

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

Most of us live very busy lives. As a result, we may be spiritually impoverished. Today's gospel shows us how in the midst of all his works, Jesus took time out to pray, and to restore his energies. The Eucharistic celebration provides us with a great opportunity to take time out to be with the Lord. Jesus often went off to a lonely place to pray. Yet, the same Jesus who prayed in lonely places said, *"When you pray go into your room and pray to your Father in secret"*. This means that the lonely place is not necessarily a place far away, or by room he means four walls, that separate us from others. The room is the room of our innermost heart. This room is with us at all times. We should make it a place to which we can go to find rest and spiritual recovery when the world is too much with us. Then we will discover that the inner room is not empty after all, but is occupied by the God of Love who dwells in us all.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Loving God, you call all who believe in you to grow perfect in love by following in the footsteps of Christ your Son. Call from among us more men and women who will serve you as religions. By their way of life may they provide a convincing sign of your Kingdom for the Church and the whole world. Help the men and women of our parish to hear the call because your people trust your presence. Make us faithful servants of your gospel. Give us holy people who will spend themselves for your people and their needs. Bless those who are serving now with courage and perseverance, and grant that many will be inspired by their example and faith.

PPC LENTEN PROJECTS 2024

The Parish Council meet this week for their final deliberations over the choice of this year's Lenten Project. Please pray for us and we hope to announce the theme next weekend and begin our efforts on Ash Wednesday.

Week 5 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 2 (B)

Sunday 4 Feb.

8.45am Mass (Private Intention)
10.15am Mass (Porzio Nicolino & Piera Anna Simonetti RIP)
2.00pm Mass in Polish
6.30pm Mass (In Thanksgiving)

Monday 5 Feb.

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (Special Intention)

St Agatha

Tuesday 6 Feb.

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

St Paul Miki & Companions

Wednesday 7 Feb.

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Cameron Paterson Intentions 25th Birthday)

Thursday 8 Feb.

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass (Special Intention)

Friday 9 Feb.

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Special Intention)

Saturday 10 Feb.

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

St Scholastica

CHILDRENS' MASS THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday the Mass at 10.15am will be a Childrens' Mass.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT

Lent begins on Wednesday 14th February, with Ash Wednesday. Masses will be at 9am and 7pm.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

'Face to Face' training for both Children and Vulnerable Adults. It will take place on the 10th February in the Parish Centre. Child Protection 10am - 12.30pm. Vulnerable Adults 1pm - 3.45pm. Training is for those who are acting in a voluntary role in the parish, and please note that the training for both Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults *needs to be updated every two years*. If you wish to attend, please contact Anne Green 01235 520171 or email safeguarding.abi@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

THE BIG LENT WALK

The season of Lent is fast approaching! Ash Wednesday is on 14th February.... Do you like walking? If so, why not challenge yourself and take on *The Big Lent Walk!* Walk 5km a day when and where you choose over the 40 days of Lent, alone or with friends and raise money to help people as they overcome poverty. "The Big Walk is something to look forward to", says Angela Powell from CAFOD. "It's a great way for children and adults to step outdoors to appreciate our God-given environment and to act out our faith as part of something that brings about change for the better". You can find more information – and sign up – on the *News* page of our parish website.

THE SIX HOLY HABITS

In October 2022, Bishop Philip invited us to establish or pledge our commitment to Six Holy Habits:

- Spending at least 5 minutes a day in prayer.
- Attending mass on Sunday.
- Keeping Friday as a day of penance.
- Paying a fortnightly visit to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.
- Going to Confession once a month.
- Joining a small group for formation, prayer and fellowship.

You are now invited to say how you have answered his call, and if you wish, to send your story to: communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

The Family Fast Day will be on Friday 23rd February. This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. You can give using the envelope which will be available, or online at cafod.org.uk and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families.

ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP SUPPER

Our annual Ash Wednesday Soup Supper will take place after evening Mass on Ash Wednesday 14 February at 7.30 in the Parish Centre. All are very 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.
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.
- **Saturday:** Mothers' prayers in English in the church at 10.15am.
- **Saturday:** Safeguarding training (Child Protection from 10am-12.30pm) and (Vulnerable adults from 1pm to 3.45pm) in the parish centre.

FUTURE DATES

- **Wed 14th Feb:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.

BIG BREAKFAST AND PRODUCE SALE

This will take place on Sunday 3 March after the 8.45am and 10.15am Masses. It will be an opportunity to enjoy a bacon, sausage or vegetarian roll, tea, or coffee and to aid our Lent Fundraising effort.

WELLBEING PROJECTS IN SCHOOLS

Would you like to help support Abingdon's school communities? *TrinityLearning* is a small church funded charity which runs wellbeing projects in Abingdon Schools, who are currently looking for volunteer storytellers who could spare a couple of hours for our Experience Easter project from 11- 22nd March 2024, and volunteers to join us weekly for about an hour on a regular mentoring project starting in September. St Edmund's School is a beneficiary of both projects. We are committed to Safeguarding and safer recruitment procedures are always followed during volunteer recruitment. We also offer many other volunteering opportunities such as craft preparation, gardening, knitting or crocheting. Please email Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com for more information or visit our website to find out more about our work www.trinitylearning.org.uk.

PILGRIMAGES ON OFFER

Fr Claro from Faringdon is offering the following:

PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND: Pilgrimage to Poland & the Divine Mercy, 7th - 14th May 2024, Chaplain to the group: Fr. Claro Conde. Contact *All Saints Travel*: 01793 881166 / 020 3720 0450, info@allsaintstravel.co.uk

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: 18th - 21st Jun 2024. Chaplain to the group Fr. Claro Conde. Contact *All Saints Travel*: 01793 881166 / 020 3720 0450, info@allsaintstravel.co.uk