

# ***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 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**

## **LENT**

It is the same Spirit that descended on Jesus in the Jordan, that leads him today into the desert to be tempted. The Tempter says Do something useful like turning the stones into bread. Do something sensational like throwing yourself off a high tower. Do something that brings you power like paying homage to me. The world of the Tempter is precisely that world where people compete for love through doing useful, sensational and powerful things and so winning medals that gain them admiration. But Jesus knows who he is: The Beloved of God, on whom God's favour rests. His victory today sets him free to choose the compassionate life.

## **LENTEN FUNDRAISING PROJECT 2023**

**École Don Bosco, in Hadath, Baalbeck in Lebanon**, run by Salesian Sisters is our Lenten project for this year. This school was opened in 1974 and is a centre for 1,200 children and young adults coming from 15 villages in the surrounding area. The small community works for the benefit of these schoolchildren, mostly coming from non-affluent families. In these extremely hard times for Lebanon, the school suffers from a dire shortage of necessary provisions that are vitally important for a good education and standard of living. Please find time as individuals and small groups to formulate ideas and plans for fundraising. Information on the school and current dates for your diary, are available in the leaflet which was given out last Sunday and which is available on our parish website. If you are able to **organise and do** something, please submit your proposal to the parish office as soon as possible. *"TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THESE LEAST BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME"* (Matthew 25:40). Thank you.

## **THREE LENT REFLECTIONS – BISHOP PHILIP**

Bishop Philip invites you to three Lenten Reflections at 7.30pm on Thursdays 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March. Information on the *News* page of our website.

## **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT: Cycle 1 (A)**

### **Sunday 26 Feb**

8.45am Mass (Pauline Anderson Intentions)  
10.15am Mass (Alexandra Paterson Intentions)  
2.00pm Mass in Polish  
6.30pm Mass (Julie Lardner RIP)

### **Monday 27 Feb**

8.30am Rosary  
9.00am Service of the Word and Holy Communion

### **Tuesday 28 Feb**

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 1 March St David**

6.30pm Rosary  
7.00pm Service of the Word and Holy Communion

### **Thursday 2 March**

9.00am Rosary  
9.30am Service of the Word and Holy Communion

### **Friday 3 March**

6.30pm Rosary  
7.00pm Service of the Word and Holy Communion

### **Saturday 4 March**

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

## **LENTEN FUNDRAISING 2023**

Maria Pia Oliver, one of our parishioners has published a book "Roses and Thorns". She is donating all proceeds to Helen & Douglas House. However, during Lent all proceeds from sales will benefit our own project in Lebanon. If you purchase it directly from Maria Pia, we will receive almost £8 per copy. The purchase price is £9.99. Copies will be available during the Big Breakfast and Produce sale next Sunday or contact Maria Pia or Mike directly on Ab.528528.

## BIG BREAKFAST & PRODUCE SALE

Please join us after morning Masses next Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March for what has become a traditional favourite, Big Breakfast (vegetarian and vegan available). All cakes and jams etc gratefully received on the day for the sale.

## GOLF DAY AT DRAYTON

A date for your diary. Early notice that our regular fundraiser for the project will take place on April 17<sup>th</sup> (after Easter). Please put the date in your diary today and we will remind you again nearer the time. Coffee and bacon rolls from 8.30am, and first tee time at 9.32am. Usual format of teams of four. Lots of prizes to be won. The normal cost of £25 for the day. Huge thanks as ever to Mary McKenna for offering the club free of charge. We always get great support from our golfers for the fundraiser. Why not invite friends and family to join you. Please contact Terry Murphy on 07584 248169 or 01235 527597 or by email [terry.murphy62@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:terry.murphy62@yahoo.co.uk)

## CAFOD

Family Fast Day is on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Please take an envelope home and return it next Sunday to the designated boxes outside as you leave (please don't mix them with the normal collection). You may also donate online via the link on the *News* page of our parish website.

**Also**, The Cafod Earthquake emergency appeal is still live online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>

## PAX CHRISTI

Belated but very warm thanks to all who contributed to the collection of £680 for *Pax Christi* on Peace Sunday. Full information about the work of this International Catholic Peace Movement can be found on [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer service has been prepared this year by the women of Taiwan. It will take place at St Michael and All Angels Church, Park Road, Abingdon on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 2.30pm**. Light refreshments will be served afterwards. Parking restrictions will be lifted for the service.

## LENTEN RETREAT

Lenten Retreat being run by the Carmelites at Boars Hill A Time of Grace and Prayer. Details on the *News* page of our website. Or contact 07849 596572 or email [ruth.preston@carmelite.org.uk](mailto:ruth.preston@carmelite.org.uk)

## THE LETTER FILM

People attending the showing of *The Letter* described the film as "powerful", "beautifully filmed", "emotional", "not at all what I expected", "makes connections between our faith and the care of the earth". You can catch up with *The Letter* on *YouTube* (link available on our website) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rps9bs85BII>

## PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday**: Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Monday**: *Warm Space* in the parish centre from 11am to 3pm.
- **Monday**: *Journeying Together in Faith (JTIF)* at 7.30pm in the parish centre. All welcome.
- **Friday**: *Baby & Toddler* group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.

## FUTURE DATES

- **Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Mar**: Big Breakfast & Produce Sale after morning Masses – for Lenten fundraising project.
- **Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Mar**: *Journeying Together in Faith (JTIF)* at 7.30pm in the parish centre. All welcome.
- **Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Mar**: Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.
- **Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Mar**: FHC preparation, Session 5, 8.50am to 10am, in the church.
- **Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Mar**: Youth groups meet in the parish centre from 3.30 to 5pm. All in year 3 or above are welcome.
- **Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Apr**: Golf Day at Drayton Park Golf Club for our Lenten fundraising project.

## LENTEN PRAYER

Lord God guide us on our Lenten Journey  
That we may recognise and resist all temptation to put  
self-interest before your truth  
For you are the way and there is no other approach to  
your Kingdom  
We make this prayer in Jesus' name.

## WARM SPACE

We continue to run a lovely Warm Space on Mondays 11am – 3pm in the parish centre. We offer conversation, deep listening, board games, children's toys and a relaxed and warm environment!

## ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL

We are looking for a full-time KS2 Teacher to join our friendly and efficient team and who would be supportive of our school mission statement and the Catholic ethos of our school. Calls to discuss this position further with our Headteacher, Mrs Erika Kirwan are encouraged and warmly welcomed. Please contact The School Business Manager (01235 521558 or [clomas2266@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:clomas2266@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk)) to request an application pack. Closing date: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 12.00 noon.

## WE PRAY FOR

- Josephine Pearson RIP. Funeral Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> March, 11.15am.
- Adrienne Anderson RIP. Funeral Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 1pm
- Harry Staite RIP.