

# ***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:	<a href="http://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk">www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk</a>
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**

"Treat others (even your enemies) as you would like them to treat you." These words are taken from today's Gospel. We know exactly how we like others to treat us: we like them to be forgiving, merciful, generous, and loving towards us. But how many of us could say that we treat others in that way? Today, let us think about people we do not love as we should.

Smith and Jones approached the news-stand. Smith greeted the newsman very courteously but got a most discourteous service in return. Accepting the newspaper which was shoved rudely in his direction, Smith smiled and wished the newsman a nice day. As the two friends walked away, Jones asked: "Does he always treat you so rudely?" "Yes, unfortunately he does." Smith replied. "And are you always that friendly to him?" Jones queried. "I try to be," he replied. Jones asked: "Tell me, why are you so kind to him when he is so rude to you?" Smith answered: "Because I don't want him to decide for me how I'm going to act."

No matter how unchristian another person may act towards us, we still have it in our power to act in a Christian way towards him or her.

### **VOCATIONS**

Dear Lord. I come before you, acknowledging your sovereignty over all things. Guide our youth with your gentle hand. May your voice be the one they hear amidst the clamour of this world, calling them to a life of service and devotion. Grant them courage, O Lord, to embrace your will for them. May their hearts be open and their minds receptive to your call. In moments of doubt or confusion, give them your wisdom. Lead them, Father, to walk in right paths. Give them strength and perseverance to follow their calling and instil in them a spirit of humility to serve you faithfully and selflessly. May they find joy in the journey of their vocation, knowing in each step they are doing your will. We entrust our youth to the Lord. Amen.

### **Week 7 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 1 (C)**

#### **Sunday 23 February**

8.45am	Mass	(Rosie & Inez Lawlor, RIP)
10.15am	Mass	(Ben Jeacock, RIP)
6.30pm	Mass	(Marisa Invernizzi, RIP)

#### **Monday 24 February**

8.30am	Rosary	
9.00am	Mass	(Rosemary – In thanksgiving)

#### **Tuesday 25 February**

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 26 February**

6.30pm	Rosary	
7.00pm	Mass	(Alexandra Paterson intentions)

#### **Thursday 27 February**

9.00am	Rosary	
9.30am	Mass	(Maureen Sheehan, RIP)

#### **Friday 28 February**

6.30pm	Rosary	
7.00pm	Mass	(Stephen Harrold, RIP)

#### **Saturday 1 March**

#### **St David**

11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
11-11.30am	Confessions	
12pm	Mass	(Nula Lardner, RIP)

### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

The season of Lent begins on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March** with Ash Wednesday. Masses will be at 9am and 7pm. This is also a day for fasting and abstinence.

### **ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP SUPPER**

Our annual Ash Wednesday Soup Supper will take place after the evening Mass on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March** at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. All are very welcome. Donations will go to our Lenten projects.

## LENT CHARITY FUNDRAISING

Our two Lenten fundraising projects this year are:

- **ROSY CHARITY:** which is part of the NHS Trust for Oxfordshire and the Community Nursing Service, working particularly with families of children, who have life limiting, complex and sometimes palliative conditions, which require specialist clinical nursing interventions.
- **AFRICAN ADVENTURES:** based in 29 schools in Ghana, Kenya and Zanzibar, offering the opportunity for young volunteers to make a real difference to themselves and the schools they will work in.

**Please** consider ways you could raise money, and send your suggestions to the PPC via the parish office. A leaflet with information is available from today, and there is a lot of information on our parish website too.

## CALLING ALL FAMILIES

Our next Children's Mass is at 10.15am next Sunday 2nd March. 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!

## ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

**Saturday 15th March**, 6.30pm-10.30pm in the Parish Centre. Enjoy an evening of Irish music, song, dance and food to help raise money for the Lenten projects. Tickets £17.50 per adult and £5.00 per child to include Irish stew and selection of desserts. Vegan option also. Tickets available Sunday 2nd and 9th March after 10.15am Mass or email Laura or Bernadette to reserve tickets: [lauraashleycarter@btinternet.com](mailto:lauraashleycarter@btinternet.com) or [bernadette.m.osullivan@gmail.com](mailto:bernadette.m.osullivan@gmail.com) or phone Laura on 07947 178394. Drinks available on the night or bring your own. Great raffle on the night. We look forward to seeing you there! Tea and cake after 10.15am Mass on St. Patrick's Day too.

## CURRY NIGHT – LENTEN FUNDRAISING EVENT

Following the success of last year's *Curry Night*, we will have another Lenten fundraising night on **Wednesday 19th March** at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. Our two charities in the Lenten Project will benefit from the proceeds. *Please sign-up on the booking form available at the back of the church.* For further information contact Paul Brooks on 01865 432423.

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year's annual *World Day of Prayer* will be held on Friday 7th March in St Helen's Church at 2.30pm, followed by refreshments. The service has been prepared by Christian women from the Cook Islands in the Pacific. All are welcome.

## 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.
- **Tuesday:** *JTiF (Journeying Together in Faith)* in the parish centre at 7.30pm.
- **Thursday:** Mothers' prayers in French. All welcome. 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 2nd March:** Children's Mass at 10.15am

## BIG LENT WALK

You are invited to join CAFOD's *Big Lent Walk* and journey together with Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year - walking 200km over 40 days during Lent. Journey to one of the churches or shrines designated as places of pilgrimage in our diocese as part of your Big Lent Walk. Every £1 you raise will support communities like Lokho's in Kenya, experiencing the worst impact of the climate crisis, to rebuild their lives in hope. For more info. and to sign up: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

## FAITH IN ACTION PRAYER GROUP

*Theme:* The Fast track: preparing for Lent and embracing prayer through fasting. We will explore the importance of fasting in the scriptures. We will pray for fortitude. Join us on **Friday 28th February** at 7.30pm in the Parish centre. For more information contact Sabina: 07891728914.

## JUBILEE REFLECTION - PILGRIMAGE

Pilgrimage is part of the practice of many religions, but it is always a journey to some place of special significance. Pope Benedict XVI wrote: *'To go on pilgrimage is not simply to visit a place to admire its treasures of nature, art or history. To go on pilgrimage really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God where he has revealed himself, where his grace has shone with particular splendour and produced rich fruits.'* Encounter with God is key. The pilgrim hopes to return home, but to have been changed.

## WE DARE TO HOPE

For our Jubilee Year, and with Lent approaching, Sr Hyacinthe OP and the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph, have prepared five sessions and reflections on the mystery of Christian Hope. Entitled *We Dare to Hope*, the resources help us, through beautiful prayers and reflections, to encounter the Hope which Christ Jesus offers each and every one of us. You can download a copy using the link on the *News* page of our parish website.