous catch of fish, Peter realised as never before his own sinfulness and the holiness of Christ. He asked Christ to depart from him. But Christ showed him that his sins and weaknesses would not prevent him from sharing in his work.

While our sinfulness humbles us, we should not let it get us down or make us feel that we do not belong in the company of Christ. Instead, Christ came to help us to overcome our sins. It was at the very moment that Peter recognised his sinfulness, that Christ challenged him to be a fisher of men. Peter knew that the only thing he could rely on was the word and the power of Christ.

We must not be put off by our weaknesses or make an excuse out of them for doing nothing. St Paul puts it like this: *"So, I am not only content with my weaknesses, but I have actually learned to boast of them, for it is when I am weak that I am strong, because then the power of Christ is available in me."* (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

VOCATIONS

O God, my guiding star, in the quiet of this hour I come before you with a heart seeking direction. You who ordained the paths of the stars and the destiny of creation, light my way to know the vocation you have crafted for me.

Lord, the Church prays to you to send us shepherds to tend your flock. Raise up labourers, Lord, for your harvest is plenty and the workers are few. In your wisdom you have bestowed upon each a unique set of gifts. Help me to understand mine, to serve your purpose and glorify your name. Give me the courage to embrace the whisper in my soul. O God, you are the potter and I am the clay. Mould me into a vessel fit for your service. In the silence of this prayer, I listen to your voice. Speak lord, for your servant is listening, eager to follow and to love. Amen.

Week 5 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 1 (C)

Sunday 9 February

8.45am Mass
10.15am Mass Fuensantas Montero, RIP
6.30pm Mass

Monday 10 February St Scholastica

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass

Tuesday 11 February

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

Wednesday 12 February

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (John Arthur Beale, RIP)

Thursday 13 February

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass

Friday 14 February St Cyril & St Methodius

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass

Saturday 15 February

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

SECOND (RETIRING) COLLECTION

The retiring collection next Sunday 16th February is for **LEPRA**, a charity which works to meet the needs of people affected by leprosy.

PEACE SUNDAY

A warm thank you from *Pax Christi*, the International Catholic Movement for Peace, for your generous donations to its work on Peace Sunday.

LENT CHARITY FUNDRAISING

Thank you for the 8 charities proposals that were submitted for consideration for this year's fundraising. After careful consideration, the PPC have agreed on 2 charities to support this year:

- **ROSY CHARITY:** which is part of the NHS Trust for Oxfordshire and the Community Nursing Service, working particularly with families of children, who have life limiting, complex and sometimes palliative conditions, which require specialist clinical nursing interventions.
- **AFRICAN ADVENTURES:** based in 29 schools in Ghana, Kenya and Zanzibar, offering the opportunity for young volunteers to make a real difference to themselves and the schools they will work in.

On **Sunday 2nd March**, after all Masses, a representative from each charity will tell us more about the work they do. In the meantime, please give some thought about how we can fundraise. Thank you.

The season of Lent is fast approaching – Ash Wednesday is on 5th March. Please consider ways you could raise money for our two charities, and send your suggestions to the PPC via the office. A leaflet with information will be available next Sunday.

CAFOD MEETING

CAFOD invite you to a meeting on Saturday 22nd February from 10:30am to 1pm at Christ the King Church Hall Reading RG2 8NR. Please join them to find out how your donations to CAFOD are making a difference to communities in Kenya. Everyone is welcome but please book your place so that they have an idea of numbers by emailing Jo: jlewry@cafod.org.uk

VACANCY AT ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL

Our school is looking to welcome a self-motivated, organised and adaptable person to take on the role of part-time Caretaker. The successful candidate will be responsible for maintenance, security, carrying out compliance checks and general caretaking duties and for the unlocking and locking of the school premises for lettings. Please visit our website for further information <https://www.st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk/Vacancies/> or call the School to request an application pack. The closing date for applications is **Wednesday 26th February at 12.00 noon.**

REFLECTION DAYS AT DOUAI ABBEY

Douai Abbey, the Benedictine monastery in Reading, are offering a number of reflection days and workshops, and a list of what is available for the next 6 months can be viewed on our outdoor noticeboard or downloaded from the *News* page of our parish website.

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers the 31 children (and their families) preparing for their First Holy Communion this year.

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Monday:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 10.30am to 2.30pm.
- **Tuesday:** *JTiF (Journeying Together in Faith)* in the parish centre at 7.30pm.
- **Wednesday:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am **in term time.**

FUTURE DATES

- **Sun 2nd March:** Children's Mass at 10.15am

PARISH LUNCH

Our next parish lunch is on Wednesday this week at 12.30pm in the parish centre. Do come along.

ABINGDON COMPASSIONATE CAFÉ

This fairly new venture was launched last September, and the next session is on Friday 21st March from 10am to 12 noon in the beautiful gardens of St Ethelwold's House. The café aims to provide a supportive gathering and a comforting space for conversation, along with cake, tea, coffee, or soft drinks, to talk openly, or one-to-one about grief, difficult diagnoses, or caring for a loved one nearing the end of life.

THE WAY OF A PILGRIM – A JUBILEE REFLECTION

At its core, the Jubilee is a chance for the global Church to renew its commitment to being a life-restoring force on a fractured, war-torn planet. The word 'Jubilee' derives from the Hebrew *jobel*, a ram's horn blown to proclaim a yearlong period in which farmers left fields to rest and recover. 1300 years after the first Catholic Jubilee year, the Holy Year remains a dedicated time and space where pilgrims can contemplate how to best care for life on Earth. In a world that centres productivity and individualism, the Jubilee gestures towards a more communal and sustainable way of living.

"Pilgrimage is a space where you reinforce this idea of coming together so that when you go back home, you really take something new with you," says Filomeno Lopez, a writer and theologian from Guinea Bissau. The act of pilgrimage, Mr Lopez says, is integral to instilling empathy for the migrant experience. In his view, Christ himself came to Earth as a migrant from the heavens, and the human experience itself is an amalgamation of temporary journeys and quests for salvation. Thus, we are all guests in the natural world, and it is up to us to honour its sanctity. *"The nature of a human being is to be a pilgrim,"* he said. *"Jubilee is a period to stop for a while and think about what is really needed in life. As a pilgrim, we are here for such a short period. Before I leave, what can I leave to others?"*