

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

Leprosy is a terrible disease, though almost unknown in the western world. But it still concerns us for it is a symbol of sin. We are all tainted with the leprosy of sin. Christ wasn't afraid to reach out and touch people with leprosy. He still reaches out to us, to heal in us the wounds of sin. We need his healing touch. Each of us to some extent has felt the pain of rejection. Rejection makes us feel that we are worthless. Each of us longs to be accepted, accepted for what we are. Acceptance means that we are free to be ourselves. Even though there is need for growth and change, we are not being forced. When I am accepted only for the work I do, then I am not unique. But when I am accepted for what I am, then I become unique, and I can blossom to my full potential. This is how Christ accepts us.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Gracious God you have called me to life and gifted me in many ways. Through baptism you have sent me to continue the mission of Jesus by sharing my love with others. Strengthen me to respond to your call each day. Help me to become all you desire of me. Inspire me to make a difference in others' lives. Lead me to choose the way of life you have planned for me. Open the hearts of all to listen to your call. Enkindle in the hearts of many the desire to make the world a better place by serving as Lay Minister, sister priest, brother or Deacon. Amen.

LENTEN PROJECTS 2024

Last week the PPC chose the two charities we will support this year. It was not an easy decision as we received many worthwhile and deserving suggestions to consider. The two finally chosen are FHL, supporting our Christian brothers and sisters in Palestine in the Holy Land, especially in these difficult days. The second is to support Helen & Douglas House, locally. This is our local hospice for sick and dying children. The program of fundraising events in the parish will be published soon, but we begin this Wednesday after Ash Wednesday evening Mass with our soup supper. Please do get involved and please offer

Week 6 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 2 (B)

Sunday 11 Feb.

8.45am Mass (Christopher & Margaret Doyle 60th Wedding Anniversary)
10.15am Mass (Christopher & Margaret Doyle 60th Wedding Anniversary)
2.00pm Mass in Polish
6.30pm Mass (Private Intention)

Monday 12 Feb.

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (John Arthur Beale RIP)

Tuesday 13 Feb.

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

Wednesday 14 Feb.

ASH WEDNESDAY

6.30pm Rosary
9.00am Mass (Special Intention)
7.00pm Mass (Private Intention)

Thursday 15 Feb.

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass (Special Intention)

Friday 16 Feb.

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Margaret & Christ Doyle 60th Wedding Anniversary)

Saturday 17 Feb.

11am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
11-11.30am Confessions
12pm Mass (RCIA candidates Intentions)

further suggestions to raise funds. You may be able to host friends and neighbours for something at home that could help.

ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP SUPPER

Our annual Ash Wednesday Soup Supper will take place after Mass on 14th February at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. All are very welcome.

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. You can find more information – and sign up – on the *News* page of our parish website.

INSTRUCTIONAL MASS FOR LENT

During Lent this year I will be offering a series of “instructional Masses”. These have been popular in the past as they are more informal setting and allowing us to pause to reflect on some part of the Mass we otherwise don’t. I will celebrate these Masses at 5pm on Saturday evening – so they satisfy your Sunday Mass intention. The ideal number of participants will be 8 – 10 people at each Mass. Therefore, you will need to “sign up” in advance. We begin on Saturday 24th Feb, 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd March. Please take advantage of this opportunity using the sign-up sheets on the table at the back of church.

LENTEN PRAYER INVITATION

During Lent we are always looking for ideas: I would highly recommend parishioners to consult the webpage for Ignatian Spirituality. It offers amazing opportunities to grow and deepen spiritually during Lent. In particular, I would recommend “Through Lent with Pope Francis”. There is also a booklet that goes with it. You can preview the book and order. It complements our reflections on the Year of Prayer. Please visit www.iscglasgow.co.uk

RITE OF ELECTION

We pray for Lisa Paterson, Isabel Gayther, Sandar Wade & Maria Davidova who will be presented at the Rite of Election this week in Portsmouth, having been part of this years RCIA. They will be welcomed at the Easter Vigil.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

The Family Fast Day will be on Friday 23rd February. This Lent, your donations to CAFOD’s Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. You can give using the envelope which will be available, or online at cafod.org.uk and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families.

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.
- **Wednesday:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.
- **Wednesday:** Ash Wednesday soup supper after the 7pm Mass, in the parish centre.
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.

FUTURE DATES

- **Fri 23rd Feb:** Family Fast Day
- **Sun 3rd March:** Big Breakfast and Produce sale in the parish centre after both morning Masses.

MARY’S MEALS – THANK YOU

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Mary’s Meals appeal 2024. The concert raised £965 directly, but many people also donated online directly during the end of January and all that money will be doubled, meaning that even more hungry children will be fed. You will be pleased to know we have booked the choir to return in January 2025! (*Sue Richards for Mary’s Meals*)

BIG BREAKFAST AND PRODUCE SALE

This will take place on Sunday 3 March after the 8.45am and 10.15am Masses. It will be an opportunity to enjoy a bacon, sausage or vegetarian roll, tea, or coffee and to aid our Lent Fundraising effort.

ST PATRICK’S DAY CELEBRATIONS

This will be on Friday 15th March from 6.30pm-10pm in the parish centre. Enjoy an evening of Irish music, song, dance, and food to help raise money for the Lenten project. Tickets £17.50 per adult and £7.50 per child to include Irish stew and selection of deserts, vegan option also. Tickets available on Sunday 1st and 8th March after 10.15am Mass or email Laura to reserve tickets: lauraashleycarter@btinternet.com or Bernadette: bernadette.m.osullivan@gmail.com or phone Laura on 07947 178394. Drinks available on the night or bring your own. Great raffle on the night. We look forward to seeing you there! Tea and cake after 10.15am Mass on St Patrick’s Day too.

WE PRAY FOR:

- Moira Edwards RIP. Funeral Thursday 15th February at 11.30am