

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

Our thoughts and prayers today centre on the theme of wisdom. To be wise has little to do with being intelligent and nothing to do with being smart. It means knowing what is right from God's point of view. But we all act foolishly at times. We confess our foolishness to God who is wise and all understanding.

Wisdom is a gift from God. It means that we put our trust in his word rather than in human wisdom. It gives us an understanding, a vision of life that cannot be bought. In this sense then, wisdom is the pearl of great price. Our tragedy as believers is not that we cannot find the pearl (it is offered to us in the gospels) but that we are unwilling to pay the price for it. Wisdom calls for our total response and full-hearted action. The pearl is offered to those who open their hands, letting go of all other things and embrace it.

PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

All of us are on a journey – from our conception until death – and beyond. We continually move forward on that journey of our life. We need to place our hands in God's to keep us in paths that are safe.

In our relationship with God, we are called like children to a deeper sense of trust in Him. As the Good Shepherd, Christ invites us to follow Him, to rely upon Him in order that we grow in freedom and be led to green pastures. Certainly, we need to take time to listen, look, slow down, reflect and go beyond our superficial desires. Each of us needs time to realise that God may be (in fact he most certainly is) calling each and every one of us daily! As Jesus said come, follow me.

PARISH OFFICE

The parish office will be closed **on Friday 4th August** and from **11.30am on Thursday 10th August until Tuesday 29th August.**

Week 17 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 1 (A)

Sunday 30 July

8.45am Mass (Special Intention)
10.15am Mass (John Shakespeare RIP)
2.00pm Mass in Polish
6.30pm Mass (Private Intention)

Monday 31 July

St Ignatius of Loyola

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (David Sudlow RIP)

Tuesday 1 August

St Alphonsus Ligouri

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

Wednesday 2 August

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Catherine & Terry Intentions)

Thursday 3 August

St Ethelwold

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass (Anne & Martin Moffatt
60th Wedding Anniversary)

Friday 4 August

St John Vianney

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Private Intention)

Saturday 5 August

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

CONFESSIONS AND ADORATION

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

WORLD YOUTH DAY

Please keep in your prayers Lewis, Isaac and Matias – the three young people from our parish who will be attending the World Youth Day taking place in Lisbon from 1st – 6th August. Pray also for all the young Catholics from all over the world who will gather with Pope Francis to celebrate their faith.

We are grateful to the Catenians, who generously sponsored Lewis, Matias and Isaac. They were presented with their cheques last Sunday during Mass, and photos can be seen on the Parish Blog.

The location will be Lisbon, so we pray to Our Lady of Fatima:

Mary our Mother, with your prayers inspire all young people called to World Youth Day. Make it a time of testimony and sharing and giving thanks to Christ. With you we will continue on this path so that our world will gather as well in fraternity, justice and peace.

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 – date to be given nearer the time. Sterling currency will also be welcomed. Thank you.

LIGHT FOR THE BLIND

Fr Thomas is well and sends his love and grateful thanks for all your prayers following his recent heart procedure. As many of you know, he had a quadruple by-pass operation some twenty-five years ago and subsequently a number of further procedures to unblock or repair damaged arteries. This time, the surgeons decided it would be safer to leave well alone as they felt any further grafting would be unwise. Fr Thomas will rely on medication and is advised to slow down and take more rest. Fortunately, he has a wonderful senior team he can rely on to take up much of the burden in running the hospices. He asks for your continuing prayers for himself and his staff and sends his blessings and good wishes to all parishioners.

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

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

FUTURE DATES

- **Mon 7th August:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11.30am to 2.30pm.
- **Wed 9th August:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.

YEAR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In his Pastoral Letter in February Bishop Philip dedicated this year as "The Year of the Holy Spirit". It is the grace of the Holy Spirit that renews us, our hearts and souls and brings our faith alive. The Bishop challenged us to establish or pledge to develop six "holy habits"

- To keep Sunday special attending Mass
- To pray with scripture for five minutes daily
- To do some penance on Fridays for the poor and needy
- Fortnightly, to visit the Blessed Sacrament in prayer
- To go to confession monthly
- To join groups for formation, prayer

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

CAFOD

CAFOD Portsmouth is hosting two meetings in September so that volunteers and supporters can find out more about our work. The first meeting is on **Saturday 9th September at St Bedes Church hall, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX** from 10:30 am to 12:30pm. The second meeting is on **Saturday 16th September at St Michael & All Angels Church hall, Dunsbury Way, Leigh Park PO9 5BD** from 10:30am to 1:30pm (lunch is provided). Everyone is welcome but please book so that we have an idea of numbers by emailing Jo Lewry: portsmouth@cafod.org.uk

WE PRAY FOR:

- Anthony Leach RIP. Funeral 2nd August at 11am.
- Patricia Salazar RIP.