

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 at JR Hospital: 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



Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871 www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Confessions: Saturdays 11.00 – 11.30am or by appointment

MASSES:

Thank you for helping to keep each other safe by continuing to wear face masks/coverings, for sanitising your hands as you enter the church, and for maintaining a reasonable distance from others where feasible.

OFFICE CLOSURE

The office will be closed from 24th December until Tuesday 4th January.

NEWSLETTERS

Please do take your newsletter home with you. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Please generously give a donation in thanks and praise this Christmas celebrating and thanking Fr Jamie for all the dedication, guidance and care he gives in our parish and pastoral area. Our Christmas Collection on 24th and 25th December supports Father Jamie in his vocation and mission: bringing people closer to Jesus Christ, through His Church. You can also make a donation online on the *Home* page of our website or in the *News* section.

EMMAUS COLLECTION – THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the collection for *Emmaus*, who help the homeless to rebuild their lives. The total received was over £1,700.

UPCOMING DIOCESAN COURSES

The *Formation for Mission* team will be running online courses in January and February 2022, which may be of interest to parishioners and catechists. The courses will be for Catechists, for those who care of children with Additional/special needs and for adults who wish to know their faith better. More information and how to enrol can be seen on the News page of our website.

CHRISTMAS

Friday 24 Dec.

6.00pm Mass
8.30pm Carols/Mass

The Nativity of the Lord

(Jim & Matthew Carey RIP)
(Private Intention)

Saturday 25 Dec.

8.45am Mass
10.15am Mass
12pm Mass
2.00pm Mass in Polish

The Nativity of the Lord

(Christina Hicks 90th Birthday)
(Special Intention)
(Sheila Delany RIP)

REFLECTION

At Christmas, we recall the birth of our Lord and Saviour, and we relive the wonder and joy of Mary and Joseph and of the shepherds. We also contemplate the glory of the Word made flesh for our redemption and pray that mankind will accept the new life that Jesus brought into our world. But Christmas is not just the commemoration of a birthday, and Advent is not just a yearly ritual of preparation. *'Instead we must understand that our whole life should be an advent in vigilant expectation of Christ's final coming. To prepare our hearts to welcome the Lord who will come one day to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognise his presence in the events of daily life. Advent is then a period of intense training that directs us decisively to the One who has already come, who will come and who continuously comes.'* (St John Paul II)

SUPPORTING THE CARMELITES

Please consider helping the Carmelites at Boars Hill by joining in their raffle. You can view more about the prizes on the News page of our website and also get more information on how to take part at: www.carmelite.uk.net/Christmas-raffle. The draw takes place on 3rd January. Thank you.

LENT 2022 PARISH CHARITY FUNDRAISING

During the season of Advent, the PPC ask you to think about charities which we could sponsor during Lent 2022. We would ideally like to fundraise for 2 charities, one local/UK based and one worldwide. Please give this some consideration and send your suggestions for the charities to the parish office by **Friday 7th Jan. 2022.**

OUR SVP TURNING CONCERN INTO ACTION

Last Saturday, members of our *SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society)* were in Oxford helping to provide a Christmas lunch for the homeless. Working with the university's *Companions of the Order of Malta*, we warmly welcomed all who came through the door - or chose to remain outside - giving them a gift from the SVP and a card made by the Mini Vinnies and Year 6 at St Edmund's School. Seating was done in stages so that social distancing was maintained and windows and doors were left opened - but of course, many of the visitors were familiar with the cold.... There were some familiar faces and a few new ones and all were treated with the respect they deserve and served a hot Christmas three course meal with a smile and friendly conversation. What a humbling experience to see the dignity, friendliness and gratitude of all who attended. Remember them in your prayers.

CHRISTMAS DAY GIFT BAG

Thank you so much for all your donations and help. We are all set to deliver 100 Gift Bags and have a chat on the doorstep, if they wish, on Christmas Day to those on their own who have been referred to us. Please pray for the deliverers and the recipients. The hope is that different churches in the town will take turns to organise it each year, with volunteers coming from a variety of churches. There are some photos and a lot more information on the *Parish Blog* page on our website.

JTiF - JOURNEYING TOGETHER IN FAITH

Sessions will resume in the parish centre from 7.30pm to 9pm, on Monday 10th January. All welcome.

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF:

- Nora McMurtrie RIP. Funeral Wed. 29th Dec. 11.30am.
- Ewart Hemmings RIP. Funeral Thu. 6th Jan. 12 noon.
- Margaret Birks RIP

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the Parish Centre after the 10.15am Mass.

FUTURE DATES

- **Fri 7th Jan:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.
- **Mon 10th Jan:** JTiF (Journeying Together in Faith), 7.30pm to 9pm in the parish centre. All welcome.

CAFOD APPEAL

CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website:

cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER
(by Pope John XXIII)

O sweet child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Put into the hearts of men and women this peace for which they sometimes seek so desperately and which You alone can give to us. Help us to know one another better, and to live as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father. Reveal to us also Your beauty, holiness and purity. Awaken in our hearts love and gratitude for Your infinite goodness. Join us all together in Your love, and give us Your heavenly peace.

Amen.

