

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

During the course of a single week, we have a lot of words, but how many of them are worth remembering? Here, each Sunday, we hear the words of Christ, words that were written down by the people who knew him and were preserved for us over the centuries by the Church. Thus, Christ's promise has come true: *"All things will pass, but my words will remain."* How well do we listen to his words and how hard do we try to practice them in our lives.

Remember these words that remain:

- Gain the whole world but lose your soul?
- Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.
- The greatest among you is the one who serves.
- There is joy in heaven over a sinner who repents.
- Has no one condemned you?
- Seek first the Kingdom of God and the rest?

Lord, your words challenge and inspire. They guide and comfort us. They turn our values upside down. Once heard, we cannot forget them. We anchor our lives to them. For though heaven and earth should pass away, your words will never pass away.

VOCATIONS

Holy Lord, giver of every good gift, in your boundless love you call us to serve with hearts aflame and hands raised to you. You have crafted us for a purpose so divine, to be your hands and feet in a world of need. May your whisper stir souls, including mine, to embrace your call in every word and deed. Remind us, O God, to trust in your timing, for you are the creator. May our patience in discernment be unwavering as we seek your will in united hearts. Nurture within each of us a vocation to serve, one that reflects your love and compassion. May our lives echo Christ as we journey forth in humble faith. If there is doubt and hesitation, let us find strength in your presence. May our paths be illumined by you and our vocations pursued without fear. Amen.

Week 33 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 2 (B)

Sunday 17 November

8.45am Mass (Deceased members of our parish SVP society)
10.15am Mass (Anthony O'Koko, RIP)
6.30pm Mass (Pat Castle intentions)

Monday 18 November

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

Tuesday 19 November

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

Wednesday 20 November

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

Thursday 21 November Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass (*Special intention*)

Friday 22 November St Cecilia

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

Saturday 23 November

11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
12pm Mass (Fuensantas Montero, RIP)

MASS INFORMATION FOR THIS WEEK

Please note that there will be no Masses on Monday 18th, Wednesday 20th and Friday 22nd November. There will also be no Confessions on Saturday 23rd November.

PARISH AGM

Our parish annual general meeting will take place at 7.15pm on Sunday 24th November in the parish centre. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

Sunday 24th November is the feast of Christ the king. Also, we celebrate World Youth Day. To celebrate this Feast Day the youth of the parish we will take part in the Sunday evening Mass with refreshments afterwards in the parish centre.

MONTH OF 'HOLY SOULS'

During the month of November, we traditionally 'remember' and pray for our dear departed brothers and sisters, those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. It is a wonderful opportunity to call to mind all the deceased members of our families and friends and to continue to offer them into the heart of God. May they rest in peace.

THE NEW LECTIONARY

The Archdiocese of St Andrew's and Edinburgh have published three *YouTube* videos on the Lectionary, which are useful for formation as to why the text has changed. The three videos are:

- Bishop Hugh Gilbert (Aberdeen) on "Introducing the English Standard Version"
- Fr Paul Denney on "The New Lectionary"
- Fr Adrian Porter SJ on "Proclaim the Word in the Liturgy"

You can access these videos and other information using the links on the *News* page of our parish website.

WHAT IS IN OUR CHURCH PORCH?

As you enter our church, on the **right** side are booklets and pamphlets (mainly CTS publications) for sale. If you buy anything, there is a slot inside the church at the back for you to put your money in or you can use the contactless payment facility.

Straight ahead on the right side of the porch is the information box for new parishioners or for visitors, and the parish registration form which you can fill in and drop through the presbytery letter box.

On the **left** side of the porch as you enter, are shelves with books and pamphlets which are free for you to take away – no payment is required. There is also a lost property basket, where items left in the church are placed for a period of 2 weeks, after which they are disposed of.

Do take a look when you come in or leave our church.

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP – "WALKING IN LIGHT"

Together we will be focusing on the theme *Walking in Light* and reflect on John 1:5 - "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." As we enter the season of Advent, we'll explore how Christ is the light of the world and how we can reflect that light in our communities. Through prayer, discussion, and fellowship, we'll seek guidance and clarity for our journey ahead. All are welcome! Come, walk in the light with us on Friday 22nd November at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Monday:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11am to 2pm.
- **Tuesday:** *Alpha* course in the parish centre from 7pm to 9.30pm.
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am **in term time.**

FUTURE DATES

- **Sun 24th Nov:** Parish AGM at 7.15pm in the parish centre. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

CAR PARKING

The OLA school car park is available for parking on Sundays and other special days like Christmas. Please be considerate of our neighbours by not parking *at any time* on the Abbott Rd, Thesinger Rd and parts of the utility road on the Oxford Road opposite the church and school, as they have complained about this. Thank you.

CHURCH TWINNING QUIZ

Come for a fun evening on Saturday 23rd November at 7pm at the Conduit Centre, Trinity Church Abingdon. For more information and tickets please contact John Clare on 01235 525898 or email johnclare.blunsdon@gmail.com

CALLING ALL FAMILIES

We will be celebrating our next Children's Mass at 10:15am on Sunday 1st December, which is the 1st Sunday of Advent. We will be asking children to help us with welcoming, the offertory procession, the collection and singing, and would also like some children to read the First and Second Readings (taken from the Lectionary for Masses with Children) and the Bidding Prayers. If your child would like to read a reading or prayer at this Mass then please email Fiona Semple at reception@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk and she will send you the words so that your child can practise. Thank you in advance for your support!

BUILDING COMMUNITY FOR ALL WEATHERS

This year's extreme weather events are symptoms of our climate emergency – which will get worse. What can church and community do to prepare, and for related crises such as refugees? Martin and Margot Hodson have for years been speaking, writing, and organising on environmental matters, combining science and faith: he is a plant scientist, she is a recently retired vicar. On Sunday 24th November they are coming to Christ Church, and The Eco Church group invites other churches and community groups to come along from 12:45 to 2:30 in the Northcourt Road barn. Bring a packed lunch, drinks provided.

WE PRAY FOR:

- Pat O'Toole, RIP.