

# ***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](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**

Of all the images we have of Christ, the one which is clearest to us, and with which we are most familiar, is probably that of the Good Shepherd. This is not surprising. It is such a lovely image and is deeply rooted in Scripture. Besides, it is one of the images of Christ used to describe himself.

*'I know my own and my own know me.'* Can we be good shepherds to those in our care if we don't try to get to know them? Can we blame them, then, if they look upon us as mere hirelings? And how can we form a bond with them if we keep our distance from them, thus preventing them from getting to know us? Don't tell me that you love me if you have kept your distance from me.... Caring is risky. Love is risky. It means getting close to people, as Christ, the Good Shepherd, got close to us.

## **PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

O God, Father of all Mercies, and Lord of the Harvest, send your graces on 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 to discern your Holy Will. Inspire in them a love and desire to surrender themselves to serving others in the name of your Son.

Teach all the faithful to follow their respective paths in life guided by your Divine Word and truth. In imitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, may we all be open and generous to your Word – that it may become flesh in our world. Amen.

## **SECOND COLLECTION THIS SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL**

The second collection this Sunday is for the *Clergy Training Fund*.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, we pray for vocations to all states of life and ministry in the Church, but especially for Vocations to the Sacred Priesthood. You can read the Diocesan Prayer for Vocations on our parish website *News* page.

## **FOURTH WEEK OF EASTER: Cycle 2 (B)**

### **Sunday 21 April**

8.45am	Mass	<b>4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <i>(Special intention)</i>
10.15am	Mass	(Jane & Wallace Ellwood, RIP)
2pm	Mass in Polish	
6.30pm	Mass	(Private intention)

### **Monday 22 April**

8.30am	Rosary	
9.00am	Mass	<i>(Special intention)</i>

### **Tuesday 23 April**

**St George**  
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 24 April**

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

### **Thursday 25 April**

9.00am	Rosary	<b>St Mark, Evangelist</b>
9.30am	Mass	<i>(Special intention)</i>

### **Friday 26 April**

6.30pm	Rosary	
7.00pm	Mass	(Sheila Delaney, RIP)

### **Saturday 27 April**

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

## **POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL**

Pope Francis' monthly prayer intention this April is for "the role of women." In *The Pope Video* for April, which you can view on the *News* page of our parish website, the Holy Father insists on the steps today's society needs to take and asks Christians to join him in prayer "that the dignity and worth of women be recognised in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world."

## NEW TO THE PARISH?

If you have joined our parish in the last year or so, you are warmly invited to a festive evening to welcome you, on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May** at 7pm in the Parish Centre. Do come along and share a meal with some entertainment (music and songs). You will have the opportunity to meet other parishioners and hear about the different activities and groups we run in our church. Please contact Eliane by 20<sup>th</sup> of April on 07932350951 so that we can cater for numbers.

## CAR WASHING FOR OUR LENTEN PROJECTS

The Confirmation group will be washing cars to raise money for the Lenten projects. This will take place in the OLA car park on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April** during the 10.15am Mass.

## 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. 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.

## DON'T FORGET THE FOODBANK

Please remember the foodbank either at Christ Church, Northcourt Road or at the Preston Road Community Centre at Midget Close. More people than ever are being driven to food banks and the sharp increase in people needing help is outstripping food donations. You can find out what items are particularly needed by visiting their website (search 'Abingdon food bank'), and they are also happy to receive monetary donations.

## MISSIO RED BOX 2023 – THANK YOU

In 2023, our parish raised £1,812 through our *Missio* Red Boxes and donations to *Missio* and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank you! Our missionary community here in Abingdon is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries overseas through prayer and financial assistance. Your support of Missionary Priests like Fr Ignatius MHM working with a rural community in Uganda, enables people to come together to celebrate the Eucharist and to work together to improve the lives of the whole community.

## NEW GIFT AID ENVELOPES REMAINING

If you use gift aid envelopes for weekly giving the new boxes are available for you to collect at the back of church. There are also white envelopes at the back of church for those who use the special collection gift aid envelopes. There are fewer special collection envelopes this year as some of the special collections are no longer eligible for gift aid. Donations can be made in the boxes after Mass or through the card machine at the back of church when the special collection is not eligible for gift aid.

## 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:** 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*.

## FUTURE DATES

- **Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Apr:** Car washing for our Lenten projects, during the 10.15am Mass, in the OLA car park.
- **Wed 8<sup>th</sup> May:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.

## DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Canon PJ Smith, Episcopal Vicar for Education and Pilgrimage Director invites you to join this year's Pilgrimage to Lourdes from *Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024*. If you would like to know more please email: [lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or you can book using the booking form link on the *News* page of our parish website.

*Calling the young People of our Diocese. Have you just finished your A-levels? Or about to finish Uni for the Summer...? Why not give something back by joining the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes? You could help by assisting some of our pilgrims by pushing wheelchairs, offering a steadying arm and a warm smile! The pilgrim fare is £780 but there is the potential for funding. You can contact [lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) for more details of this from the Diocese. The Catenians in our parish are also offering a bursary, and you can get information on how to contact them from the leaflets at the back of our church.*

## CARITAS

Caritas Plymouth has invited people in our diocese interested in learning more about modern slavery, particularly in the care sector to an event they are holding in Poole **on 30<sup>th</sup> April**. There are some great speakers from the Medaille Trust and Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority. Event runs from 10:30-12:30 in the church hall of St Marys Catholic Church, 211A Wimborne Road, Poole, BH15 2EG. Please register beforehand at: <https://forms.office.com/e/zUCKyENMNH>

## WE PRAY FOR

- John Logan, RIP. Funeral Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 11am.