

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

Advent is a time of prayer. It invites us to focus our prayer on the threefold coming of Christ. His first in the manger, his second in his return, and his third into our lives. We look to the examples of prayer we see in the lives of Mary, Zechariah, Simeon and Anna and the example of St John the Baptist and the Maji. Their beautiful candles, prayers, exhortations, and gestures help us to contemplate the two great mysteries of faith: the incarnation, but also the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The great mystery of faith lies in the distinctive truth of the incarnation, God made man, Word made flesh. So too the Second Coming of Christ, the return of our King is the great hope of our faith. We believe, celebrate and live our faith with joyful hearts: "O marvellous exchange, Our creator was born a man, born of a virgin with bold expectancy we exclaim ***Come Lord Jesus, Come***"

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

God our Father, through Jesus your son you have called us into the fellowship of the Church. May each one of us be an instrument of your love. Open our ears to hear your call, our eyes to see you, and open our hearts to your love. And loving you, let us serve you and others our Servant King. Amen.

THANK YOU

We are delighted to announce that we have now received £216,384 in pledges so far for the *Closer to Christ Campaign*, surpassing our goal of £130,000. My heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you. While we are guaranteed to receive one third of the initial £130,000 raised, the parish will receive 50% of everything raised over this and so we have much to be grateful for.

Thank you for your support and please pray for the continued success of the *Closer to Christ Campaign* in our Diocese.

First Sunday of Advent: Cycle 2 (B)

Sunday 3 Dec.

8.45am	Mass	First Sunday of Advent (Rory Quinn RIP)
10.15am	Childrens' Mass	(Special Intention)
2.00pm	Mass in Polish	
6.30pm	Mass	(Nojciech Zytkowicz RIP)

Monday 4 Dec.

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

Tuesday 5 Dec.

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

Wednesday 6 Dec.

6.30pm	Rosary	
7.00pm	Mass	(Deceased members of the SVP RIP)

Thursday 7 Dec.

9.00am	Rosary	
9.30am	Mass	(Isabella Paterson Intentions)

Friday 8 Dec.

6.30pm	Rosary	
7.00pm	Mass	(<i>Special Intention</i>)

Saturday 9 Dec.

11am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Our Lady on Saturday
11-11.30am	Confessions	
12pm	Mass	(<i>Special Intention</i>)

ADVENT PLEDGES FOR A SIMPLE CHRISTMAS

Please take home a leaflet from the back of the church with some ideas about pledges for a simple Christmas. We invite everyone to make a pledge about what action they will take. From the first Sunday of Advent (3 December) the pledges will be displayed in church – remember to bring yours and pin it to the ribbons!

LENTEN PROJECT 2024

During the season of Advent, the PPC ask you to think about charities which we could sponsor during Lent 2024. We would ideally like to fundraise for 2 charities - one local/UK based and one worldwide. Please give this some consideration and send suggestions, with an outline of the charity, to the Parish Office **by Monday 8th January 2024**. Thank you.

EARLY CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR YOUTH

If you are aged 7 and above, in primary or secondary school, you are invited to a Christmas party which will take place this **Saturday 9th December from 3.30-5pm in the parish centre**. Do come along, and feel free to bring a friend.

HELP NEEDED ON CHRISTMAS DAY

For a number of years churches in Abingdon, including our own, have welcomed people who would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day. This year on Christmas Day we will be inviting 60 people to have a two-course lunch for free with us at Peachcroft Christian Centre. We need a number of volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please email jay.elliott@peachcroftcc.org as soon as possible. More information on the help needed is available on the *News* page of our parish website.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLS SERVICE

Join us in our church at **4pm on Sunday 10th December** for our Christmas Carol service, followed by refreshments in the parish centre.

WELCOMING THE WORD – ADVENT RETREATS

The season of Advent is fast approaching, and the Carmelite friars at Boars Hill are offering us **free** Advent retreats, to which everyone is invited to join in. For more details and to register your interest, please use the link on the *News* page of our website.

THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS GIVING

If you have already begun your Christmas shopping – or are thinking about doing so – why not pick up the *CAFOD* booklet of *World Gifts* from the back of the church and in the porch. Every gift you buy helps real people and makes a massive positive difference.

WALK & TALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST EDMUND

An open invitation to everyone to join the CGA for a very special and unique short *walk and talk* in the footsteps of St Edmund, given by Anne Dodd on **Thursday 7th December**, meeting at St Ethelwold House on East St Helen Street at 2pm. Coffee and mince pies to follow.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

This Advent season, if you are not familiar with this Sacrament, there are leaflets to help you, available at the back of the church, with separate ones for adults and children.

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **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:** Christmas party for young people aged 7 and above, from 3.30-5pm in the parish centre.

FUTURE DATES

- **Sun. 10th Dec:** Carol service in our church at 4pm, followed by refreshments in the parish centre.
- **Sat 16th Dec:** Christmas High Tea in the parish centre from 2.30-4.30pm. For info, please ring Ab. 534873.

SUPPORTING THE HOMELESS

Our Advent collection this year will be supporting the homeless through the work of *Emmaus Oxford*. We will begin our collection at the start of Advent **this Sunday 3rd December and will end on Wednesday 13th December**. A list of items which would be welcomed is available at the back of the church and on the *News* page of our website. From 3rd December, a box will be available at the back of the church for you to put in your contributions. Thank you.

A MESSAGE FROM CARITAS PORTSMOUTH

COP28 is rapidly approaching (30 Nov – 12 Dec). In *Laudate Deum*, Pope Francis describes how some of the big changes we need to happen to slow the rate of climate change must come from the actions of governments. Let us pray for those leaders, that they can listen to those already affected by climate change and have courage to act. You can find more information on the *News* page of our website.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN THE MARKET PLACE

Everyone is warmly welcomed to the Christmas Carol Singing in the Abingdon Market Place on Saturday 16th December 2023 from 10am-12 noon. Hosted by the Church in Abingdon (CiA), this year there will be Children's crafts, Christmas nibbles, and a Nativity crib scene family dress-up/photo opportunity!

HIGH TEA FOR SENIORS AND HOUSE BOUND

This will take place on Saturday 16th December from 2.30-4.30pm in our parish centre. If you would like to come, please phone Ab. 534873 to let us know or for more information.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday 26th December and will re-open on Tuesday 2nd January.