

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
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: SEASON OF CREATION – POPE FRANCIS

During this season of creation, let us dwell on those heartbeats – our own and those of our mothers and grandmothers, the heartbeat of creation and the heartbeat of God. Today, they do not beat in harmony; they are not harmonised in justice and peace. Too many of our brothers and sisters are prevented from drinking from that mighty river. Let us heed our call to stand with the victims of environmental and climatic injustice, and to put an end to the senseless war against creation. The effects of this war can be seen in the many rivers that are drying up. Benedict XVI once observed that: *“the external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast.”* Consumerist greed is disrupting the planet's water cycle. The destruction of the forests is pushing temperatures higher and leading to massive droughts. *“Sister Water”*, in the words of St Francis, is pillaged and turned into *“a commodity subject to the laws of the market.”* (*Laudato Si*, 30)

PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

God our father, Lord of all the world, through your Son you have called us into the fellowship of your universal church; Hear our prayer for your faithful people that, in their vocation and ministry, each may be an instrument of your love. We thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests and religious. Send your Holy Spirit to help others to respond generously to your call. May our parish support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth and young adults. Amen.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION 2023-24

This year's course for the sacrament of confirmation will commence in October. If your child is of the age of 12+ (school YR 8 in September) and would like to attend this year, there will be a meeting for children and parents on **Thursday 21st September at 7.30 in the parish centre**. If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please contact Tammy Lavers at: tammylavers@hotmail.co.uk

Week 23 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 1 (A)

Sunday 10 Sept.

8.45am Mass (Dora Nash, RIP)
10.15am Mass (*Special intention*)
2.00pm Mass in Polish
6.30pm Mass (*Private intention*)

Monday 11 Sept.

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (*Special intention*)

Tuesday 12 Sept.

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

Wednesday 13 Sept.

St John Chrysostom

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Dora Nash, RIP)

Thursday 14 Sept.

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

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

Friday 15 Sept.

Our Lady of Sorrows

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

Saturday 16 Sept.

Saints Cornelius & Cyprian

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

SECOND COLLECTION THIS SUNDAY (10th SEPT)

The second collection **this Sunday (10th September)** is for the *Catholic Education Service*. You can place your donation in the red boxes **as you leave the church**, use the electronic device at the back of the church, or use the link on the *News* page of our website.

The second collection **next Sunday (17th September)** is for *Home Missions*.

RCIA/JOURNEY IN FAITH SESSIONS – UPDATE

There is a slight change this year as to how this will be organised, so please ignore previous newsletter announcements. We are unable, due to other circumstances, to run a full team programme this year. Those individuals who have already expressed an interest will be given instructions by Fr Jamie himself. So, for this year only, it is open only to adults wishing to be Baptised into the Church or received into the Church. Those interested, please contact Fr Jamie via the office to register. My thanks to the RCIA team for their devotion over the years, and hopefully the RCIA journey will be available once more next year.

Many thanks. Fr Jamie

CLOSER TO CHRIST CAMPAIGN

The *Closer to Christ Campaign* is a fundraising initiative for the Diocese of Portsmouth. This will build upon the mission of our church, enabling us to continue our journey to become ever more outward facing and evangelistic, while meeting the immediate financial priorities of parishes, who are the backbone of our Church. Our parish is now part of this campaign and Bishop Philip has sent us a letter, which you can read on the *News* page of our parish website.

CREATION PRAYER WALK

The *Season of Creation* runs from September 1st to October 4th (the feast day of St Francis of Assisi). As part of this, there will be a *Creation Prayer Walk* **this Sunday (10th September)**, leaving the Parish Centre at 3pm. Starting first at the Parish Wildflower Meadow by the Parish Centre we will stop for reflection and prayer at 5 other 'green' places in the centre of town before coming back to the Parish Centre for refreshments. Everyone is very welcome.

In this *Season of Creation*, Pope Francis highlights the need for us to come together, *forming "streams, brooks and rivulets, merging finally together in a mighty river to irrigate the life of our marvellous planet and our human family for generations to come."* Reflections and resources for the Season of Creation can be viewed on the *News* page of our parish website.

SVP – CASH4COINS

Going away on holiday or returning? Please consider keeping any remaining foreign cash to donate for the work of our parish SVP group. We will be collecting any donations after each Mass on **Sunday 24th September**. Sterling currency will also be most welcome. Your donation will help to transform the lives of others. Thank you.

ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL OPEN MORNING

St Edmund's primary school is holding an Open Morning on **Saturday 7th October from 10.30am - 12pm**. This is a good opportunity to visit the school and find out more about it.

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Sunday:** *Creation Prayer Walk* 3pm to 4pm. More details in the main body of this newsletter.
- **Monday:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11.30am to 2.30pm.
- **Wednesday:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.

FUTURE DATES

- **Fri 6th Oct:** CAFOD Family Fast Day
- **Sat 14th Oct:** Youth groups games afternoon – open to all in school year 3 and above, 3.30-5pm in the parish centre.

OPEN DOORS – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Open Doors is a warm and welcoming space for those in the Parish and local community who are on their own or who would like more company and is run by a team of volunteers from the Parish. We offer tea/coffee, lunch and conversation most Mondays from 11.30 am to 2.30 pm in the Parish Centre. We are looking for more volunteers, who can spare a few hours on a rota basis, to join our team. We would also be grateful to anyone who can offer to cook meals at home (again on a rota basis approximately once every 4 -6 weeks) and bring them along to the Parish Centre. If you are able to help, please contact Berny Pratt on 01235 525257. Many thanks.

ENGAGING THE DISENGAGED

The Diocese, in partnership with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, is hosting an online seminar on **Tuesday 21st November**, at 6 pm for Catholics wishing to bring people closer to Christ led by Evangelist Sherry Weddell. Tickets are £10 per person, and you can purchase them using the link on the *News* page of our parish website.

ST GABRIEL'S CONVENT, COLD ASH

St. Gabriel's Convent in Cold Ash, Thatcham, is closing and holding a large clearance event between 1-7pm on the weekend of 9th and 10th September. There are many beautiful Christmas, religious, household and large furniture items including retro furniture available, and the sisters simply ask for a donation for anything taken. If you have any questions about the event, please do call Kieran Bourke on 07969 890870

WE PRAY FOR

- Mary Elizabeth Hawkes, RIP. Funeral Tue. 12 Sept. at the crematorium.
- Maureen Logan, RIP. Funeral Tue. 3 Oct. at 11am.