

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

At this time of year, new things are being born all around us in nature. This happens because the old things have died. Christ said that the old self, the false self that is in each of us, has to die if the new self, the true self made in God's image, is to be born. In other words, we have to die to sin so as to be able to live the new life Christ won for us. Each of us is like a grain of wheat planted by the heavenly Father. That grain must die if it is to produce a harvest. This dying to self is a gradual process and happens in very ordinary ways. When a person's life is producing a harvest of good acts, it means that the grain of wheat has well and truly died. The false self is dying, and the true self made in God's image is slowly being born. It is the true self alone that will inherit eternal life for there is no place for what is false in the presence of God. It would melt like snow before the sun.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father, your loving providence is with us on life's journey. We ask that you continue to call sons and daughters from our families and parishes to serve as priests and deacons and consecrated men and women in our Diocese. Send your Spirit on us so that many will respond with great love to your church. Give to those you have chosen, the faith of the apostle, the vision of the prophet and the courage of the martyr. Make us generous in sharing ourselves and our talents for the sake of your Kingdom on Earth. Amen.

LENTEN PROJECTS 2024

We are supporting two charities. *Friends of the Holy Land*, helping our Christian brothers and sisters in Palestine in the Holy Land and *Helen & Douglas House*, our local hospice for children coping with life-limiting and terminal conditions. More information is available on noticeboard and on our parish website in the *What's On* section, where you can also make donations online. So far we have raised £2,496.10 – so we still have a long way to go! *Please think of ways you can raise money and let the PPC know through the parish office. Thank you.*

Fifth week of Lent: Cycle 2 (B)

Sunday 17 March

8.45am Mass (Pat Castle intentions)
10.15am Mass (Margaret & Chris Doyle, 60th wedding anniversary)
2.00pm Mass in Polish
6.30pm Mass (Jane Ellwood, RIP)

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Monday 18 March

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (David Sudlow, RIP)

Tuesday 19 March

St Joseph

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

Wednesday 20 March

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Special intention)

Thursday 21 March

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass (Special intention)

Friday 22 March

6.00pm Stations of the Cross
6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Margaret Zoetmulder intentions)

Saturday 23 March

11am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
11-11.30am Confessions
12pm Mass (Laurie Turner, RIP)

SECOND COLLECTION ON PALM SUNDAY

The second collection on Sunday 24th March will be for our Lenten projects.

COLLECTION ON GOOD FRIDAY

The collection on Friday 29th March is for the Holy Places.

CURRY NIGHT - THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to all those who supported our *Curry Night* Lenten fundraising event – to those who came along to enjoy the variety of curries and make a donation, to the cooks who provided us with superb curries, and to those who helped with the cleaning up afterwards. The evening was a success and well attended, and we made a total of **£526** for our Lenten projects.

WELL DONE, ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL

St Edmund's school have held two events to raise funds for our parish Lenten projects. The *Mad Hair Day* was popular with the children (and the staff) and raised a total of £162.11. Their *Lent Fair* raised a further £712.81, bringing the grand total from the school of **£874.92**. Well done pupils, staff and parents for this wonderful fundraising effort.

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. Please take advantage of this opportunity using the sign-up sheet on the table at the back of church. *Fr. Jamie*

LENTEN PROJECT CYCLE RIDE

One of our parishioners, David Porter, is doing a sponsored cycle ride from Preston to Abingdon (215 miles!) over three days in April, to raise funds for our Lenten charities. Please find the sponsor form on the table at the back of the church. You might like to sponsor per day, or just a total amount, and the money can be given to Fr Jamie or will be collected on the last weekend in April. Thank you for your support.

ST THÉRÈSE - FAITH IN THE FAMILY

An open invitation for all our parish to listen to parishioner Joanne Mosley give a talk on *St Thérèse of Lisieux, Faith in the Family*, on Wednesday 20th March at 2pm in the parish centre.

GOLF DAY AT DRAYTON GOLF CLUB

A date for your diary - our regular fundraiser for the Lenten projects will take place on *Monday 8th April*. Once again, a big thank you to Mary McKenna for letting us hold this event at no cost. We will be meeting up from 8.30am for tea/coffee and bacon roll. First time is 9.32am. There will be the usual format of 4 players per team with best 2 to score on each hole, and prizes for the best two teams plus prizes for the nearest the pins on 3 holes. The price to join in is £25. Please contact Terry Murphy on 07584 248169 or 01235 527597 or email terry.murphy62@yahoo.co.uk

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.
- **Wednesday:** Catholic Grandparents Association (CGA) talk in the parish centre at 2pm. All welcome.
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.
- **Friday:** Stations of the Cross at 6pm in our church.

FUTURE DATES

- **Mon 8th Apr:** *Golf Day* fundraising event at Drayton Park Golf Club from 8.30am.

GOOD FRIDAY - WALK OF WITNESS

All are welcome to join the Good Friday *Walk of Witness* in Abingdon on the 29th March. We will meet at Abingdon Library at 11.45am and process to the Market Place for a short service.

CAN YOU HOST CHURCH TWINNING VISITORS?

A group of ladies from different churches in Schongau, Germany, one of our twin towns, will be visiting Abingdon for the first time from 4-8 April. A programme has been organised by Church Twinning, but hosts are needed. We are also looking for meal hosts on the Saturday night. German is not needed but you might like to use yours! Please contact Pat Warren (520211) or Anne Dodd (525997) for offers or further information.

CHRISM MASS ON 26th MARCH

The Chrism Mass this year takes place on Tuesday 26th March 2024 at 11am in the Cathedral and Bishop Philip invites us to it. The Mass is the special Liturgy in Holy Week during which the Bishop blesses the three Holy Oils for use in the Sacraments: the Oil of the Blessing of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens and the Oil of Chrism. The blessing of the Holy Oils is one of the most ancient ceremonies of the Church and it is always celebrated in the Cathedral with the priests, deacons, religious and lay people of the diocese. The Mass is one of the main diocesan events of the year and during it, all the priests also make a renewal of their commitment to priestly service.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

The programme for Holy Week and Easter is available this Sunday. One copy per family please. The programme is also on the noticeboard outside the church and on our parish website.