

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

Often the blind see more than those with sight. This is not a contradiction. There are more ways of 'seeing' than through the eyes. In today's Gospel we meet a man called Bartimaeus. He had never set eyes on Jesus – he was blind. Yet he had more faith in Jesus than many who saw him. The fact that we have two good eyes does not mean that we see automatically what is important in life. Sometimes the problem is not that we cannot see, but that we won't see. Lord, many people today sit at the roadside of life begging, not for money, but for love, for attention, for companionship, for a feeling that they are important and that their life has a meaning. In a sense they are blind for they cannot see a way out of their predicament. Most of them are too embarrassed to cry out for help. They are afraid of being silenced by the indifference of others. They need a kind person to stop and ask "What can I do for you?" Lord, that I may see – see my needy brothers and sisters. That I may hear their silent cries. For I too was blind, and you enlightened me.

VOCATIONS

O lord, encourage those who are still seeking their path to trust in your timing. May they find clarity in their search and feel your presence in their discernment. Bless them with mentors and signs that reveal the direction in which they should walk. Inspire leaders in our communities to support and foster vocations of all kinds. Let them be examples of your grace, encouraging others to heed your call. In this, my prayer, I commit my life to you. May my actions reflect my dedication to your calling, and may my journey inspire others to discover theirs. In your holy name I pray. Amen.

MASS ON THURSDAY 7th NOVEMBER

Please note that there will be no Mass next week on Thursday 7th November.

Week 30 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 2 (B)

Sunday 27 October

8.45am Mass (John Nelson RIP)
10.15am Mass (Private Intention)
6.30pm Mass (Chris Conway Intentions)

Monday 28 October

Saints Simon & Jude

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (Isabeloa Owusu Intentions)

Tuesday 29 October

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

Wednesday 30 October

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Leslie Birkbeck RIP)

Thursday 31 October

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass (Justin Gosling RIP)

Friday 1 November

ALL SAINTS

9.00am Mass (Elizabeth Gayther RIP)
6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Paul, Stella & Simon Worrallo RIP)

Saturday 2 November

All Souls

11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
11-11.30am Confessions
12pm Mass (Kathleen Brady RIP)

ALL SAINTS DAY

This coming Friday, 1st November, is the feast of All saints and is one of our holy days of obligation. Therefore, Mass on Friday will be at **9am** and **7pm**. The following day is Saturday and the commemoration of the dead or 'All Souls'. This is not a holy day of obligation, but we always have a great turn out to begin the month of the Holy Souls.

“CLERGY SWAP”

Due to the fact that Bishop Philip has sent us a Pastoral Letter to be read today, we've decided to postpone the 'clergy swap' till another date. *Fr Jamie.*

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION

There will be a meeting in the Parish Centre, on **THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER AT 7.30pm**, for parents who wish to enrol their children in the 2025 preparation programme. It is ESSENTIAL that parents attend this meeting to receive enrolment forms and a copy of the programme. If you have any queries, please contact Hilary Webb at humwebb53@gmail.com

SECOND RETIRING COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY

The retiring collection for Sunday 3rd November will be for the Diocese of Bamenda in Cameroon which is twinned with our Portsmouth Diocese.

BLESSING OF GRAVES

The annual blessing of the graves in November will take place next **Sunday 3rd November** at 10am in our churchyard, and at 1pm at the cemetery in Spring Road. May they rest in peace.

OPEN DOORS

Open Doors runs on Mondays (except Bank Holidays) between 11 am to 2pm in the Parish Centre. We offer a warm welcome, friendly conversation, tea/coffee and lunch (served at 12.15) to anyone in the Parish or local community who would like to join us.

FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

Sale of Christmas cards and products on behalf of Friends of the Holy Land this Sunday 27th October.

FAITH, FELLOWSHIP & PARISIAN PLEASURES

Join us for a 3-day trip to Paris this February! Together, we'll explore the spiritual and cultural heart of the city, including visits to Notre-Dame de Paris, Sainte-Chapelle, and the Chapel of the Miraculous Medal for Mass and Adoration. Enjoy fellowship, a Bateau Mouche cruise, and time to discover Paris' famous museums and landmarks.

- **Dates:** Tuesday, Feb 18 – Thursday, Feb 20, 2025
- **Departure:** London St. Pancras, early morning
- **Return:** Late evening

Accommodation and Eurostar bookings are independent but could be coordinated. For more details, contact Sabina 07449825161.

MIDDLE EAST HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

The conflict in the Middle East is getting worse and the families affected need our help. Please donate today to the *CAFOD-DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal* and support our local Caritas partners in Gaza and Lebanon as they continue to provide essential food, water and shelter: cafod.org.uk/give

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Monday:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11am to 2pm.
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am **in term time.**

FUTURE DATES

- **Tue 5 Nov:** *Alpha* course in the parish centre from 7pm to 9.30pm.
- **Thu 7th Nov:** Meeting at 7.30pm in the parish centre for parents who would like to register their child(ren) for the First Holy Communion programme.
- **Wed 13th Nov:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.

SERVICE OF LOSS

There will be no Church in Abingdon (CiA) Annual Bereavement Service this year, but a 'Service of Loss' will take place at Christ Church on Sunday 1st December at 1pm for anyone who would like to attend.

CHURCH TWINNING QUIZ

Tickets are now available, and going fast, for this event on Saturday 23rd November at the Conduit Centre, Abingdon. Tickets are £15 per person, which includes a welcome drink and a Ploughman's Supper in the interval. Further information and tickets from Pat Warren 07526033715 or Anne Dodd 525997.

St EDMUND'S FEAST DAY – SAT. 16th NOVEMBER

The midday Mass on Saturday 16th November will be in remembrance of St Edmund. To celebrate this day, we will have tea and cake in the parish centre after Mass.

Please do come along and bring family and friends.

JOIN THE TEAM FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

For a number of years churches in Abingdon have welcomed people who would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day. This year on Christmas Day we will be inviting 60 people to have a two-course lunch for free at Peachcroft Christian Centre. We need a number of volunteers. If you would like to volunteer please email Christmaslunch24@peachcroftcc.org **as soon as possible.** The roles we need include:

- Event Helpers.
- AV operator.
- Cleaning crew.
- Finance.

WE PRAY FOR:

- Sydney Molloy RIP