

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION 2023

If you wish your child to be prepared for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, please return the application forms to the parish office as soon as possible, along with a photocopy of Baptism and a donation of £20 to cover printing costs. Many thanks.

PARISH AGM REPORT

There are still some copies of the Parish AGM Report available at the back of the church. Please take a copy.

THANK YOU FROM THE MINI VINNIES

Many thanks to all those who contributed so generously to support the Mini Vinnies' collection for the homeless and vulnerable. All items were presented to *Emmaus* on Friday, for distribution to those in need.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS RETREAT DAY

The Dominican sisters will be running a retreat day for all existing and prospective Eucharistic Ministers on **Saturday 21st January from 10am to 3pm in our parish centre**. Please save this date in your diary as, importantly, it will also be an opportunity to renew or gain your faculty.

LENT CHARITY FUND RAISING 2023

During the season of Advent, the PPC ask you to think about charities which we could sponsor during Lent 2023. We would ideally like to fundraise for 2 charities, one local/UK based and one world- wide. Please give this some consideration and send suggestions to the parish office **by Monday 10th January 2023**.

ARE YOU IN NEED?

If you are in need or know someone who is, do contact our parish SVP group (St Vincent de Paul Society) via the parish office and we will see what we can do to help. We always maintain confidentiality. Our members meet every fortnight on a Wednesday evening.

3rd Week of Advent (Year A)

Sunday 11 Dec

8.45am	Mass	3rd Sunday of Advent (Pauline & John Keller RIP)
10.15am	Mass	(Ewart Hemmings RIP)
2.00pm	Mass in Polish	
6.30m	Mass	(Jim Paterson Intentions)

Monday 12 Dec

8.30am	Rosary	
9.00am	Mass	(<i>Special Intention</i>)

Tuesday 13 Dec

NO Mass	See: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse for other Masses	St Lucy
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Wednesday 14 Dec

6.30pm	Rosary	St John of the Cross
7.00pm	Mass	(Bernard McCarthy RIP)

Thursday 15 Dec

9.00am	Rosary	
9.30am	Mass	(<i>Special Intention</i>)

Friday 16 Dec

6.30pm	Rosary	
7.00pm	Mass	(<i>Special Intention</i>)

Saturday 17 Dec

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

FR JAMIE - 40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We will be celebrating Fr Jamie's 40th anniversary of ordination, in the parish centre **after the 10.15am Mass on Sunday 18th December**. You are all very welcome and hope that you are able to come along. Refreshments will be available.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS

Give a gift of hope this Christmas. You can buy CAFOD's World Gifts for family and friends this Christmas online at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> or pick up a catalogue which are available in the church and the church porch.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS ON OUR WEBSITE

Check out the Advent calendar on our *Home* page and reflection in the *What's On* section.

FOR THE JOY OF IT!

Churches in Abingdon welcome everyone to join in with the **carol singing** in the Market Place at **10am on Saturday 17th December**.

ABINGDON FOOD BANK CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

Donations of the items listed below are welcomed. Please take your donations to one of the collection points by 9th December, and make sure the best before dates are for 26th December or later. Thank you.

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| * Large tins of ham | * Tins of fruit |
| * Tins of salmon | * Crisps and savoury snacks |
| * Tins of potatoes | * Jars of pickles/chutney |
| * Tins of carrots | * Crackers for cheese |
| * Tins of peas | * Sweet biscuits |
| * Gravy granules | * Cakes |
| * Cranberry sauce | * Sweets |
| * Stuffing mix | * Tins of custard |
| * Soft drinks | * Jars of jam/chocolate spread |
| * Toiletry gift sets | * Christmas puds (standard size) |

Collection points are at:

- Waitrose Abingdon, Abbey Close
- North Foodbank, Christ Church, Northcourt Rd
- South Foodbank, Preston Road Community Centre

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

24th December:

First Mass of Christmas	6.00pm
Christmas Vigil with Carols	8.30pm
Mass	9.00pm

25th December: 8.45am; 10.15am & 12.00pm

Mass in Polish 2.00pm

MONDAY 26th DECEMBER – St Stephen's Day. Mass will be at 10am

ADVENT – WEEK 3 PRAYER

“May we be, in this world, a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to the hearts of all men and women.”

(Pope Francis)

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Parish Christmas lunch for seniors.
- **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.
- **Saturday:** Youth groups meet in the parish centre from 3.30 to 5pm. All in year 3 or above are welcome.

FUTURE DATES

- **Sun 18th Dec:** Celebration of Fr Jamie's 40th anniversary of ordination, in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS DAY DELIVERY GIFT BAGS

This is happening again, led this year by Peachcroft Christian Centre. We visit those on their own on Christmas Day, have a little chat on the doorstep, and give them a bag of gifts, including Christmas Cards made by St. Edmund's Primary School and a table decoration made by pupils at OLA. There are two different opportunities to be involved. 1) Packing the bags on Sat 17 Dec at 2pm for 1 – 2 hours at Peachcroft. 2) Delivery of the bags on Christmas Day which we do by car, two people doing it (we can put people together). Usually takes one hour, and exact timings up to you but usually late morning to early afternoon. There is a short safeguarding recruitment process for this role. Please contact Jay at jay.elliott@peachcroftcc.org

YOUTH GROUPS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Our last session for the year will be on Saturday 17th from 3.30pm to 5pm in the parish centre. This will be an afternoon of fun and games. All children and young people in year 3 and above are very welcome.

CREATING WARM SPACES

The Church in Abingdon are hoping to offer some “warm spaces” in the New Year, to support people struggling with rising energy bills etc. The details are being worked on, but hopefully we will offer our parish centre one day a week – other churches on other days....watch this space.

GAUDETE SUNDAY – REJOICE!

The Third Sunday of Advent is also known as *Gaudete* Sunday. *Gaudete* is taken from the Entrance Antiphon: “*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near*” (cf. Phil 4:4-5). Advent is a time of joyful expectation and eager preparation for the Solemnity of Christmas.

WE PRAY FOR:

- Pamela Hickey, RIP. Funeral on Friday 16th Dec. at 12.30pm.
- Philip Crossley, RIP. Funeral Thurs 15th Dec. at 11am.