

# ***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](http://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](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Confessions: Saturdays 11.00 – 11.30am or by appointment**

## **REFLECTION: SEASON OF CREATION – POPE FRANCIS**

Pope Benedict XVI spoke of the urgent need to recognise that creation and redemption are inseparably linked: “The Redeemer is the Creator and if we do not proclaim God in his full grandeur – as Creator and as Redeemer – we also diminish the value of the Redemption”. Creation refers both to God’s mysterious, magnificent act of creating this majestic, beautiful planet and universe out of nothing and to the continuing result of that act, which we experience as an inexhaustible gift. During the Liturgy and personal prayer in “the great cathedral of creation” let us recall the great artist who creates such beauty and reflect on that loving decision to create the cosmos. Let us add to the flow of this mighty river by transforming our lifestyles. Starting from grateful wonder at the Creator and his creation, let us repent our “ecological sins”. These sins harm the world of nature and our fellow men and women. With the help of God’s grace, let us adopt lifestyles marked by less waste and unnecessary consumption, especially where the processes of production are toxic and unsustainable. Let us be mindful about our habits and economic decisions so that all can thrive. Let’s make positive choices using resources wisely, disposing and recycling waste becoming more environmentally and socially responsible.

## **PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

Lord, you call us by our names. Help us to be confident in our own unique identity. To find opportunities to develop our specific gifts and our passions. Enable us to hear and recognise the call of Jesus in our lives, and those of others. Help us find life giving ways to spread your Good News in a way that draws others to you and helps them know your radical and extraordinary love. Amen

## **MASS INFORMATION FOR THIS WEEK**

Please note that the clergy are on retreat and therefore there will be no Mass on Wednesday and Thursday this week.

## **Week 25 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 1 (A)**

### **Sunday 24 Sept.**

8.45am Mass (Christopher Lonergan RIP)  
10.15am Mass (Theresa Shakespeare RIP)  
2.00pm Mass in Polish  
6.30pm Mass (Angela Aris RIP)

### **Monday 25 Sept.**

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

### **Tuesday 26 Sept.**

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

### **Wednesday 27 Sept. St Vincent de Paul**

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

### **Thursday 28 Sept.**

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

### **Friday 29 Sept.**

6.30pm Rosary  
7.00pm Mass (Pat & Mary Mulqueen 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary)  
**The Holy Archangels Michael, Gabriel & Raphael**

### **Saturday 30 Sept.**

11am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
11-11.30am Confessions  
12pm Mass (Pat & Mary Mulqueen 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary)  
**St Jerome**

## **PARISH OFFICE**

The office will be closed on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September.

## SECOND COLLECTION THIS SUNDAY (24<sup>th</sup> SEPT)

The second collection **this Sunday (24<sup>th</sup> September)** is for the *work of our parish SVP group*. 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. All currencies are welcome, and your donation will help to transform the lives of others. Thank you.

## CLOSER TO CHRIST CAMPAIGN

Responding to Bishop Philip's initiative, our parish is currently undertaking the *Closer to Christ* Campaign which aims to support our priests from formation through to retirement AND to rejuvenate our parishes. I will be hosting a few small gatherings to explain this initiative, and hope you are able to make one of the following dates: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Oct at 6pm in the parish centre OR Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 10am in the Presbytery. Thank you for considering my invitation.  
*Fr. Jamie*

## MISSIO - RED BOXES

It is at this time of the year that we need to collect and count the RED MISSIO BOXES. If you have not heard from us over the coming weeks, could you please call Clare on 524861 or Wendy on 532593. Thankyou.

## PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO MALTA & GOZO

*In the footsteps of St Paul* is our theme for our parish pilgrimage scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024 to the beautiful islands of Malta and Gozo. The pilgrimage will take the form of a 'holiday retreat' and everyone is welcome. To find out more and register your interest, you are invited to attend a meeting in the parish centre on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 7pm**.

## CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL

The second collection on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October** is for CAFOD. Through our donations to CAFOD, Dr Nasha's mobile medical clinic gets life-saving help to where it's needed most. Please donate to CAFOD so that more families can get the expert help they need. Use the envelope available at the back of the church or give online at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk) Thank you.

## ONLINE FORMATION SESSIONS FOR READERS

Throughout October the Liturgical Formation Team is running online sessions for all readers at Mass. They begin on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 7pm – 8pm and continue each Wednesday, concluding on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The themes include an Introduction to Sacred Scripture, the theology of the Word, Youth readers and Liturgy for children, how to proclaim the Word of God in Church and an introduction to Lectio Divina. We would like to encourage all our parish readers to take up this opportunity. Details can be found on our parish website on the *News* page. You will need the links you find there to join the sessions. *Fr. Jamie*.

## PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Monday:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11.30am to 2.30pm.
- **Saturday:** Mother's prayers at 10.15am in the church.

## FUTURE DATES

- **Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct:** Parish pilgrimage meeting in the parish centre at 7pm (see information in main body of this newsletter)
- **Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Oct:** CAFOD Family Fast Day
- **Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Youth groups games afternoon – open to all in school year 3 and above, 3.30-5pm in the parish centre.

## YOU WILL BE MY WITNESS

On September 10<sup>th</sup> Bishop Philip wrote to us about "You will be my witnesses". The new and final versions of our Ten-Year Mission Plan for the whole Diocese (copies still available at the back of church). It has been two years in the making and we've all had access to the draft copy, upon which we were invited to comment. Please download the final version. It is available on the parish website on the *News* page. It's too long to print off individual copies but if any parishioner is struggling to get it, then please let Fr. Jamie know personally.

## ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL OPEN MORNING

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

## 'BUILDING THE KINGDOM' ORACY PROJECT

Over the past year some of the children from St Edmund's School have been involved in a project aiming to develop their oracy skills. Over the year the children have composed and given short speeches on both things that they really enjoy and an aspect of Catholic Social Teaching. The final part of the project was a visit to London where the children were given the opportunity to give a speech to Laura Farris, a Catholic MP, on the subject of '*What good leadership looks like today*'. The children spoke passionately about care for the environment, the dangers of smoking and vaping and the importance of showing dignity and respect to everyone including marginalised groups. We are incredibly proud of them for having the confidence to share their thoughts about what matters to them and for the strong concern they show for social justice and care for creation.

## WE PRAY FOR

- Maureen Logan, RIP. Funeral Tue. 3 Oct. at 11am.