

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

When certain people begin to speak, we refuse to take them seriously. Why? Because for us their words carry no authority. When Christ spoke, all open-minded people listened. Why was this? Because he spoke with authority. His words had the ring of truth, and people knew he meant them. Do we listen to the words of Christ? What authority do our words carry? Ideally, words should always be preceded by deeds. When people who have done something begin to speak, people listen. Their words carry enormous weight. They have real authority. The weakness of a lot of words arrives from the fact that they are not preceded or accompanied by deeds. At the root of innumerable wrongs in our world is the discrepancy between word and deed. It is the weakness of churches, parties and individuals. It gives people and institutions split personalities. Lord grant that what we have said with our lips, we may believe with our hearts, and practice with our lives.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Loving and generous God, it is you who call us by name and ask us to follow you. Help us to grow in the love and service of our Church. Give us the energy and courage of your Spirit to shape it's future. Grant us faith filled leaders who will embrace Christ's mission of love and justice. Bless our parish by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve your people as Priests, sisters and brothers, Deacons and Lay Ministers. Inspire us to know you better and open our hearts to hear your call. We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Please pray for the 28 children (and their families), who are currently preparing for their First Holy Communion.

CONFIRMATION

Please also pray for the young people preparing for their Confirmation in May this year.

Week 4 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 2 (B)

Sunday 28 Jan.

8.45am Mass (*Special Intention*)
10.15am Mass (Sharon Brady RIP)
2.00pm Mass in Polish
6.30pm Mass (*Special Intention*)

Monday 29 Jan.

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (Nellie Browne RIP)

Tuesday 30 Jan.

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

Wednesday 31 Jan.

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

Thursday 1 Feb.

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass (Genoveva Iglesias Pozuelo RIP)

Friday 2 Feb.

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Pat & Geoff Castle Intentions)

Saturday 3 Feb.

11am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
11-11.30am Confessions
12pm Mass (Deceased members of the Quigley & Carroll Family)

SECOND COLLECTION THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday (28th January) our second collection is for *Racial Justice*. The theme for racial justice is '*Seeing one another in the life of the Church*'.

CHILDRENS' MASS

The next Childrens' Mass will be on Sunday 4th February at 10.15am. Do come along with your children.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

'Face to Face' training for both Children and Vulnerable Adults. It will take place on the 10th February in the Parish Centre. Child Protection 10am - 12.30pm. Vulnerable Adults 1pm - 3.45pm. Training is for those who are acting in a voluntary role in the parish, and please note that the training for both Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults *needs to be updated every two years*. If you wish to attend, please contact Anne Green 01235 520171 or email safeguarding.abi@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

THE BIG LENT WALK

The season of Lent is fast approaching! Ash Wednesday is on 14th February.... Do you like walking? If so, why not challenge yourself and take on *The Big Lent Walk!* Walk 5km a day when and where you choose over the 40 days of Lent, alone or with friends and raise money to help people as they overcome poverty. "The Big Walk is something to look forward to", says Angela Powell from *CAFOD*. "It's a great way for children and adults to step outdoors to appreciate our God-given environment and to act out our faith as part of something that brings about change for the better". You can find more information – and sign up – on the *News* page of our parish website.

THE SIX HOLY HABITS

In October 2022, Bishop Philip invited us to establish or pledge our commitment to Six Holy Habits:

- Spending at least 5 minutes a day in prayer.
- Attending mass on Sunday.
- Keeping Friday as a day of penance.
- Paying a fortnightly visit to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.
- Going to Confession once a month.
- Joining a small group for formation, prayer and fellowship.

You are now invited to say how you have answered his call, and if you wish, to send your story to: communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Thank you for your participation in the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' last week. With the theme of 'Caring for our Planet', the united service which took place at our own church – Our Lady & St Edmund's – was well attended and we were treated to very thought-provoking talks on the state of our planet by Martin and Margot Hodson, and especially how we, as Christians might respond by thinking about others.

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Monday:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 10.30am to 2.30pm.
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time

FUTURE DATES

- **Sun 4th Feb:** Childrens' Mass at 10.15am.
- **Sat 10th Feb:** Safeguarding training (Child Protection from 10am-12.30pm) and (Vulnerable adults from 1pm to 3.45pm) in the parish centre.
- **Wed 14th Feb:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.

DIOCESAN MISSION PLAN - UPDATE

Bishop Philip thanks everyone, clergy, and laity, for all the hard work being done in our Pastoral Areas and in individual parishes to bring to life the diocesan mission plan: *You Will Be My Witnesses*. He has asked every area for a first draft of their Pastoral Area plan by 26th March and says that it needs to cover the three main themes of (1) deepening faith; (2) mission and service; and (3) parish structures. Bishop Philip will then be visiting the teams in each pastoral area to hear of progress and offer support. In our own Pastoral Area, English Martyrs Vale of White Horse, each parish priest together with two lay representatives from each parish will meet on March 6th at Wantage to try to take us forward initially with the Pastoral Plan. This will be the second of such meetings and please pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us in our discussion. There are some 'flyers' on the table at the back of church today outlining the plan. Please help yourselves to a copy.

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK, IRELAND

The travel group *Knock Pilgrimages* is offering an escorted tour to Knock & Co Mayo on **3rd March 2024**. The price of £899 includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with dinner, bed & breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport are included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on enquiry. There are details on the notice board outside our church and on the *News* page of our website. If interested, please contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com