

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 at JR Hospital: 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



Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871 www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Confessions: Saturdays 11.00 – 11.30am or by appointment

MASSES:

Thank you for helping to keep each other safe by continuing to wear face masks/coverings, for sanitising your hands as you enter the church, and for maintaining a reasonable distance from others where feasible.

OFFICE CLOSURE

The parish office is now closed until Tuesday 4th January.

NEWSLETTERS

Please do take your newsletter home with you. Thank you.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

This feast presents us with the humanity of Christ, in that He became incarnate for us and for our salvation. In our diocese, the Feast of the Holy Family is for us an annual diocesan day of prayer for children and vulnerable adults, for the victims of abuse and for all who work in the ministry of safeguarding. Just as Mary and Joseph created a safe home-environment for Jesus, so too on this day especially, let us pray that the Church in all her contexts will be a safe haven for our children and for the vulnerable. We also keep in our prayer the vocation to marriage and family life, couples who are discerning marriage, those who have recently married, those celebrating special anniversaries and all the joys of family life.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

On this day we mark the solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. It is a great day to go to Mass and to begin the New Year by asking Our Lady's help. May we all be blessed with the gift of hope and trust in our Lord over the coming year.

Octave of Christmas

Sunday 26 Dec.

The Holy Family

8.45am Mass (Roisin Del Pinto RIP)
10.15am Mass (Laura Wright RIP)
2.00pm Mass in Polish
6.30pm Mass (Winnie & Hubert Carey RIP)

Monday 27 Dec.

St John

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (Deceased Members of the Birkett Family RIP)

Tuesday 28 Dec.

The Holy Innocents

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

Wednesday 29 Dec.

St Thomas of Canterbury

6.30pm Rosary
7pm Mass (Sheila Finch RIP)

Thursday 30 Dec.

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass (Patrick Mulligan RIP)

Friday 31 Dec.

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

Saturday 1 Jan. *Mary, the Holy Mother of God*

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

SUPPORTING THE CARMELITES

Please consider helping the Carmelites at Boars Hill by joining in their raffle. You can view more about the prizes on the News page of our website and also get more information on how to take part at: www.carmelite.uk.net/Christmas-raffle. The draw takes place on 3rd January. Thank you.

LENT 2022 PARISH CHARITY FUNDRAISING

During the season of Advent, the PPC ask you to think about charities which we could sponsor during Lent 2022. We would ideally like to fundraise for 2 charities, one local/UK based and one worldwide. Please give this some consideration and send your suggestions for the charities to the parish office by **Friday 7th Jan. 2022.**

OUR SVP TURNING CONCERN INTO ACTION

Just before Christmas, members of our *SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society)* were in Oxford helping to provide a Christmas lunch for the homeless. Working with the university's *Companions of the Order of Malta*, we warmly welcomed all who came through the door - or chose to remain outside - giving them a gift from the SVP and a card made by the Mini Vinnies and Year 6 at St Edmund's School. Seating was done in stages so that social distancing was maintained and windows and doors were left opened - but of course, many of the visitors were familiar with the cold.... There were some familiar faces and a few new ones, and all were treated with the respect they deserve and served a hot Christmas three course meal with a smile and friendly conversation. What a humbling experience to see the dignity, friendliness and gratitude of all who attended. Remember them in your prayers.

LIGHT FOR THE BLIND

Regular supporters of Light for the Blind (Fr Thomas' charity, should have received a copy of the 2021 newsletter directly, which contains a Christmas message from Father Thomas. If you have not received a newsletter by post or hand delivered, there are a few at the back of church but please let Peter Dodd know and he will make sure that you always get future copies.

JTiF - JOURNEYING TOGETHER IN FAITH

Sessions will resume in the parish centre from 7.30pm to 9pm, on Monday 10th January. All welcome.

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF:

- Nora McMurtrie RIP. Funeral Wed. 29th Dec. 11.30am.
- Ewart Hemmings RIP. Funeral Thu. 6th Jan. 12 noon.
- Margaret Birks RIP

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the Parish Centre after the 10.15am Mass.

FUTURE DATES

- **Fri 7th Jan:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.
- **Mon 10th Jan:** JTiF (Journeying Together in Faith), 7.30pm to 9pm in the parish centre. All welcome.

UPCOMING DIOCESAN COURSES

The *Formation for Mission* team will be running online courses in January and February 2022, which may be of interest to parishioners and catechists. The courses will be for Catechists, for those who care of children with Additional/special needs and for adults who wish to know their faith better. More information and how to enrol can be seen on the *News* page of our website.

PRAYER FOR FAMILIES



Lord God, who gave us the example of the Holy Family, we ask you to bless and guard all families at this time. We pray for our own families and for those families who cannot be together or who struggle at this time, that through the healing power of God there can be peace and unity. We hold in our hearts the importance of whatever God's will is for our families and we ask for Your help to be open to hear Your call, just like Joseph and Mary. We pray for refugees and their families who are leaving their homes to find peace and security, just like the Holy Family fleeing to Egypt for safety. May people find a place where they are welcomed, and their basic needs met. Let us pray through the intercession of the Holy Family to protect all people and families who are displaced from their home and fleeing danger. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.