

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 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

In today's Mass we have one of the loveliest gospels of the year – that in which Christ describes himself as the Good Shepherd. He says 'I know my sheep. They listen to my voice and follow me'. We say we belong to the Good Shepherd; yet we don't always listen to him or follow him. We reflect today on our failure to respond to his love and care.

Philip is handicapped and was institutionalised when he was very young. He is a deeply wounded young man. He feels he has disappointed his parents. He is deaf and stammers, but these are only his visible wounds. The deepest wound is that of the heart; the feeling that he has not been loved that he is not precious to anyone. We believe that we have hands that can make things, and minds that can understand things. Yet we don't believe that we have hearts that can give life. But we are not sterile people. We can give life to people who are inwardly broken. We can show them that we care and so bring life to them. I can do nothing for you: all I can do is be your friend. The person who says that and means it has the greatest contribution of all to make. Today, *Good Shepherd Sunday* is also Vocations Sunday. All vocations are vocations to love.

VOCATIONS PRAYER

Almighty and Eternal God, in your unfailing love you provide ministers for your Church. We pray for those whom you call to serve as priests. Inspire in them a generous response. Grant them courage and vision to serve your people. May their lives and service call your people to respond to the presence of your Spirit among us that faithful to the gospel and hope of Jesus Christ we may announce glad tidings to the poor, proclaim liberty to the captives, set prisoners free, and renew the face of the earth. Amen.

Fourth Week of Easter: Cycle 1 (C)

Sunday 11 May

8.45am	Mass
10.15am	Mass
6.30pm	Mass

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(Joan Bouchier-Hayes RIP)
(William Collins RIP)
(In Thanksgiving)

Monday 12 May

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

Tuesday 13 May

St Matthias

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

Wednesday 14 May

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

Thursday 15 May

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

Friday 16 May

6.30pm	Rosary
7.00pm	Mass (Theresa Harrold RIP)

Saturday 17 May

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

MASS INFORMATION THIS WEEK

Please note that there will be no Mass from Monday to Thursday this week.

SECOND COLLECTION TODAY

The second/retiring collection today, **Sunday 11th May** is for the *Clergy Training Fund*.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN

Please also pray for the 30 children who make their First Holy Communion this weekend, and please pray for their families as well.

MONTH OF MAY

The month of May is traditionally known as 'Mary's Month'. Why not join other parishioners before the weekday Masses to pray the Rosary together?

CALLING ALL FAMILIES

We will be celebrating our next Children's Mass at 10.15am on **Sunday 18th May**. We will be asking children to help us with welcoming, the offertory procession, the collection and singing, and would also like some children to read the First and Second Readings (taken from the Lectionary for Masses with Children) and the Bidding Prayers. If your child would like to read a reading or prayer at this Mass, then please email Fiona Semple at reception@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk and she will send you the words so that your child can practise. Thank you in advance for your support!

ABINGDON FOOD BANK

As a parish, we encourage you to please continue to support the Abingdon Food Bank, especially as an increasing number of people need access to this service. For practical reasons, and because nearly all supermarkets now have collection points as you leave their premises (making it easier for you to place your donations), please do not leave your contributions in our church.

DON BOSCO CAMP

The Don Bosco Camp, organised by the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, will take place from Sunday 27th July to Sunday 2nd August, for boys of secondary school age (from those leaving Year 6 to those leaving Year 11) at St Cassian's, Kintbury. There will be plenty of sports, outings, competitions, and games to ensure the boys enjoy an activity-packed camping holiday. The camp will take place within the context of celebrating the Catholic faith. The cost of the camp is £230 (bursaries available on application). For more information, contact dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Leaflets are available in our church porch.

PRAYER FOR THE CONCLAVE

Heavenly Father, we pray in union with the whole Church for the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Cardinals. May the Princes of the Church listen attentively to Your Spirit during the conclave. Almighty God, we pray that the conclave brings us a Pope who pleases You by guiding Your Church to grow in faithfulness to You. We pray together with the intercession of our Mother Mary and all the Saints. Please Lord, protect and guide your Church during this time of transition. Amen.

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Monday:** Open Doors in the parish centre from 11am to 2pm.
- **Wednesday:** Charismatic Prayer Meeting (online) 7.45pm. Contact: Mike Oliver, Ab 528528
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am **in term time**.

JUBILEE REFLECTION

In his message for the 38th World Youth Day, Pope Francis said amongst other things that: *"After the flame of hope is kindled in us, there can be times when it risks being extinguished by the worries, fears and pressures of daily life. A flame needs oxygen to keep burning, in order to grow into a great bonfire of hope. The gentle breeze of the Holy Spirit nurtures our hope and there are several ways that we cooperate in this... Hope is nurtured by prayer... Hope is nurtured by our daily decisions."* Prayer reminds us that God acts first, and it is our anchor to our dearest friend, Jesus, who helps us act against our hopelessness. Prayer also provides a space to connect with a higher power, fostering a sense of strength and reliance during difficult times, and reminding us of the truths we hold about God's love and mercy.

OPEN DOORS

There will be **no** Open Doors session on 26th May (Late May Bank Holiday).

VACANCY AT ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL

We are looking to employ a KS2 Class Teacher (Full Time, Permanent) at our school, to commence in September 2025. Calls to our Headteacher, Mrs Kirwan, to find out more about our wonderful school are encouraged and warmly welcomed. Please contact the School at office.3856@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk (Tel: 01235 521558) to request an application pack or visit our website at www.st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk for more information. Applications must be made on the CES Application form. The closing date for applications is 19 May.

VOCATIONS SUNDAY

This year we have 10 Seminarians from the Diocese, please pray for these young men. Lord, send us many holy Priests.

WE PRAY FOR:

- Catherine Lardner, RIP
- Tereza Cole-Morgan, RIP. Funeral Friday 16th May at 12 noon.