

# ***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-12pm Monday to Friday  
Office Email: [abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)  
*We live stream most services (the 10.15am Mass on the first Sunday of every month is not live streamed).*  
Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230  
Visits at JR Hospital: Fr Pius 01865 221732  
Visits and Help: Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office  
Parish Website: [www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](http://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](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Confessions: Saturday 10.30 - 11.30am or by appointment**

## **Parish Life**

**Message from Fr. Jamie:** Due to the Coronavirus and its spread and effect on the most vulnerable of our society, all public gatherings for Mass and prayer are suspended until further notice. Sunday Mass can be viewed in our Live Streaming at 10.15am via the website. Our usual weekday programme can also be followed digitally. That being the case, there will be no Lenten Penitential Service on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Apologies too, if you have reserved a seat on the coach for the Chrism Mass – this now has to be cancelled and you will need to have your money refunded. This means our plans to re-dedicate England to the Virgin Mary will have to take place online, together on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March at the 10.15am Mass. Please see the prayers provided for the re-dedication from our website. Finally, we've decided in view of all this, to postpone what remains of the FHC & Confirmation programmes to a later date in the year. So no more Saturday morning sessions for the meantime. These are very difficult days for many, and we keep each other in our prayers. Please keep in touch with each other via the parish blog and website, where you will also find the newsletter, or if you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please contact the parish office to arrange this. As we take care of one another, especially the vulnerable who are self-isolating, please know that people are willing to help if you let us know via the office or website. During this time, the Church will be open daily 10am-6pm for prayer and private visits and periods of Adoration. Please see posters on the door and notice board for further details – or on our website.

**Upcoming Sunday Masses:** If you have a Mass Intention booked for either 8.45am or 6.30pm on a Sunday, please contact the office to re-schedule. Many thanks.

**PARISH OFFICE** will be closed from Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March and will re-open on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April. Can all newsletter inserts for 29<sup>th</sup> March be sent to the office on or before Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks.

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT** **Masses viewable on live stream only**

### **Sunday 22 March**

10.15am Live Streaming Mass  
Maureen & Peter Arnold Intentions  
(40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary)

### **Monday 23 March**

9am Mass John Smith RIP

### **Tuesday 24 March**

NO Mass See: [www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/thames-isis-pastoral-area](http://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/thames-isis-pastoral-area) for other masses  
11am Funeral Maurice Armstrong RIP

### **Wednesday 25 March THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

7pm Mass Gerard Jones Intentions

### **Thursday 26 March**

9.30am Mass Lisa Paterson Special Intentions

### **Friday 27 March**

7pm Mass Alice & Maurice Daly Intentions

### **Saturday 28 March**

9am Mass Patricia Thompson RIP  
10.30-11.30am Adoration and Confessions

**St Patrick's Day Evening:** A huge thank you to all who attended, we raised £924.60 towards our Lenten Projects.

**The Baby and Toddler Group** have decided that circumstances regarding the coronavirus are such that we have no choice but to cancel our meetings for the time being.

**Cake & Conversation:** We will not be meeting on Wednesday mornings until further notice but we plan to stay in contact with a WhatsApp group until we start meeting again.

**LENT ON OUR WEBSITE:** You can follow Lent by visiting the page in the WHAT'S ON section of our website and for children, the YOUTH section. Videos, prayers and activities are available.

**Golf event:** Due to the uncertain times it seems sensible to postpone our golf date to later in the year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your kind support and look forward to getting together sometime in the not too distant future to enjoy this worthwhile charity event

**Gift Aid boxes:** are available for collection at the back of the church and have your name on them. These boxes cover the period up to 4th April 2021. If your income tax status changes and you cease to be a UK taxpayer, please let the parish office know as you will no longer be able to make gift aid donations. Should you decide you no longer wish to use the "blue box" system, please also let the parish office know.

**Christian Focus:** the spring edition is available at the back of church. Only 50p.

### Faith Development

#### Prayer for a Pandemic

*May we who are inconvenienced  
Remember those whose lives are at stake.  
May we who have no risk factors  
Remember those most vulnerable.  
May we who have the luxury of working from home  
Remember those who must choose between  
preserving their health or making their rent.  
May we who have the flexibility to care for  
our children when their schools close  
Remember those who have no options.  
May we who have to cancel our trips  
Remember those who have no safe place to go.  
May we who are losing our margin money  
in the tumult of the economic market  
Remember those who have no margin at all.  
May we who settle in for quarantine at home  
Remember those who have no home.  
As fear grips our country,  
Let us choose love.  
During this time when we cannot physically  
Wrap our arms around each other,  
Let us find ways to be the loving embrace  
of God to our neighbours.*

Amen

## Parish Events for the Week

**NO EVENTS IN THE PARISH CENTRE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

**N.B. All take place in the Parish Centre unless specified**

### Future Diary Dates

**26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> March** Parish Office closed

### Youth Events

#### YOUTH GROUPS

*The Saturday youth groups will stop meeting for now as a precaution. We will let you know when they resume through our parish newsletter.*

*Reminders of future events are always included in the parish weekly newsletter and the full programme can be viewed in the youth section on our parish website at:*

*www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/events*

*More info: bhabayeb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk*

### LENTEN FUNDRAISING DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH – 7.30 pm  
International Evening and Auction of Promises - in the Parish Centre. **POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**
- MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup> MARCH  
Golf Day at Drayton Park from 9am **POSTPONED**
- FRIDAY 24<sup>th</sup> APRIL – 7.00pm  
Parish Evening with Live Music & Supper - at St Edmund's School.  
If you have a fundraising idea or plan to organise an event please inform Hilary Webb: 01235 525928 or Debbie Brooks: 01865 432423

**Money Matters:** 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Envelopes £233.40 Loose Plate £394.49

Average weekly Gift Aid Standing Orders £995

Many thanks

**Counters:** D. & B. Stacey, J. Dowling

**Cleaners:** F. & C. Rogers