

# ***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](mailto: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**

We cannot have the joys of a new world without abandoning the comforts of the old world. Instead of going forward towards the Promised Land the Jews continued to hanker after the “fleshpots of Egypt”. After having fed the people with ordinary bread Jesus offered them something far better – “the bread of eternal life”. But they didn’t want to know. We ourselves are reluctant to go beyond material things. Yet what God offers us is much better... You cannot satisfy the satisfied, or fill those who are already full, or meet the needs of those who have no needs. Jesus said “Blessed are the hungry for they shall get their fill”. It is a happy day when we can admit that we are poor and vulnerable, weak and wounded and in need of nourishment. For it is in our emptiness that we are filled. It is in our confusion that we are guided. It is in our weakness that we are strengthened. It is in our sins that we are forgiven. It is in our hunger that we are fed. Lord we turn to you for that food which endures to eternal life, which you alone can give us, and which will sustain us as we journey through this life, which at times can become as bare as the desert, until we reach at last the promised land of heaven.

## **PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

O God Father of all Mercies, provider of a bountiful harvest. Send your graces upon those you have called to gather the fruits of the harvest. Preserve and strengthen them in their lifelong service to you. Open the hearts of your children that they may discover your Holy Will. Inspire in them a love and desire to surrender themselves to serving others in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Teach all your faithful to follow their respective paths in life guided by your Divine Word of Truth. Through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, all the Angels and Saints, humbly hear our prayers and grant your Church’s needs, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Week 18 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 2 (B)**

### **Sunday 4 August**

8.45am Mass (*Special Intention*)  
10.15am Mass (Jack McCoull RIP)  
6.30pm Mass (Alan Rowe Intentions)

### **Monday 5 August**

8.30am Rosary  
9.00am Mass (Margaret Zoetmulder RIP)

### **Tuesday 6 August Transfiguration of the Lord**

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 7 August**

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

### **Thursday 8 August St Dominic**

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

### **Friday 9 August St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)**

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

### **Saturday 10 August St Laurence**

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

## **PARISH OFFICE & NEWSLETTERS**

The parish office will be closed from Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August, and also on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. For items for the newsletter for the week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> August, please submit your requests *not later than Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August*. Thank you.

## PILGRIMAGE TO CARMELITE PRIORY, BOARS HILL

The Friday prayer group are planning to organise a pilgrimage to the Carmelite Priory at Boars Hill, with the theme of *Praying with the angels for the new pastoral area of Oxfordshire*. This is planned to take place on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September** from about 2.30pm to 6.00pm. The pilgrimage journey from our church to Boars Hill is open to everybody and can be undertaken on foot, by bus, by bike or by car, with prayer integrated into the journey. Participants will engage in communal prayer at designated stops along the way, ensuring that the spiritual experience is combined with the physical journey.

*Proposed times for each group will be:*

- Walking group leaves at 2.30pm;
- Cycling group leaves at 4.00pm;
- Travel by bus group leaves at 3.15pm;
- Travel by car group leaves at 4.25 pm;
- Home-based spiritual companions pray from 4.30pm at home.

More details will be available nearer the time, including the opportunity to register your interest.

## VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

We desperately need fresh volunteers to come forward. Firstly, our Baby & Toddler group on a Friday morning needs some help. Karen has to move on for personal reasons (a huge thanks to her for her dedication over the past years). It would be great to get some help to bring the toys from the garage and clear them away at the end. If you can help, please contact the office or speak to Fr. Jamie directly.

Also, we failed to re-launch Children's Liturgy at the 10.15am Mass after the pandemic. Again, this would help the children greatly to have their own Liturgy of the Word for 20-25 minutes and rejoin the congregation for the Eucharistic Prayer. We really need some young mums and dads to try this. We have books and aids for the sessions. Again, please contact the office or speak to Fr. Jamie.

## CATHY'S MOBILE CAR WASH

Parishioner Cathy Castle runs her own mobile vehicle cleaning service, and she is asking for your support to raise £1000 to roof a church in Africa which is getting damaged due to rain. This church is close to her heart and her family has helped to look after this parish since before she was even born. She will be in the car park before the 8.45am Mass, and continue until September. If you are interested, you could drop your car from 7.45am or you could book in advance by phoning her on 07511 505469. As she is mobile, she covers a wide local area, so please do give her details to others. Thank you for your support.

## PAX CHRISTI

There are copies of the current July/August edition of the *JustPeace* newsletter on the table at the back of church. Please take a copy.

## 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.

## FUTURE DATES

- **Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Aug:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.
- **Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Aug:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11am to 2pm.
- **Tue 24<sup>th</sup> Sept:** *Alpha* course begins in the parish centre from 7pm to 9.30pm.

## ALPHA COURSE

*Alpha* is for everyone. If you want to know more about Jesus, this might be the course for you. It will take place in the Parish Centre on Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 9.30pm for 11 weeks, beginning on **24<sup>th</sup> September**. The format of the evening will begin with a sit-down dinner, followed by a short video (approx. 30mins) and then a very relaxed small group discussion. Everyone is welcome and it is free! The full programme can be seen on the poster on our parish noticeboard, in the parish centre, and on our parish website, where you can also download it. Flyers are also available at the back of the church.

We are looking for a team of people to cook, to serve food, setting up and clearing up the parish centre during the *Alpha* course please. We have a small group of willing volunteers already but would like more names on our list.

If you have any questions or can let us know that you will volunteer your help, please email either Jimena: [jimena.belmonte@gmail.com](mailto:jimena.belmonte@gmail.com) or Sandar: [sandarwade@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sandarwade@yahoo.co.uk)

## VACANCY AT ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL

Our caring, Catholic school has been described as one which 'inspires pupils with determination to change the world' (Ofsted 2020). Now St Edmund's school is looking to welcome an enthusiastic, dynamic and committed part time *Teaching Assistant*, supportive of our school mission and Catholic ethos to join our happy, motivated children.

Please visit the School Website <https://st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk/> for further details of the vacancy.

**Closing date: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 at 12.00 noon.**

## OPEN DOORS

During the summer school holidays, *Open Doors* will run fortnightly, with sessions on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August and Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August. There will be **no sessions** on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August or Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August. Weekly sessions will then resume on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.