

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

Faith is a delicate thing. It is exposed to the harsh winds of doubt, cynicism and despair, which frequently blow through the modern world. It is like a candle burning in an exposed place. Here, on Sunday, we ought to experience a great strengthening of our faith – our faith in each other, in ourselves, in life, in God, and especially in the risen Christ among us.

Aristedes, a non-Christian, describes Christians: *Christians love one another. They never fail to help widows. They save orphans from those who would hurt them. If a man has something, he gives freely to the man who has nothing. If they see a stranger, Christians take them into their homes and treat them as a brother. If they hear that one of them is in jail, or persecuted for the name of the redeemer, they all get him what he needs. If one of them is poor, they fast several days to get the food he needs. We are dealing with a new kind of person. There is something divine in them.*

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Father, we are your people, the work of your hands. So precious are we in your sight, that you sent your Son, Jesus. Jesus calls us to heal the broken hearted, to dry the tears of those who mourn, to give hope to those who despair, and to rejoice in your steadfast love. Help me to know how to serve you. Call forth from among us priests, deacons, sisters, brothers and lay ministers. With our hearts you fill the world with your love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THANK YOU

Special thanks to all who helped in any way in making our Easter feasts so wonderful. From those who prepared the Church by cleaning and decorating beautifully, to all the readers and ministers, and particularly our choirs and musicians – first class! My thanks as ever for your kindness to me in your Easter offerings. It is very much appreciated.

Fr Jamie

SECOND WEEK OF EASTER: Cycle 2 (B)

Sunday 7 April

8.45am Mass
10.15am Mass
2pm Mass in Polish
6.30pm Mass

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

(Jonathan Colville, RIP)
(Tommy Pritchard, RIP)
(Michael Walsh, RIP)

Monday 8 April

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass

Annunciation of the Lord

(Pat Castle Intentions)

Tuesday 9 April

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

Wednesday 10 April

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Geoff Castle Intentions)

Thursday 11 April

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass (*Special Intention*)

Friday 12 April

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (*Special Intention*)

Saturday 13 April

11am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
11-11.30am Confessions
12pm Mass (James Walsh intentions)

POPE FRANCIS' EASTER MESSAGE

Pope Francis' message is a call for peace: "May the risen Christ open a path of peace for the peoples in war-torn regions.... Let us not yield to the logic of weapons and rearming. Peace is never made with arms, but with outstretched hands and open hearts."

NEW GIFT AID ENVELOPES STARTING 7 APRIL

If you use gift aid envelopes for weekly giving the new boxes are available for you to collect at the back of church. There are also white envelopes at the back of church for those who use the special collection gift aid envelopes. There are fewer special collection envelopes this year as some of the special collections are no longer eligible for gift aid. Donations can be made in the boxes after Mass or through the card machine at the back of church when the special collection is not eligible for gift aid.

LENTEN PROJECTS 2024

We are supporting two charities. *Friends of the Holy Land*, helping our Christian brothers and sisters in Palestine in the Holy Land and *Helen & Douglas House*, our local hospice for children coping with life-limiting and terminal conditions. More information is available on the noticeboard and on our parish website, where you can also make donations online. So far, we have raised about £7,446.28 – *but we still have a long way to go and there is also still time to organise an event and/or make your donations – which you can do online on our parish website.* Thank you.

OPEN DOORS / WARM SPACES

Open Doors will recommence on Monday, 8th April from 11am to 2pm in the Parish Centre and run every Monday, except Bank Holidays. We offer tea/coffee, lunch and friendly conversation to anyone in the Parish or local community who is on their own or would like more company.

We need more volunteers to help at our Open Doors sessions. If you can spare a few hours on Monday on a rota basis please contact Berny Pratt on 01235 525257.

LENTEN PROJECT CYCLE RIDE

One of our parishioners, David Porter, is doing a sponsored cycle ride from Preston to Abingdon (215 miles!) over three days in April, to raise funds for our Lenten charities. Please find the sponsor form on the table at the back of the church. You might like to sponsor per day, or just a total amount, and the money can be given to Fr Jamie or will be collected on the last weekend in April. Thank you for your support.

GOLF DAY AT DRAYTON GOLF CLUB

A date for your diary - our regular fundraiser for the Lenten projects will take place on *Monday 8th April*. Once again, a big thank you to Mary McKenna for letting us hold this event at no cost. We will be meeting up from 8.30am for tea/coffee and bacon roll. First time is 9.32am. There will be the usual format of 4 players per team with best 2 to score on each hole, and prizes for the best two teams plus prizes for the nearest the pins on 3 holes. The price to join in is £25. Please contact Terry Murphy on 07584 248169 or 01235 527597 or email terry.murphy62@yahoo.co.uk

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Monday:** *Golf Day* fundraising event at Drayton Park Golf Club from 8.30am.
- **Monday:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11am to 2pm.
- **Wednesday:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am *in term time*.

FUTURE DATES

- **Mon 15th Apr:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11am to 2pm.

CREAM TEA – LENTEN PROJECT FUNDRAISING

Thank you, and well done to the small group who raised £180 for our Lenten projects by organising a cream tea event in one of their homes.

PAX CHRISTI

Copies of the current newsletter *Justpeace* are on the table at the back of church. The theme of the newsletter is Young People in Prayer, Study and Action for Peace. Please take a copy if you wish.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Canon PJ Smith, Episcopal Vicar for Education and Pilgrimage Director invites you to join this year's Pilgrimage to Lourdes from *Monday 22nd – Friday 26th July 2024*. If you would like to know more please email: lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or you can book using the booking form link on the *News* page of our parish website.

Calling the young People of our Diocese. Have you just finished your A-levels? Or about to finish Uni for the Summer...? Why not give something back by joining the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes? You could help by assisting some of our pilgrims by pushing wheelchairs, offering a steadying arm and a warm smile! The pilgrim fare is £780 but there is the potential for funding. You can contact lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for more details of this from the Diocese. The Catenians in our parish are also offering a bursary, and you can get information on how to contact them from the leaflets at the back of our church.

WE PRAY FOR

- John Logan, RIP. Funeral Friday 26th April at 11am.