

# ***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  
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*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](http://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](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Confessions: Saturdays 11.00 – 11.30am or by appointment**

## **REFLECTION**

Today, the feast of Christ our King, brings us to the end of the liturgical year. We have travelled a long road since the first Sunday of Advent. Christ has been on that road with us as the invisible companion on our journey. Let us hope that during it, we have grown to know him better, to trust him better, and to love him better, so that today we can rejoice in calling him our King. Christ's Kingdom is a very special one. It calls for special qualities. Jesus said, "My Kingdom is not of this world." Jesus does not rule as earthly kings rule. He has no palace, no throne, no crown, no army. Yet we give him an allegiance and loyalty which we would not give to any other person or institution on earth. Alone and unarmed, he stood before Pilate. Pilate had thousands of soldiers to call upon, but Jesus had no one. Yet, Jesus was incomparably the greater of the two. Jesus is the hope of the human race. He rules not by force, but by love. Lord Jesus, may your Kingdom come, and may you remember me on that day.

## **VOCATIONS**

O God, my infinite Source and Eternal Guide, hear my fervent plea. In the depths of my soul I trust in your divine providence, for you call forth servants from among us to tend to your flock. I surrender my will to yours, imploring you to awaken hearts to your call. Stir the embers of devotion into a raging fire within those you have chosen. May they hear your voice amidst the clamour of voices, calling to their hearts. Make your appeal irresistible to their spirits. Let not fear or doubt stifle the call to vocations. Grant them the courage to step forward into the service you have in mind for them. My God, you are the potter, we are the clay. Mould our hearts to embrace the vocations you set before us. May we respond with a resounding 'yes' to the work of your hands, serving as beacons of your love and truth. Amen.

## **MONTH OF 'HOLY SOULS'**

During the month of November, we traditionally 'remember' and pray for our dear departed brothers and sisters, those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. May they rest in peace.

## **Week 34 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 2 (B)**

### **Sunday 24 November OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

8.45am Mass (William Seery, RIP)  
10.15am Mass (Anthony O'Koko, RIP)  
6.30pm Mass (Katherine O'Reilly, RIP)

### **Monday 25 November**

8.30am Rosary  
9.00am Mass (Sean Hill, RIP)

### **Tuesday 26 November**

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

### **Wednesday 27 November**

6.30pm Rosary  
7.00pm Mass (Joaquin Alanis, RIP)

### **Thursday 28 November**

9.00am Rosary  
9.30am Mass (Sue & family intentions)

### **Friday 29 November**

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

### **Saturday 30 November St Andrew, Apostle**

11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
11-11.30am Confessions  
12pm Mass (David Anthony Bland, RIP)

## **PARISH AGM**

Our parish annual general meeting will take place at 7.15pm today (Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November) in the parish centre. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

## **SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION**

There will be a joint pastoral area Service of Reconciliation at 7pm at English Martyrs, Didcot on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm, with an opportunity for individual Confessions.

## PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY ISLAND

A short pilgrimage to *Holy Island, Lindisfarne* in Northumberland, is planned for 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Limited spaces are available, as travel will be by minibus. The price of £695 per person (£190 single supplement) includes 3 nights at the Lindisfarne Inn ([www.inncollectiongroup.com/lindisfarne-inn/](http://www.inncollectiongroup.com/lindisfarne-inn/)), with breakfast and dinner included, and minibus travel there and back. A quick response is needed as the hotel cannot hold places for long. If interested, please email [contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk).

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

The season of Advent is fast approaching – it begins next **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December**. You might like to put the following dates in your diary:

- CIA Christmas Carol Singing in the Market Place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 10am. All are welcome! For any further information please contact the CIA Administrator on 07896 860381.
- Our own **Parish Carol Service** will be on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** at 4pm in our church. Do come along, and please do bring your children. This year we are inviting the children to dress up in nativity costume if they would like to.

Dates for our Christmas services are on our parish website – *Calendar, News* and *Mass Times* pages.

## ADVENT COLLECTION FOR THE HOMELESS

Last year, our parish and our two schools were *extremely* generous with clothing and other donations for the homeless. This year we are aiming to give a shoe box full of 'goodies' and useful items to up to 50 homeless people in Abingdon and Oxford. Your donations **must be able to fit into a regular-sized shoe box (which we will provide)**. Please pick up an information leaflet as you leave church, which gives a list of items which might be suitable. A box will be available under the table at the back of the church **from Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December only**, for you to put in your donations. Thank you in advance for your support.

## VACANCY AT ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL

St Edmund's Catholic Primary School is looking to welcome an enthusiastic, dynamic and committed *KS2 Teacher* and also a *part-time Higher Level Teaching Assistant*, supportive of our school mission and Catholic ethos, to join our happy, motivated children. Please visit the School Website <https://st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk/> for details of the vacancies.

## ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY

Following advice from the Diocese and OCC, the school has made some changes to their admissions policy, which you can read on the *News* page of our parish website, including how to make comments if you need to, by the deadline of 27<sup>th</sup> December.

## PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday**: Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Sunday**: Parish AGM at 7.15pm in the parish centre. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.
- **Monday**: *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11am to 2pm.
- **Tuesday**: *Alpha* course in the parish centre from 7pm to 9.30pm.
- **Thursday**: Mothers' prayers in French at 8pm in the parish centre.
- **Friday**: Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am **in term time**.
- **Saturday**: Mothers' prayers in English at 10.15am in the church.

## FUTURE DATES

- **Thu 12<sup>th</sup> Dec**: Joint pastoral area service of reconciliation at 7pm at Didcot.
- **Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Dec**: Christmas High Tea for Seniors from 2.30pm. For info, ring Ab. 534873.
- **Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec**: Parish Carol Service at 4pm in the church.

## CALLING ALL FAMILIES

We will be celebrating our next Children's Mass at 10:15am on Sunday 1st December, which is the 1st Sunday of Advent. 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](mailto: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!

## ADVENT OFFERINGS FROM THE CARMELITES

The Carmelite Priory at Boars Hill are offering a variety of online and residential retreats to provide an enriching experience this Advent as we await the Christ of God who comes to us at Christmas. Information and links for these are available on the *News* page of our parish website.

## UPDATE ON AEDRIN DE SILVA

Aedrin's mother, Chandy, would like to thank all who have supported him and family with their prayers and their financial contributions following his tragic accident last June, which necessitated the amputation of his left leg. Thank you so much for your concern and your generosity. Aedrin is now at home, attending school, and adapting to his changed circumstances.

## WE PRAY FOR:

- Pat O'Toole, RIP. Funeral on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 2.30pm