

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.

NEWSLETTERS

Please do take your newsletter home with you. Contributions for the newsletter should be sent by the Wednesday of each week. Thank you.

PEACE SUNDAY

Next Sunday (16th) is the Sunday designated by the bishops to hear the Pope's Message for World Peace Day. There will also be an opportunity to donate to Pax Christi, the International Catholic Movement for Peace. Further information on the website www.paxchristi.org.uk or from Anne Dodd.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD – A REFLECTION

This feast marks the end of the Christmas Season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. It is a feast of transition from Jesus' hidden life to that of His public ministry. It also echoes the theme of the Epiphany in that the Baptism of the Lord is another manifestation announcing Jesus' divinity to all His first followers and to the disciples of John the Baptist. Of course, Jesus was sinless and did not need the baptism of John, but by accepting it, Jesus affirms all that John has said and done and affirms John's sacred role of preparing the way for Jesus and for a new era of grace. The Baptism of Jesus was an epiphany. It was a moment of manifestation. As He emerged from the waters, *'...heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily shape like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'* (Luke 3:21-22) This manifestation of the sonship and divinity of Jesus took place in a physical, audible and visible form so that all would know, without question, that Jesus was the Son of the Father. Thus, His baptism is a way in which the Father introduced His Son and His Son's mission to the world.

Week 1 of Ordinary Time: Cycle 2

Sunday 9 January *The Baptism of the Lord*

8.45am Mass (FHC candidates)
10.15am Mass (Ewart Hemmings RIP)
2.00pm Mass in Polish
6.30pm Mass (*Special Intention*)

Monday 10 January

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (Tony & Oonagh Godfrey Intentions)

Tuesday 11 January

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

Wednesday 12 January

6.30pm Rosary
7pm Mass (*Special Intention*)

Thursday 13 January

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

Friday 14 January

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (*Special Intention*)

Saturday 15 January

8.50-10am FHC – Session 1
11am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
11-11.30am Confessions
12pm Mass (*Special Intention*)

NEW TO THE PARISH?

We warmly welcome all new parishioners who have joined our parish in the last year. Please do make yourselves known if you have not already done so, and also let us know if you would like to contribute to parish life in any way. You can use the form on our website About Us/Register page to register. Forms and other information are also available in the porch at our church.

CELEBRATE DOES PARENTING FOR FAITH

CELEBRATE is a Catholic ministry that aims to inspire, equip and connect people of all ages to live an authentic Christian life in the power of the Holy Spirit, in support of the family, to encourage local community and the sharing of faith with others.

They are running the fantastic *Parenting for Faith* course online on Tuesday evenings from 20:00 - 21:15, on 11th, 18th, 25th January and 1st February. The goal of the course is to help parents discover that they are perfectly positioned to show their children the reality of a life with God and to empower them to have their own vibrant two-way relationship with Him.

Everyone is welcome - parents, grandparents, godparents, aunts, uncles, friends, catechists - all who have a heart for the next generation. You can get more information and sign up on the *News* page of our website.

PARISH LUNCH

The next parish lunch will be on Wednesday 12th January at 12.30 in the parish centre. All are welcome, but please ring Mary on 534873 or Jo on 526177 to let them know if you are coming.

JTiF - JOURNEYING TOGETHER IN FAITH

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

VACANCY

The diocese are looking to appoint a deputy director of estates. Details of the post and how to apply can be seen on the *News* page of our website.

REMEMBER THE FOOD BANK

Please keep the foodbank in mind.... Urgent items needed are:

- Long life cow's milk (semi-skimmed or whole)
- Sugar
- Bottles of squash
- Tinned meat for hot meals - mince, stews, meatballs
- Instant coffee
- Cleaning spray
- J cloths (other brands are available!)
- Bleach
- Dried chickpeas and couscous.

Donations can be dropped off at the Foodbank on Northcourt Road on Tuesdays and Fridays between 11am and 1pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

46 children begin their preparation for their First Holy Communion on Saturday 15th January. Please keep them and the Catechists in your prayers.

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF:

- Margaret Birks RIP. Funeral Fri 28th Jan at 11am.

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the Parish Centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Monday:** JTiF (Journeying Together in Faith), 7.30pm to 9pm in the parish centre. All welcome.
- **Wednesday:** Parish lunch at 12.30pm in the parish centre. Please ring Mary on 534873 or Jo on 526177 to let them know if you are coming.
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.
- **Saturday:** FHC preparation in the church for those registered.

FUTURE DATES

- **Fri 14th Jan:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.
- **Sun 16th Jan:** Peace Sunday.
- **Mon 17th Jan:** JTiF (Journeying Together in Faith), 7.30pm to 9pm in the parish centre. All welcome.

PARISH YOUTH GROUPS

In consideration of the current situation with the pandemic, it has been decided to postpone the youth group sessions for this month. The situation will be reviewed again for February.

ABINGDON NEW YEAR WALK

The Church-In-Abingdon (CiA) Christian Aid Walk 2021 is 'self-directed' this year and can be done anytime during January. The aim is to visit 9 CiA churches and find a single letter at each church to make an anagram of a word connected with the Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal. Participants will be asked for the 'word' they have found. Sponsors are invited to make a donation via the *Just Giving* page, which you can access on the *News* page of our website. Instructions and information for the walk are also on the noticeboard outside our church.

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.

CLIMATE CORNER

Be aware of how much your domestic appliances cost to run. Here are a few pointers:

- It costs about 2.5p each time you boil a kettle. Assuming 5 boils/day, this amounts to around £45 per year. Save money (and the planet!) by half-filling the kettle when you can.
- An average washing machine (270 washes/year) costs about £135/year. Make sure you have a full load before you switch it on.