

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 – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples."

Jesus calls us to a life that values others, serves others, and loves others. Not only does he call us to live this way, he modelled it for us. It is important that we understand and live out his command. But the love that Jesus calls us to isn't any kind of love; Jesus tells us we are to love as **he** loved. We follow a God that gave up his life, not because we deserved it, but because we needed it. But today many of his followers would rather give people what they deserve. We've got some work to do! If we are a follower of Jesus, then people should be able to look at how we love and know who we follow. We love because we were first loved. Loving people is hard. They are difficult and messy. But let's not forget... we are too. And despite our own brokenness Jesus still loved us and went to the cross for us. When we love people, particularly difficult and messy people, we are showing those around us that the love of Christ is in us. It's how we set ourselves apart from the world.

VOCATIONS PRAYER

God our Father, You have created for us some definite purpose. Grant us the grace to know the path You have planned for us in this life and to hear you call. May we respond with a generous "Yes." Bless our Diocese, our parishes, and our families and mould hearts to be fruitful and receptive ground for Your gift of vocations. May our young people respond to Your call with courage and zeal. Stir among our men a desire and the courage and strength to be good and holy priests. Bless us with consecrated religious, permanent deacons and those called to a chaste single life. Gift us with faithful husbands and wives, who are a sign of Christ's love for His Church. We commend our prayer for vocations to You, Father, through the intercession of Mary our Mother, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fifth Week of Easter: Cycle 1 (C)

Sunday 18 May

8.45am	Mass
10.15am	Mass
6.30pm	Mass

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(Thelma Druett RIP)
(Fuensantas Montero RIP)
(Pat Castle RIP)

Monday 19 May

8.30am	Rosary
9.00am	Mass

Dedication of St John Cathedral, Portsmouth

(Geoff Castle Intentions)

Tuesday 20 May

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

Wednesday 21 May

6.30pm	Rosary
7.00pm	Mass

Thursday 22 May

9.00am	Rosary
9.30am	Mass

(Mary McLaughlin RIP)

Friday 23 May

6.30pm	Rosary
7.00pm	Mass

(Donie & Deanne Kearney Intentions)

Saturday 24 May

11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
11-11.30am	Confessions
12pm	Mass

SECOND COLLECTION ON 1st JUNE

The second/retiring collection on **Sunday 1st June** is for the *Catholic Communications Network*.

CHILDREN'S MASS

Our 10.15am Mass today, Sunday 18th May, is a children's Mass.

PRAYER FOR OUR NEWLY ELECTED POPE

Lord of life, love and hope, we thank you for the election of our new Pope. Watch over, protect and bless Pope Leo XIV. We pray that, led by the Holy Spirit, his faithful witness will be a beacon of hope in our fragile and often divided world. May the joy of the Gospel inspire him with compassionate understanding so that, together, we can be peacemakers and life-givers. May Pope Leo XIV be a good and courageous shepherd, concerned for "the least, the last and the lost" of "every tribe and tongue and people and nation". Guide him to be a leader after your own heart, which is more loving than we can possibly imagine. We ask you, Lord, to surround our new Pope with people of pastoral wisdom as he adjusts to his new role. Fill him with confidence in the power of prayer. Help us to help him. Amen.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN

Please continue to pray for the 30 children who made their First Holy Communion last weekend, and please pray for their families as well.

MONTH OF MAY

The month of May is traditionally known as 'Mary's Month'. Why not join other parishioners before the weekday Masses to pray the Rosary together?

EXPLORE THE 11 CHURCHES IN OUR TOWN

Visit the *News* page of our parish website where you can view and print a map to explore the 11 Churches of Abingdon Town. We are also fortunate to have 5 new church communities who worship in various town venues, and there are a further 13 churches or chapels in the villages that surround the town to be explored too - so, there are 29 church communities within a very small radius of the town. Our Grandparents Association have been working on this map for quite a while with Mike Martins' brilliant expertise, help and time.

HOLY SPIRIT NOVENA

The Vicariate for Evangelisation is hosting an online novena to the Holy Spirit 8pm from Friday 30th May with two additional talks on Saturday 31st May and Wednesday 4th June. Everyone is welcome to join us as we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The Vicariate is also working with Charis Portsmouth to host a Holy Spirit day on Saturday 7th June at English Martyrs Church, Reading starting with a 9:30am Mass and finishing with lunch. All are welcome. To register, you can use the link on the *News* page of our parish website, or email: ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

OPEN DOORS

There will be **no** Open Doors session on 26th May (Late May Bank Holiday).

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.
- **Thursday:** Mothers' prayer in French at 8pm in the parish centre.
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am **in term time**.

FUTURE DATES

- **Sat 31st May:** Mothers' prayers in English at 10.15am in the church.

JUBILEE REFLECTION

The Jubilee Year 2025 is a special time of grace and renewal, particularly within the Catholic Church, with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope". It's a call to pilgrimage, prayer, and reconciliation, encouraging individuals to deepen their relationship with God and others, and to be signs of hope in a world facing various challenges. This year is also a time for reflection on one's faith and how to better live out one's faith in the world, specifically by focusing on justice and compassion, and by working towards a fairer world. Prayer is emphasized as a crucial part of the Jubilee experience, inviting individuals to reflect on their relationship with God and seek His guidance in their journey. The Jubilee Year also provides an opportunity for individuals to reflect on their lives and how they can better live out their faith in the world, including acts of service and compassion towards others.

VACANCY AT ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL

We are looking to employ a KS2 Class Teacher (Full Time, Permanent) at our school, to commence in September 2025. Calls to our Headteacher, Mrs Kirwan, to find out more about our wonderful school are encouraged and warmly welcomed. Please contact the School at office.3856@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk (Tel: 01235 521558) to request an application pack or visit our website at www.st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk for more information. Applications must be made on the CES Application form. The closing date for applications is 19 May.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

The cost of the pilgrimage begins on Monday 7th July and is £879 per person for a shared room, youth pilgrims can travel at £825. To find out more and to book a place please email: lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or phone 07780 221686 or write to Canon PJ Smith at St Edmunds House, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth PO1 3QA.

WE PRAY FOR:

- Catherine Lardner, RIP