

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

Serious athletes prepare diligently, professional actors rehearse painstakingly, good teachers do their homework meticulously. Before starting his mission, Christ went into the desert to prepare himself for it, to purify his mind and cleanse his heart. Lent is a time when all serious followers of Christ try to renew their lives. In a sense we go into the desert with Christ. But if this renewal does not touch our hearts, it is only like putting a new patch on an old garment. If we wish to change the outer aspects of our lives, we must change the inner attitudes of our minds. The miracle of inner change is possible. Paul on the road to Damascus, Charles Dickens' miser Scrooge, Matt Talbot the alcoholic. Something happened inside each of these, and they became new people. The change of heart to which Lent calls us can be accomplished most of all through the power of prayer. Lord, you renew the face of the earth. May you also renew each of us, so that we may be able to celebrate Easter in newness of mind and heart.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Loving God, your son Jesus Christ has shown us that an open heart finds the way. Help me to find my way in this world. Keep my heart open to follow Jesus' way of serving others in love. Give me the courage to accept the guidance you offer me through my family, my friends, my parish community. Through the Holy Spirit you call me to a particular way of life. With you my God I know I can find my way. Amen.

LENTEN PROJECTS 2024

The PPC chose two charities we will support this year. *Friends of the Holy Land*, supporting our Christian brothers and sisters in Palestine in the Holy Land, especially in these difficult days. The second is to support *Helen & Douglas House*, our local hospice for sick and dying children. Current fundraising events in the parish is available on the leaflet at the back of church and on our website. Please do get involved and please offer further suggestions to raise funds.

First week of Lent: Cycle 2 (B)

Sunday 18 Feb.

8.45am Mass
10.15am Mass
2.00pm Mass in Polish
6.30pm Mass

First Sunday of Lent

(Robert William Butt Pole RIP)
(Ben Jeacock RIP)
(Private Intention)

Monday 19 Feb.

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (In Thanksgiving)

Tuesday 20 Feb.

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

Wednesday 21 Feb.

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Robert Morgan RIP)

Thursday 22 Feb.

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass (Charles, Sarah & Sven Intentions)

Friday 23 Feb.

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Marisa Invernizzi RIP)

Saturday 24 Feb.

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

You may be able to host friends and neighbours for something at home that could help or have other good ideas. Let us know by contacting the PPC through the parish office.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY – SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY

The Family Fast Day is on Fri 23rd Feb. This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. You can give using the envelopes which are available on the table at the back of the church, or online at cafod.org.uk

INSTRUCTIONAL MASS FOR LENT

During Lent this year I will be offering a series of "instructional Masses". I will celebrate these Masses at 5pm on Saturday evening – so they satisfy your Sunday Mass intention. The ideal number of participants will be 8 – 10 people at each Mass. Therefore, you will need to 'sign up' in advance. We begin on Saturday 24th Feb 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd March. Please take advantage of this opportunity using the sign-up sheets on the table at the back of church. *Fr. Jamie*

LENTEN PRAYER INVITATION

During Lent we are always looking for ideas: I would highly recommend parishioners to consult the webpage for Ignatian Spirituality. It offers amazing opportunities to grow and deepen spiritually during Lent. I would recommend "Through Lent with Pope Francis". There is also a booklet that goes with it. You can preview the book and order. It complements our reflections on the Year of Prayer. Please visit www.iscglasgow.co.uk

LOCAL HOUSE PRAYER

An ecumenical invitation to join other Christians in your locality for House Prayer. Fellow Christians meet together informally at home to pray for the neighbourhood. There is a training day to take place at Christchurch, Abingdon on 1st June. If you are interested, please visit the website ffaldybrenin.churchsuite.com/events

RITE OF ELECTION

We pray for Lisa Paterson, Isabel Gayther, Sandar Wade and Maria Davidova who were presented at the Rite of Election yesterday in Portsmouth, having been part of this year's RCIA. They will be welcomed into full communion with us at the Easter Vigil.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent we will celebrate the Stations of the Cross each Friday evening at 6pm.

YOUTH MINISTRY

A wonderful opportunity if you are interested in youth ministry but need some support and encouragement to empower young people in the parish ministry. Please contact events@divinerenovation.org to receive information on "The Future is Now", an online and international event on 21st & 22nd March. Our young people are our future so please do consider registering for this event. Details also on our website.

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.
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.

FUTURE DATES

- **Fri 23rd Feb:** Family Fast Day
- **Sun 3rd Mar:** Big Breakfast and Produce sale in the parish centre after both morning Masses.
- **Wed 13th Mar:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.
- **Fri 15th Mar:** St Patrick's Day celebrations in the parish centre from 6.30-10pm.

ABINGDON PASSION PLAY

The Abingdon Passion Play Committee would like to thank parishioners and in particular Mary & Pat Mulqueen & Julie & Paul Tierney for their efforts in making the recent Burns Night such a memorable evening, which raised £890. Please do take this opportunity to join in. Actors Rehearsals began on Fridays 16th Feb 7.30 - 9.30pm at All Saints Methodists Church, and on Mondays, starting on 12th Feb 7-9pm in the parish centre. Singing Rehearsals are continuing on Thursdays, the next one being on 22nd Feb 7.30 - 9.15pm at St Nicholas Church. Further details on our website.

BIG BREAKFAST AND PRODUCE SALE

This will take place on Sunday 3rd March after the 8.45am and 10.15am Masses. It will be an opportunity to enjoy a bacon, sausage or vegetarian roll, tea, or coffee and to aid our Lent Fundraising effort. Could you bake a cake or other family favourite to sell at our Sale? Biscuits, chutneys, jams, pickles or other preserves or edible goodies will be gratefully received. Cakes, and other items can be dropped off at the Parish Centre any time after 8.30 am on 3rd March.

ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

Friday 15th March from 6.30-10pm in the parish centre. Enjoy an evening of Irish music, song, dance, and food to help raise money for the Lenten project. Tickets £17.50 per adult and £7.50 per child to include Irish stew and selection of deserts, vegan option also. Tickets available on Sunday 1st and 8th March after 10.15am Mass or email Laura to reserve tickets: lauraashleycarter@btinternet.com or Bernadette: bernadette.m.osullivan@gmail.com or phone Laura on 07947 178394. Drinks available on the night or bring your own. Great raffle on the night. We look forward to seeing you there! Tea and cake after 10.15am Mass on St Patrick's Day too.