

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

We are all called to be bearers of the light of Christ, lamp carriers. But, like the five foolish maids, we too are sometimes careless and irresponsible, and allow this lamp to go out or at least to grow very dim. Through a spirit of prayer and watchfulness, Christ will help us to keep his light burning brightly.

An empty lamp, no matter how beautiful it may be, is a useless lamp for it cannot give light. But the wise have oil in their lamps. They are detached from themselves and the cares of the world and are full of charity. They are indeed waiting for the Lord, and desire nothing else but his coming. Lord grant that when you come our minds may be alight with faith, our souls alight with hope, and our hearts alight with love. Then you will lead us into the wedding feast, a feast of unending light and joy.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose spirit the whole body of the church is governed and sanctified; hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On this day we remember all those who gave their lives for their country, all who suffered and died through acts of war and those who were left behind to grieve and mourn.

O God, merciful and strong, who crush wars and cast down the proud, be pleased to banish violence swiftly from our midst and to wipe away all tears, so that we may all truly deserve to be called your children. We pray for peace and reconciliation between nations; that enemies may put aside all differences. Amen.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday 26th December and will re-open on Tuesday 2nd January.

Week 32 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 1 (A)

Sunday 12 Nov.

8.45am	Mass	Remembrance Sunday (Private Intention)
10.15am	Mass	(John Smith RIP)
2.00pm	Mass in Polish	
6.30pm	Mass	(Private Intention)

Monday 13 Nov.

8.30am	Rosary	
9.00am	Mass	(David Sudwell RIP)

Tuesday 14 Nov.

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

Wednesday 15 Nov.

6.30pm	Rosary	
7.00pm	Mass	(Mary Louise Field RIP)

Thursday 16 Nov.

9.00am	Rosary	St Edmund of Abingdon
9.30am	Mass	(Sir George Bowyer RIP)

Friday 17 Nov.

6.30pm	Rosary	
7.00pm	Mass	(James 'Eddie' Mullin RIP)

Saturday 18 Nov.

11am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Our Lady on Saturday
11-11.30am	Confessions	
12pm	Mass	(Kathleen 'Kay' Mullin RIP)

ST EDMUND OF ABINGDON

We celebrate our saint's feast day on Thursday. In his words we offer the prayer: *Illuminate my heart with the grace of Thy Holy Spirit; grant that I may ever be obedient to Thy commandments; suffer me not to be separated from Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with God the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.*

PARISH AGM

Our Parish AGM will take place on **Sunday 19th November** at 7.30pm in the parish centre. All parishioners are invited to attend.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION

There will be a meeting in the Parish Centre, on **THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER AT 8pm**, for parents who wish to enrol their children in the 2024 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

CHILDRENS' MASSES

Calling all children and families - 10.15am Mass on Sunday 3rd December (1st Sunday of Advent) will be a Children's Mass. Some of the children of our Parish will be leading us in the readings and prayers, and we will be inviting all of the children present to come up and sit on the Sanctuary steps during the Liturgy of the Word. Fr Jamie will be addressing his Homily to the children (but we will let the adults listen in too...). We are looking forward to welcoming you to this Mass, and we intend to continue holding a Children's Mass on the first Sunday of every month during term-time. We hope to see many of you there!

WELCOMING THE WORD – ADVENT RETREAT

The season of Advent is fast approaching, and the Carmelite friars at Boars Hill are offering us **free** Advent retreats, to which everyone is invited to join in. For more details and to register your interest, please use the link on the *News* page of our website.

BREAD & STARLIGHT – A PLAY FOR ADVENT

The locally based Christian theatre company, *The LAMPS Collective*, is presenting this play for Advent at the Unicorn Theatre on Friday 1st December at 2pm and 7.30pm. Tickets are £10.00 each and available from *The Bookstore*, or online at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/lamps-collective>

THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS GIVING

If you have already begun your Christmas shopping – or are thinking about doing so – why not pick up the *CAFOD* booklet of *World Gifts* from the back of the church and in the porch. Every gift you buy helps real people and makes a massive positive difference.

A SIMPLE SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS

We are a *LiveSimply* Parish and, in the spirit of living more simply and sustainably as individuals and as a parish, we hope to share suggestions at the beginning of Advent for celebrating a simpler Christmas this year. Please send suggestions, big or small to carolesawyers27@gmail.com or put them in an envelope marked *Simple Christmas* and drop it into the presbytery.

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.
- **Thursday:** Meeting in the parish centre at 8pm for parents who wish to enrol their children in the 2024 First Holy Communion programme.
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.
- **Saturday:** Mothers' prayers in the church at 10.15am.

FUTURE DATES

- **Sun 19th Nov:** Parish AGM at 7.30pm in the parish centre.

SUPPORTING THE HOMELESS

Our Advent collection this year will be supporting the homeless through the work of *Emmaus Oxford*. More information, including dates and what items are needed, will be given in the next newsletter.

CAFOD CAMPAIGNS

Thank you to everyone who signed 'Salina's letter' this summer. Salina is the small-scale farmer from Bangladesh who is calling on the World Bank to protect the rights of farmers over their own seeds. 70,000 parishioners in England and Wales signed the letter, and a third of all parishes took part. Salina said, "I am very happy to know about 70,000 signatures along with mine." This helped CAFOD to secure initial meetings with World Bank staff, who heard the message that seeds are for all. This is a long struggle, but a very good start. Thank you for adding your voice.

CALLING ALL YOUTH

If you are aged 7 and above, you are invited to a Christmas party which will take place on **Saturday 9th December** from 3.30-5pm in the parish centre. Do save the date!

ABINGDON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Abingdon Church Twinning Association have produced Christmas cards again this year, with snowy scenes of Abingdon. Packs of 10 cards for £4.50 will be available for sale after all Masses on **26th November**, as well as at the Barn Dance on 18th November, in Trinity Hall. Or contact Pat Warren 07526 033715, or Anne Dodd 07732 829624

WE PRAY FOR:

- Bridget Jones, RIP. Funeral Wed 15th Nov. at 11am
- Jim O'Leary, RIP. Funeral Fri 17th Nov. at 11.30am
- Errol Midwinter, RIP. Funeral Fri 24th Nov. at 1.30pm