

# ***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  
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*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](http://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](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Confessions: Saturdays 11.00 – 11.30am or by appointment**

### **REFLECTION:**

Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews who obeyed the Law of Moses. Jewish Law prescribed that two ritual acts needed to take place for a firstborn son. First, the mother of a newborn son was ritually unclean for seven days, and then she was to "spend thirty-three more days in a state of blood purity" (Leviticus 12:2-8). During these forty days she was not to "touch anything sacred nor enter the sanctuary till the days of her purification are fulfilled." For this reason, today's feast has at times been called the "Purification of Mary." Second, the father of the firstborn son was to "redeem" the child by making an offering to the priest of five shekels so that the priest would then present the child to the Lord (see Numbers 18:16). Recall that the firstborn male of all the Egyptians, animals and children, was killed during the tenth plague, but the firstborn males of the Israelites were spared. Thus, this offering made for the firstborn son in the Temple was a way of ritually redeeming him in commemoration of protection during that plague. Since Jesus was presented in the Temple for this redemption, today's feast is now referred to as the "Presentation in the Temple."

### **VOCATIONS**

Hail Mary, full of grace; all generations call you blessed.  
Hail Mother of God; when asked by the angel to bear the Son of the Most High, filled with faith, you responded: "Let it be done unto me." Holy Mother of Jesus, at the wedding feast at Cana, you prompted your Son to perform his first sign. Be with us as we discern our life's work and guide us in the way we are called to follow in the footsteps of your Son. Holy Mother of the Savior, at the foot of the cross you mourned the death of your only Son. Bless and embrace the loving parents of all priests, deacons, brothers and sisters. Holy Mother of the Good Shepherd, turn your motherly care to this nation. Intercede for us to the Lord of the harvest to send more labourers to the harvest in this land dedicated to your honour. Queen of

### **PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

#### **Sunday 2 February**

8.45am Mass

10.15am Mass

6.30pm Mass

#### **PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

(Nicolino Porzio &

Piera Anna Simonetti RIP)

(Sharon Alison Brady RIP)

(Pat & Geoff Castle Intentions)

#### **Monday 3 February**

8.30am Rosary

9.00am Mass

#### **Tuesday 4 February**

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

#### **Wednesday 5 February St Agatha**

6.30pm Rosary

7.00pm Mass

#### **Thursday 6 February St Paul Miki & Companions**

9.00am Rosary

9.30am Mass (Sr. Cora Richardson Intentions 90<sup>th</sup> birthday)

#### **Friday 7 February**

6.30pm Rosary

7.00pm Mass (Cameron Paterson Intentions 26<sup>th</sup> birthday)

#### **Saturday 8 February**

11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

11-11.30am Confessions

12pm Mass

Peace, Mirror of Justice, Health of the Sick, inspire vocations in our time. Let the word of your Son be made flesh anew in the lives of persons anxious to proclaim the good news of everlasting life. Amen.

## LENT CHARITY FUNDRAISING

Thank you for the 8 charities proposals that were submitted for consideration for this year's fundraising. After careful consideration, the PPC have agreed on 2 charities to support this year:

- **ROSY CHARITY:** which is part of the NHS Trust for Oxfordshire and the Community Nursing Service, working particularly with families of children, who have life limiting, complex and sometimes palliative conditions, which require specialist clinical nursing interventions.
- **AFRICAN ADVENTURES:** based in 29 schools in Ghana, Kenya and Zanzibar, offering the opportunity for young volunteers to make a real difference to themselves and the schools they will work in.

On **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**, after all Masses, a representative from each charity will tell us more about the work they do. In the meantime, please give some thought about how we can fundraise. Thank you.

## MONTHLY TALKS IN FARINGDON

The parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon are offering free monthly talks, the next one being on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Information is available on the noticeboard outside our church and on our parish website.

## CAFOD MEETING

CAFOD invite you to a meeting on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February from 10:30am to 1pm at Christ the King Church Hall Reading RG2 8NR. Please join them to find out how your donations to CAFOD are making a difference to communities in Kenya. Everyone is welcome but please book your place so that they have an idea of numbers by emailing Jo: [jlwry@cafod.org.uk](mailto:jlwry@cafod.org.uk)

## POPE FRANCIS:

"Jesus is at the centre of the encounter. It is he who moves everything, who draws all of them to the Temple, the house of his Father."

## PARISH OFFICE

The parish office is closed is now closed until Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February inclusive.

## YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES PRAYER

O Lord, graciously look down upon us your servants and upon our work to build Your Holy Church here in this place.

Enlighten our minds and lead us into all truth as we seek to do Your will.

Abundantly bless our labours, that Your Holy Church may serve You ever more faithfully to the glory of Your Holy name.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

## 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.
- **Tuesday:** *JTiF (Journeying Together in Faith)* in the parish centre at 7.30pm.
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am **in term time**.

## FUTURE DATES

- **Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.

## LETTER OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE EVANGELISATION FOR THE JUBILEE 2025 – PART FOUR

As is customary, the Bull of Indiction, to be issued in due course, will contain the necessary guidelines for celebrating the Jubilee in 2025. Prayer, above all else, to renew our desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and adore him. Prayer, moreover, to thank God for the many gifts of his love for us and to praise his work in creation, which summons everyone to respect it and to take concrete and responsible steps to protect it. Prayer as the expression of a single "heart and soul" (cf. *Acts 4:32*), which then translates into solidarity and the sharing of our daily bread. Prayer that makes it possible for every man and woman in this world to turn to the one God and to reveal to him what lies hidden in the depths of their heart. Prayer as the royal road to holiness, which enables us to be contemplative even in the midst of activity. In a word, may it be an intense year of prayer in which hearts are opened to receive the outpouring of God's grace and to make the "Our Father," the prayer Jesus taught us, the life programme of each of his disciples. I asked the Blessed Virgin Mary to accompany the Church on the journey of preparation for the grace filled event of the Jubilee, and to you and your co-workers, with gratitude, I cordially send my Blessing.

FRANCIS

## FOOD BANK

Please don't forget to support the Abingdon food bank as and when you can, as it greatly helps those in need.

## WE PRAY FOR

- Maureen McCoull, RIP. Funeral on 7<sup>th</sup> February at 12 noon.