

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

At times, storms of one kind or another blow up and threaten not only our peace and security, but our very life. At such moments we know we cannot save ourselves. Only God can save us and restore calm to our troubled lives. But we must learn to turn to God, not just in times of difficulty but at all times. There was once a sea captain who in his retirement skippered a boat taking day trippers to the Shetland Islands. On one trip the boat was full of young people. They laughed at the old captain when they saw him saying a prayer before setting out, for the day was fine and sea was calm. But when out at sea a storm suddenly blew up and the boat began to pitch violently. The terrified passengers came to the captain and asked him to join them in prayer. But he replied, "I say my prayers when it's calm – when it is rough I attend to my ship".

If we cannot seek God in quiet moments of our life, we are not likely to find him when trouble strikes. But if we have learnt to seek him and to trust in him in the quiet moments, then most certainly we will find him when the going gets tough.

PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

The Lord desires to dwell within us so that we can be bearers of his love. This week (Aug 15th) we celebrate the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary gives us the perfect example of holiness and vocation in her response of "yes", her "Fiat", that brought heaven to earth. Our aim in life is to also say "yes" to her beloved Son – and to bear Jesus Christ for the world in whatever vocation we are called to. Mary our Mother is our powerful intercessor in praying for all vocations: *"Let it be done to me according to your Word"*.

MASS INFORMATION

This week there will be no Mass on Monday 14th, Wednesday 16th or Friday 18th August.

Tuesday 15th August is a holy day – the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. There will be Masses at **9am and 7pm**.

Week 19 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 1 (A)

Sunday 13 August

8.45am Mass (Alexandra Paterson Intentions)
10.15am Mass (Paul, Stella & Simon Worrallo RIP)
2.00pm Mass in Polish
6.30pm Mass (Private Intention)

Monday 14 August

St Maximilian Kolbe

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

Tuesday 15 August

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (Special Intention)
7.00pm Mass (Special Intention)

Wednesday 16 August

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

Thursday 17 August

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass (Special Intention)

Friday 18 August

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

Saturday 19 August

12pm Mass (Special Intention)

CONFESSIONS AND ADORATION

Please note that there will be no Confessions or Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on **Saturday 19th August**. However, there will be Mass as usual at 12 midday.

PARISH OFFICE

Please note that the parish office will be closed until **Tuesday 29th August**.

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 was read at last Sunday's Masses and which you can read on the *News* page of our parish website.

RCIA/JOURNEY IN FAITH SESSIONS – VIA ZOOM

What is Love? What is Happiness? What is the meaning of my Life? Who is Jesus? Who do they say that I am? I am with you always. Peace be with you. Do not be afraid. Come and see. You might wish to find out more about Jesus, would like to receive baptism, become a Catholic, or may be a Catholic but not confirmed? If so, RCIA/Journey in Faith could be for you. "Come and See" the way we welcome new people into the Catholic Church with an introduction to RCIA on **Tuesday 12th September at 7.30pm**. Sessions begin on **19th September at 7.30pm**. If you are interested, please contact Pauline Hanley email: pehanley@hotmail.com or Tel: 07506 753085 for further information and meeting link.

SVP – CASH4COINS

Going away on holiday or returning? Please consider keeping any remaining cash to donate for the work of our parish SVP group. We will be collecting any donations in the Autumn on **Sunday 24th September**. Sterling currency will also be welcomed. Thank you.

VACANCY AT ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL

St Edmund's school is looking to welcome an enthusiastic, dynamic and committed **Teaching Assistant**, supportive of our school mission and Catholic ethos to join our happy, motivated children. Please contact The School Business Manager (01235 521558 or clomas2266@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk) to request an application pack. Closing date: **Friday 1st September 2023 at 12.00 noon**.

CHURCH TWINNING VISIT TO ARGENTAN

Thurs 12th to Mon 16th October 2023. Celebrating 25 years of twinning with Abingdon churches, 15 people have been invited to commemorate this link. We would stay with host families where possible, and a varied programme is being prepared for us. Ideally transport is by private car (sharing spaces) using the Portsmouth to Caen ferry. If interested, contact Pat Warren 07526 033715 or email patwarren14@hotmail.com

OXFORD CATENIANS

A number of our parishioners are members of the *Oxford Catenians*, an international association of Catholic men. You can read about some of their recent activities on the *News* page of our website.

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.

FUTURE DATES

- **Mon 21st August:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11.30am to 2.30pm.
- **Tue 12th Sept:** RCIA introduction session at 7.30pm. See message on main body of this newsletter for information.

YEAR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In recent Pastoral Letters, Bishop Philip has been encouraging everyone in the Diocese to adopt and put into practice the 'six holy habits.' What are these?

- First, to keep Sunday special, as a family day, by attending Mass, the 'source and summit' of the Christian life, supporting your parish community.
- Secondly, to resolve to spend at least five minutes a day in prayer, at whatever time you find best, using the Scriptures, maybe the Gospel of the day.
- Thirdly, to keep Friday as a day of penance in honour of the Lord's Passion, intentionally serving the poor and needy.
- Fourthly, at least once a fortnight, to pay a private visit to church for a short period of prayer before the Tabernacle.
- Fifthly, to go to Confession once a month or so, like a spiritual check-up when you can personally experience God's love and mercy.
- And sixthly, to join a small group for formation, prayer and fellowship, where you can share with others your own experience and hear what God is doing in the lives of others.

If we adopt these six holy habits in the right spirit, entrusting ourselves to the Lord and His grace, they offer a practical programme to bring about deep spiritual renewal in ourselves and in our parish communities.

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.