

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
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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

REFLECTION: SEASON OF CREATION – POPE FRANCIS

So too, like a river basin with its many tributaries, the Church is a communion of countless local Churches that draw from the same shared waters. Each source adds its unique and irreplaceable contribution, until all flow together into the vast ocean of God's loving mercy. In the same way that a river is a source of life for its surroundings, our synodal Church must be a source of life for our common home and all its inhabitants. In the same way that a river gives life to all kinds of animal and plant life, a synodal Church must give life by sowing justice and peace in every place it reaches.

In Canada, in July 2022, I spoke of the Sea of Galilee where Jesus brought healing and consolation to many people and proclaimed "a revolution of love". Lake St. Anne, I learned, is also a place of healing, consolation and love, a place that "reminds us that fraternity is genuine if it unites those who are far apart, and that the message of unity that heaven sends down to earth does not fear differences, but invites us to fellowship, a communion of differences, in order to start afresh together, because we are all pilgrims on a journey".

The feast of St Francis of Assisi concludes our *Season of Creation* this week. Let us live, work and pray that our common home will team with life once again. May the Holy Spirit once more hover over the waters and guide our efforts "to renew the face of the earth". (Psalm 104)

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Lord, as you called your disciples, call us now. Open our ears to listen to you calling. Open our eyes to see you. Open our hearts to your love. Help us to hear you, to experience your presence with us and to love you. And loving you, let us serve you, our Servant King. Amen.

MISSIO - RED BOXES

It is at this time of the year that we need to collect and count the RED MISSIO BOXES. If you have not heard from us over the coming weeks, could you please call Clare on 524861 or Wendy on 532593. Thank you.

Week 26 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 1 (A)

Sunday 1 Oct.

8.45am Mass (Joe McPartlan RIP)
10.15am Mass (Paul Gibbons RIP)
2.00pm Mass in Polish
6.30pm Mass (Private Intention)

Monday 2 Oct.

The Holy Guardian Angels

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (Private Intention)

Tuesday 3 Oct.

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

Wednesday 4 Oct.

St Francis of Assisi

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Patrick Thornton RIP)

Thursday 5 Oct.

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass (Janice Miller RIP)

Friday 6 Oct.

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Marie Tierney RIP)

Saturday 7 Oct.

Our Lady of the Rosary

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

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO MALTA & GOZO

In the footsteps of St Paul is our theme for our parish pilgrimage scheduled for 3rd to 10th June 2024 to the beautiful islands of Malta and Gozo. The pilgrimage will take the form of a 'holiday retreat' and everyone is welcome. To find out more and register your interest, you are invited to attend a meeting in the parish centre on **Tuesday 3rd October at 7pm.**

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY (8th OCT)

Friday 6th is the Autumn Fast Day. You can pick up an envelope for your donations from the table at the back of the church this weekend. The second collection for **next Sunday (8th October)** is for *CAFOD*. Through our donations to *CAFOD*, Dr Nasha's mobile medical clinic gets life-saving help to where it's needed most. Please use the envelope available at the back of the church, or use the electronic device at the back of the church, or give online at *cafod.org.uk*. Thank you.

CLOSER TO CHRIST CAMPAIGN

Responding to Bishop Philip's initiative, our parish is currently undertaking the *Closer to Christ* Campaign which aims to support our priests from formation through to retirement AND to rejuvenate our parishes. I will be hosting a few small gatherings to explain this initiative, and hope you are able to make one of the following dates: Wednesday 4th Oct at 6pm in the parish centre OR Thursday 5th October at 10am in the Presbytery. Thank you for considering my invitation.
Fr. Jamie

ONLINE FORMATION SESSIONS FOR READERS

Throughout October the Liturgical Formation Team is running online sessions for all readers at Mass. They begin on Wed 4th Oct 7-8pm and continue each Wednesday, concluding on November 1st. The themes include an Introduction to Sacred Scripture, the theology of the Word, Youth readers and Liturgy for children, how to proclaim the Word of God in Church and an introduction to *Lectio Divina*. We would like to encourage all our parish readers to take up this opportunity. Details can be found on our parish website on the *News* page. You will need the links you find there to join the sessions. *Fr. Jamie*.

ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL OPEN MORNING

St Edmund's primary school is holding an Open Morning on **Saturday 7th October from 10.30am - 12pm**. This is a good opportunity to visit the school and find out more about it.

YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES

On Sept 10th Bishop Philip wrote to us about "You will be my witnesses". The new and final versions of our Ten-Year Mission Plan for the whole Diocese (copies still available at the back of church). It has been two years in the making and we've all had access to the draft copy, upon which we were invited to comment. Please download the final version. It is available on the parish website on the *News* page. It's too long to print off individual copies but if any parishioner is struggling to get it, then please let Fr. Jamie know personally.

WE PRAY FOR

- Maureen Logan, RIP. Funeral Tue. 3 Oct. at 11am.
- Veronica Welch RIP. Funeral Fri 6th Oct at 11am
- Hugh McCormack RIP

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Monday:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11.30am to 2.30pm.
- **Tuesday:** Parish pilgrimage meeting in the parish centre at 7pm (see information in main body of this newsletter)
- **Friday:** *CAFOD* Family Fast Day
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.

FUTURE DATES

- **Wed 11th Oct:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.
- **Wed 11th Oct:** Mothers' prayers in French in the parish centre at 8pm.
- **Sat 14th Oct:** Youth groups games afternoon – open to all in school year 3 and above, 3.30-5pm in the parish centre.

TWO FEASTS THIS WEEK

On Monday we keep the Memorial of the **Holy Guardian Angels**, a feast that has been kept in the universal Church since the sixteenth century. As Catholics, we believe that every person on earth has a guardian angel watching over them and helping them to reach salvation. Angels are servants and messengers from God. They help us in unseen ways in work and study, in temptation and danger. They guide our thoughts at times and prompt us to remember our duties or to become aware of other people.

*O Angel of God, my guardian dear
To whom God's love commits me here,
Ever this day (night) be at my side,
to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.*

On Wednesday is the Memorial of **St. Francis of Assisi** (1181-1226). In a vision he heard Jesus say to him: *Rebuild my Church*. Initially he thought the Lord wanted him to rebuild one particular church building, and, giving everything away, even his clothes, he embraced a life of radical poverty, simplicity and closeness to nature, to raise money for the project. But later he realised that what the Lord was asking was for him to help rebuild the Church universal. Committed to radical poverty, full of joy and the Holy Spirit, a fantastic preacher, he attracted many to follow him and founded two of the fastest growing orders in Church history, the *Friars Minor* and, with St. Clare, the *Poor Clares*. Their work was mission and evangelisation, spiritually to rebuild Christ's Church at a time of great decadence. The Holy Father, who has taken Francis as his patron, urges us to adopt a simpler lifestyle if we are to find in our lives the joy of the Holy Spirit and to give a clearer witness to Christ in our secular culture.