

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: 9am - 12.30pm Tuesday to Friday
Office Email: abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

We live stream all services

Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230
Visits at JR Hospital: 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

Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871 www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Confessions: Saturdays 11.00 – 11.30am or by appointment



CREATING WARM SPACES

Our parish will join in this national initiative between early January and the end of March on MONDAYS, between 11am and 4pm. We will offer hot lunches, drinks and snacks, games, listening and conversations in a warm and relaxing space. We are looking for volunteers to come for either part or all of the day. You do not need to commit to every week! We would also be grateful for anyone who can cook meals or snacks, probably at home, and bring them to the Parish Centre. Please contact us soon if you are interested so that we can make a rota and brief you further on the role. Email clare@claresimpson.com or phone 847804.

Who do you know who would appreciate coming to a Warm Space, perhaps with us on a Monday or other places in the town on different days. Please think about your neighbours, friends and contacts, and mention it to them. Do give Clare's contact details to them or, with permission, give us their details. Flyers will be available for you to give to others.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS RETREAT DAY

The Dominican sisters will be running a retreat day for all existing and prospective Eucharistic Ministers on **Saturday 21st January from 10am to 3pm in our parish centre**. Please save this date in your diary as, importantly, it will also be an opportunity to renew or gain your faculty.

The Nativity of the Lord (Year A)

Sunday 25 Dec

8.45am Mass
10.15am Mass
12pm Mass
2.00pm Mass in Polish

The Nativity of the Lord

(Pamela D'Silva RIP)
(Sarah Duggan RIP)
(Mary Holden RIP)

Monday 26 Dec

9.30am Rosary
10.00am Mass

St Stephen

(Magdalen & Thomas Kelly RIP)

Tuesday 27 Dec

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

St John, Apostle

Wednesday 28 Dec

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass

The Holy Innocents

(*Special Intention*)

Thursday 29 Dec

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass

St Thomas of Canterbury

(Joan & Leslie Ashton RIP)

Friday 30 Dec

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

(*Special Intention*)

Saturday 31 Dec

11am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
11-11.30am Confessions
12pm Mass (*Special Intention*)

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

All collections on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are for the **Christmas offering**, which supports our priest. You can also donate online using the link on either the *Home* page or *News* pages of our website. Thank you for your generosity and support.

The **Christmas Crib** offerings will go to the *Knights of the Holy Sepulchre*, who support Christians in the Middle East.

THANK YOU

Thank you all for your good wishes and generous gifts on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of my ordination.

Fr Jamie

OXFORD GOSPEL EVENTS CHOIR

You are invited to join us for an evening with the fabulous *Oxford Gospel Events Choir* (BBC Gospel Choir of the year finalists!) and with guest appearance by Dr Patti Boulaye OBE, to raise money for the charity *Mary's Meals*. *Mary's Meals* serve nutritious school meals to children living in some of the world's poorest countries. The promise of a good meal attracts these hungry children into the classroom, giving them the energy to learn and hope for a better future. More information on their website at: www.marysmeals.org.uk

This particular event will take place on **Saturday 14th January 2023 at 7.30pm in our church** (parking is available at OLA School OX14 3PS). Tickets £10 (children under 12 years £5) and will be available on the door (cash please). For more information contact Sue on 07598315375.

ABINGDON FOOD BANK

Please continue to support the Abingdon Food Bank. However, please do not leave your contributions in our church. The collection points are at:

- Waitrose Abingdon, Abbey Close
- North Foodbank, Christ Church, Northcourt Rd
- South Foodbank, Preston Road Community Centre

Thank you.

DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTION

Pope Francis is asking the faithful to pray during December that volunteer organisations, and that those who work in them may work as *"artisans of mercy."* He encourages volunteer organisations and volunteers to continue in their labour promoting human dignity and the common good, working *"not just for the people, but with the people, being close to them, and listening to their needs."* You can view his message on the *News* page of our website.

ENJOY QUIZZES?

An inter-church quiz has been arranged for the **20th January** at the Peachcroft Christian Centre. There will be teams of six and you will need to register your team with emjay.haynes@gmail.com **by the 6th January**. This is a chance for a fun evening with our fellow Christians - why not get a team together from our church....

ARE YOU IN NEED?

If you are in need or know someone who is, do contact our parish SVP group (St Vincent de Paul Society) via the parish office and we will see what we can do to help. We always maintain confidentiality. Our members meet every fortnight on a Wednesday evening.

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:**

FUTURE DATES

- **Mon 9th Jan:** Journeying Together in Faith (JTIF) at 7.30pm in the parish centre. All welcome.
- **Fri 13th Jan:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.
- **Sat 14th Jan:** Youth groups meet in the parish centre from 3.30 to 5pm. All in year 3 or above are welcome.
- **Sat 14th Jan:** Oxford Gospel Events Choir in the church at 7.30pm. See main section of newsletter for further information and ticket prices.

LENT CHARITY FUND RAISING 2023

During the season of Advent, the PPC ask you to think about charities which we could sponsor during Lent 2023. We would ideally like to fundraise for 2 charities, one local/UK based and one world-wide. Please give this some consideration and send suggestions to the parish office **by Monday 10th January 2023**.

BABY & TODDLER GROUP

The group re-starts on Friday 13th January.

BISHOP'S PRAYER BOOK

Bishop Philip has sent everyone in the Diocese a Christmas gift as promised in last weekend's Pastoral Letter. It's a prayer book called *Lord I am not Worthy*, from those favourite words of the Mass that we say just before receiving Holy Communion. The prayer book, which is designed to fit into your pocket and to fit into the back of benches in church, is meant to help you prepare for Mass. It contains many well-known Catholic prayers and others too. You can collect a copy, while they last, from the table at the back of the church.

BIBLE ALIVE

Limited copies of the January edition are now available on the table at the back of the church. This publication is a useful aid for anyone who would like to reflect daily on the readings used in the Masses. Why not start the new year the way you hope to continue!

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

**Holy Jesus, by being born one of us, and lying humbly in a manger, You show how much God loves the world. Let the light of Your love always shine in our hearts, until we reach our home in heaven, and see You on Your throne of glory.
Amen.**

WE PRAY FOR

Sarah Duggan, RIP