

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

YEAR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

During this Year, dedicated to the Holy Spirit, and in light of our Ten-year pastoral plan, we are asked to pray for our Diocese of Portsmouth, that the spirit of wisdom and understanding will keep us one in mind and heart. *Wisdom* helps us to see the world and reality from God's point of view and *Understanding* helps us see the mysteries of faith with more clarity. This week, let us ask the Holy Spirit to unite all Christians more fully in doctrine, life and worship.

WORLD YOUTH DAY - LISBON 1st TO 6th AUGUST

It's not too late to join in as there are a few places left. So if you are aged 16 - 30, or know someone who is, and you'd like to join in for a life-changing pilgrimage to Lisbon in the summer, get in touch today by emailing wyd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Our Diocese is also in need of sponsorship to help our young people get to Lisbon. If you are able to give anything, however big or small, we would be extremely grateful. You can donate at: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/portsmouthwyd

BISHOP PHILIP'S SIX HOLY HABITS

You may remember that Bishop Philip has been encouraging everyone in the Diocese to adopt and to put into practice six holy habits. Over the next weeks in the Diocesan e-News, he is going to explore in turn each holy habit to help us reflect more deeply on what is being asked and how we might respond. You will also be able to read what he says on the *News* page of our parish website.

ARE YOU IN NEED?

If you are in need or know someone who is, do contact our parish SVP group (St Vincent de Paul Society) via the parish office and we will see what we can do to help. We always maintain confidentiality. Our members meet every fortnight on a Wednesday evening.

Week 4 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 1 (A)

Sunday 29 Jan

8.45am Mass (*Special Intention*)
10.15am Mass (Alexandra Paterson Intentions)
2.00pm Mass in Polish
6.30pm Mass (Colette Griffin RIP)

Monday 30 Jan

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (*Special Intention*)

Tuesday 31 Jan

St John Bosco

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

Wednesday 1 Feb

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

Thursday 2 Feb

Presentation of the Lord

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass (John Smith RIP)

Friday 3 Feb

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

Saturday 4 Feb

Our Lady on Saturday

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

ABINGDON COMMUNITY FRIDGE

Abingdon Community Fridge is open to EVERYONE. Help to prevent food waste by coming to Hadland Road Community Centre, Abingdon OX14 3YH: Opening hours:

Mondays 4 - 4.30pm, Thursdays, 1pm - 2 pm and Saturdays, 10.30am - 11.30 am.

Visit: www.facebook.com/abingdoncommunityfridge

CREATING WARM SPACES

Warm Space, every Monday 11am – 4pm in Parish Centre. Hot lunch, refreshments, board games, children's toys, friendly volunteers! Our third day went well and lovely to see a mixture of people popping in for a drink and chat or staying a few hours and having lunch. Guests ranged from age 80 to age 2! We have room for lots more people! Please do consider coming and think who you can bring, or else who you can tell about this winter initiative for warmth and companionship. Flyers at back of church.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

On **Sunday 19 February** (afternoon) in the Parish Centre, we are planning to show a screening of the film *'The Letter'*, starring Pope Francis. More details will be given later, but meantime, please put the date in your diary.

OUR LADY'S ABINGDON SCHOOL

Casual exam invigilators sought. Applicants should be happy to work as part of a team and be able to follow and adhere to regulatory rules and regulations. No experience is necessary as full training will be provided. Ideally starting in February 2023. For further details please contact Mrs Julie Braley at headspa@ola.org.uk or call 01235 524658

PERUVIAN CEVICHE MASTERCLASS

Come, eat and have fun learning how to make the iconic Peruvian national dish 'Ceviche' with Jenniffer Warwick. Jenniffer has always been surrounded by food. Her family ran a successful seafood restaurant by the Pacific Ocean for 20 years. Now Jenniffer would like to share how to make 'Ceviche' with you.

This fundraiser for the next *Abingdon Passion Play* will take place at Trinity Church Hall, Conduit Road, Abingdon OX14 1DB on **Saturday 4th February** at 7pm. Tickets are £15 and include the demo on how to cook ceviche as a starter, plus a main course and desert.

Tickets available at the door or online from:
www.abingdonpassionplay.com

VACANCIES WITHIN THE DIOCESE

There are a number of vacancies within the diocese, the details of which can be found on the *News* page of our website or in the Diocesan e-news, should you be interested.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

Mothers' Prayers will take place this coming **Saturday 4th** 10.15 – 10.50am in front of Our Lady's statue in the church. Everyone is most welcome to come and pray for their children and grandchildren, using set prayers and scripture. Jesus said: *"ask and you will receive"*. Through this promise the Lord is waiting to take away pain and bless and heal. We have had many wonderful answers to prayers and mothers themselves have been blessed and experience great peace.

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Monday:** *Warm Space* in the parish centre from 11am to 4pm.
- **Monday:** *Journeying Together in Faith (JTIF)* at 7.30pm in the parish centre. All welcome.
- **Friday:** *Baby & Toddler* group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.
- **Saturday:** FHC preparation, Session 3, 8.50am to 10am, in the church.
- **Saturday:** Mothers prayers at 10.15am in the church.

FUTURE DATES

- **Wed 8th Feb:** Parish Lunch, 12.30pm in Parish Centre. All welcome.
- **Tue 14th Feb:** Mothers' prayers, in French, in the parish centre at 8pm.
- **Sat 25th Feb:** FHC preparation, Session 4, 8.50am to 10am, in the church.
- **Sat 25th Feb:** Youth groups meet in the parish centre from 3.30 to 5pm. All in year 3 or above are welcome.

REFLECTION ON THE BEATITUDES

At the World Youth Day in 2014, Pope Francis talked about and urged everyone to use the revolutionary power of the Beatitudes as a central point of reference in their lives. Jesus proclaimed them in his first great sermon. What does Jesus tell us? He shows us the way to life, the way that he himself has taken. Jesus himself is the way, and he proposes this way as the path to true happiness. In proclaiming the Beatitudes, Jesus asks us to follow him and to travel with him along the path of love, the path that alone leads to eternal life. It is not an easy journey, yet the Lord promises us his grace and he never abandons us. We face so many challenges in life, but if we open the door to Jesus and allow him to be part of our lives, if we share our joys and sorrows with him, then we will experience the peace and joy that only God, who is infinite love, can give. The Beatitudes of Jesus present a model of happiness contrary to what is usually communicated by the media and by the prevailing wisdom. Jesus challenges us to take seriously his approach to life and to decide which path is right for us and leads to true joy. This is the great challenge of faith. Jesus was not afraid to ask his disciples if they truly wanted to follow him. Simon Peter had the courage to reply: *"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life"* (Jn 6:68). If we too are able to say "yes" to Jesus, our lives will become both meaningful and fruitful.

WE PRAY FOR

- Ann Walsh, RIP. Funeral Monday 30th Jan at 11am
- Emily Gibbens, RIP. Funeral Friday 3rd Feb. 11am.
- Ellen Mary Annette Wait RIP.