

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

Every time we pick up a newspaper, or turn on the radio or TV, we are confronted with bad news, much of it of a very distressing nature. It leaves us numb and helpless. We are in real danger of being swamped by bad news – some people have to avoid it. But Christ came with good news – the good news of the Father's love, acceptance, and forgiveness, which is offered free to all those who desire to seek it. We need to open our hearts and minds to let it in. "Repent and believe the Good News". Repentance is often presented as a harsh negative thing making us feel guilty about our sins and doing penance for them. It is discovering something wonderful about yourself; that you have potential which you didn't know you had. That up to now you have been living in darkness, which from now on you are determined to live in the light. Understood like this repentance is exciting, and it always leads to joy. It means we have heard the Good News and embraced it.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

O God Father of all mercies, provider of a beautiful harvest, send your graces upon those you have called to gather the fruits of your labour; preserve and strengthen them in their lifelong service of you. Open the hearts of your children that they may discern your Holy Will; inspire them with a love and desire to surrender themselves to serve others in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Teach all your faithful to follow their respective ways of life, guided by your Divine Word and Truth. Through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, all the Angels and Saints, humbly hear our prayers and grant your Church's needs, through Christ Our Lord. Amen

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Please pray for the 28 children (and their families), who begin their preparation for their First Holy Communion this Sunday.

CONFIRMATION

Please also pray for the young people preparing for their Confirmation later this year.

Week 3 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 2 (B)

Sunday 21 Jan.

8.45am Mass (*Special Intention*)
10.15am Mass (Diane Brown RIP)
2.00pm Mass in Polish
6.30pm Mass (*Special Intention*)

Monday 22 Jan.

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (*Private Intention*)

Tuesday 23 Jan.

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

Wednesday 24 Jan.

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (*Special Intention*)

Thursday 25 Jan.

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

Friday 26 Jan.

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (*Special Intention*)

Saturday 27 Jan.

11am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
11-11.30am Confessions
12pm Mass (Julie Lardner RIP)

COLLECTION FOR THE CATHEDRAL

This Sunday (21st January) our second collection is for our Diocesan Cathedral – St John's in Portsmouth.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday (28th January) our second collection is for *Racial Justice*.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Church in Abingdon (CiA) welcomes everyone to participate in a 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' with the theme of 'Caring for our Planet'. This year the united service will take place at our own church - Our Lady & St Edmund's - this *Sunday 21st January* between 4-5pm with a talk which it is anticipated will prove very interesting by speakers Martin and Margot Hodson. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the service. From Monday 22nd to Friday 26th January there will be each day a series of talks, conversations and prayer with a number of different speakers at St Nicholas' Church from 12 to 1pm. We do hope that you will be able to attend some or all of these events. The full programme in detail can be viewed on the *News* page of our parish website, but here is a synopsis:

- *Monday 22nd January* - 'EcoCurch - a way of mobilising congregations to care for creation' led by Dale/Olavis Warburton, Christchurch
- *Tuesday 23rd January* - 'Plastic Pollution and what we can do about it' led by Anne Smart Abingdon Carbon Cutters 'Eco Cleaning' led by Kim Jones Abingdon Carbon Cutters
- *Wednesday 24th January* - 'Reducing your transport footprint' led by Robin Tucker Abingdon Liveable Streets.
- *Thursday 25th January* - 'Climate Change and biodiversity' led by Martin Hodson, John Ray Initiative
- *Friday 26th January* - 'For their futures: One Planet Climate Emergency Climate Centre and the work we are doing with young people' led by Michelle Charlesworth, OPACEC

MARY'S MEALS FUNDRAISER 2024

Oxford Gospel Choir will perform in a concert in aid of *Mary's Meals* on Saturday 27th January at 7pm at Our Lady and St Edmund's Church.

Tickets available after Sunday Masses:

- £10 adults
- £5 children under 12

Double the Love is now extended until 31st January, so all monies raised will now be doubled! Thank you all in anticipation for your support. Please contact Sue Richards on 07598 315375 for more information.

CAFOD MEETINGS

You are warmly invited to come to a CAFOD meeting to find about the difference that your donations make. On Saturday 27th January the meeting is at Corpus Christi Church hall 60 Sturges Road, Wokingham RG40 2HE from 10:30am to 1:30pm, or on Saturday 3rd February at St Philip Howard Church hall, Bishopsfield Road Fareham PO14 1ND. A simple lunch will be provided at both meetings so please book your place so that we have an idea of numbers, by emailing Jo on jlwry@cafod.org.uk or phone 07710 094447.

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Sunday:** United Service in our church for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, at 4pm.
- **Monday:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 10.30am to 2.30pm.
- **Wednesday:** *Mother's Prayers* in the parish centre from 8pm.
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time
- **Saturday:** *Mary's Meals* fundraiser at 7pm in our church with the *Oxford Gospel Choir*.

FUTURE DATES

- **Sat 27th Jan:** *Mary's Meals* fundraiser at 7pm in our church with the *Oxford Gospel Choir*.
- **Wed 14th Feb:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.

THANK-YOU LETTER FROM EMMAUS OXFORD

Emmaus Oxford have sent us a lovely letter thanking us for our donations from the Advent appeal. You can read this on the notice board outside the church or on the *News* page of our website.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

'Face to Face' training for both Children and Vulnerable Adults. It will take place on the 10th February in the Parish Centre. Child protection 10am - 12.30pm. Vulnerable Adults 1pm - 3.45pm. Training is for those who are acting in a voluntary role in the parish. If you wish to attend, please contact Anne Green 01235 520171 or email safeguarding.abi@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

LIGHT FOR THE BLIND - FATHER THOMAS

Fr Thomas is well and is working hard and making plans for his hospices in India. He sends his blessings and best wishes for 2024 to all his friends in Abingdon. Regular supporters should have received a copy of the annual *Light for the Blind* newsletter. If you have not received one there are extra copies on the table at the back of church.

Abingdon Trustees

PEACE SUNDAY

There are still some copies of the full text of Pope Francis' Reflection on Artificial Intelligence and Peace on the table at the back of church. There are also some of the prayer cards that were handed out last Sunday. Please take as you wish. Donations can continue to be made to Pax Christi <http://www.paxchristi.org.uk>

PARISH OFFICE

The parish office will be closed on Tuesday 23rd January.