

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

Modern life has brought us closer to one another than ever before. We influence one another in all sorts of ways. God wants us not to be stumbling blocks but stepping stones for one another. "Woe to the person who leads the little ones astray. It were better that a millstone were tied around his neck and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." What would Christ say of today's drug dealer who wrecks the lives of the young? Or of those who corrupt the young pouring slops over their souls? If you saw a young tree vandalised, you would be angry because of what that tree could have become. Christ saw a marvellous potential in every child. He did not want to see that potential ruined. A writer looking at a young child in a railway carriage said "This is a life full of beautiful promise. Little princes in legends are no different from this. Protected, sheltered, cultivated, what could this child not become?"

VOCATIONS PRAYER

Loving and generous God, it is you who call us by name and ask us to follow you. Help us grow in the love and service of our Church. Give us the energy and courage of your spirit to shape its future. Grant us faith-filled leaders who will embrace Christ's mission of love and justice. Bless our Diocese of Portsmouth by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve your people as Priests, Sisters, Deacons and Lay Ministers. Inspire us to know you better and open our hearts to hear your call. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SECOND COLLECTION

The second, optional collection next **Sunday, 6th October** is for CAFOD. You can pick up an envelope from the back of the church today and use it to put in your donations after the *Fast Day* on Friday, and then put the envelope with your donation into the retiring collection boxes as you leave Mass next Sunday.

FOOD BANK

Please don't forget to support the Abingdon food bank as and when you can, as it greatly helps those in need.

Week 26 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 2 (B)

Sunday 29 Sept.

8.45am Mass (Special Intention)
10.15am Mass (Paul Gibbons, RIP)
6.30pm Mass (Special Intention)

Monday 30 Sept.

St Jerome

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (In thanksgiving)

Tuesday 1 October

St Teresa of the Child Jesus

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

Wednesday 2 October

The Holy Guardian Angels

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Mary Horgan, RIP)

Thursday 3 October

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass (Tony Lee, RIP)

Friday 4 October.

St Francis of Assisi

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Special Intention)

Saturday 5 October

Our Lady on Saturday

11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
11-11.30am Confessions
12pm Mass (Sheila Sargeant intentions)

LIGHT FOR THE BLIND

Fr Thomas is making a short visit to the UK and will be in Abingdon, celebrating all three Masses on Sunday 13th October. He is not seeking to raise funds on this occasion, but he will provide an update on the work of the charity and the current situation in India.

CALLING ALL FAMILIES

We will be celebrating the first Children's Mass of this academic year at 10.15am on **Sunday 6th October**. We will be asking children to help us with welcoming, the offertory procession, the collection and singing the final hymn, 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 do a reading or prayer at this Mass then please email Fiona Semple at 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!

FAMILY FAST DAY

The CAFOD Family Fast Day is on **Friday 4 October**. Please pick up an envelope from the table at the back of the church today and return it with your contribution at the second/retiring collection on **Sunday 6th October**. Links to other information and online giving are also available on the *News* page of our parish website. By giving to CAFOD, you'll fund training, tools, equipment and safe spaces so that more people like Daniel, a young man in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, can learn new skills and fulfil their God-given potential by carving a better future for their family with skills they learned in a CAFOD-funded training centre.

SEASON OF CREATION

The message from Pope Francis and other resources for the Season of Creation, which ends on Friday this week, can be viewed on the *News* page of our parish website. This season is a time to renew our relationships with God our Creator, and with all creation, as we join together in prayer. We give thanks for all that God has made, repent for the damage that we have caused and commit ourselves to take action to protect the earth our common home.

MARIAN PRAYER

Fr Claro and Faringdon Parish invite you to Marian Prayer on **Saturday 12th October** at 4pm. Followed by a shared supper (Please bring a dish but avoid nuts in case of allergies).

VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

We desperately need fresh volunteers to come forward. Firstly, our Baby & Toddler group on a Friday morning needs some help to bring the toys from the garage and clear them away at the end. If you can help, please contact the office or speak to Fr Jamie directly. Also, in order to re-launch Children's Liturgy at the 10.15am Mass for 20-25 minutes and rejoin the congregation for the Eucharistic Prayer, we really need some young mums and dads to try this. Again, please contact the office or speak to Fr Jamie.

MISSIO RED BOXES

If you have a red box and it is full, please call Clare on 01235 524861 or Wendy on 01235 534873, and they will arrange collection. Thank you.

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.
- **Tuesday**: *Alpha* course in the parish centre from 7pm to 9.30pm.
- **Friday**: Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.

FUTURE DATES

- **Wed 9th Oct**: Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.

YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES

Following Bishop Philip's Pastoral Ten Year Plan and the meeting held in our parish on 10th September to hear what our Pastoral Area "Design" group are suggesting is the best way forward for us in *English Martyrs Vale of White Horse*, a copy of the very positive presentation given for the approach is now available on the *News* page of our parish website.

TALES OF THE FIRST DISCIPLES

LAMPS Collective invite you to '*Salt and Light*', a performance set in the little fishing community of Capernaum, where rumours of miracles and healings abound and a family struggles to make sense of the radical new teacher walking their shores. Who is this man? What is he? And what might it mean for them and their lives? This event is suitable for age 10 and upwards and takes place on **Thursday 3rd October** at 7.30pm at the *Peachcroft Christian Centre*. Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children aged 10-18, and are available via the link on the *News* page of our parish website, where you can also view the poster.

BIBLE ALIVE

Bible Alive is a Catholic scripture magazine with daily reflections from the Bible which can help us to draw life, strength and power to live the Christian life. Limited copies are available at the back of the church.

TRAINING AND FORMATION DAY FOR READERS

Saturday 19th October 10.30-2pm at St Bede's, Basingstoke. Led by Fr. Anthony Fyk, Director of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions. This is a wonderful opportunity for all our readers at Mass. Please register at liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

TRAINING & FORMATION DAY FOR EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS IN OUR PASTORAL AREA

Saturday 12th October at English Martyrs, Didcot. The day led by Sr. Judith. Please register with Fr. Dominic in Didcot: didcot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk A wonderful opportunity for our Eucharistic Ministers.