

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

Before his death, Joshua said to the people: *“Choose today whether you want to follow the Lord or false gods.”* And Jesus said to his apostles: *“Will you also leave me?”* In other words, the people were given a choice. God, it has been said, is the greatest democrat of all. He forces no one to obey him. He leaves us free, but we often abuse our freedom when we choose evil instead of good.

“Lord, you alone have the words of eternal life.” So answered Peter. The words of Jesus truly brought life to people. *“Go in peace, your sins are forgiven.”* With these words he set sinners free. *“Fear not, it is I.”* With these words he calmed the fears of his apostles when they thought they were lost. *“Launch out into the deep and let the net down for a catch.”* With these words he challenged Peter to try again after a long night of failure. *“This day you will be with me in paradise.”* With these words he brought light into the dark world of a condemned man. Jesus truly had the words of life. Yet many refused to believe in him and left him.

We live in a world that is full of false prophets. May we not be led astray. Jesus alone can give us eternal life, if, like Peter, we stay with him.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Holy and provident Father, you are the Lord of the vineyard and the harvest, and you give each a just reward for their work. In your design of love, you call men and women to work with you for the salvation of the world. We thank you for your Son Jesus, who has redeemed us from our sins and who is among us to assist us in our poverty. Guide the flock to which you have promised possession of the Kingdom. Send new workers into your harvest, and set in the hearts of us all, faithfulness to your plan of salvation, perseverance in our vocation, and holiness of life. Amen.

PARISH OFFICE

The parish office is closed until Tuesday 27th August, and again on Tuesday 3rd September.

Week 21 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 2 (B)

Sunday 25 August

8.45am Mass (Paul, Stella & Simon Worrallo, RIP)
10.15am Mass (Gertrude O’Riordan, RIP)
6.30pm Mass (Private intention)

Monday 26 August

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (Edward Hargreaves, RIP)

Tuesday 27 August St Monica

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

Wednesday 28 August St Augustine of Hippo

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

Thursday 29 August Passion of St John the Baptist

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass (Margaret McAllister, RIP)

Friday 30 August

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Private intention)

Saturday 31 August

11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
11-11.30am Confessions
12pm Mass (*Special intention*)

SVP – HERE TO HELP

Our parish St Vincent de Paul (SVP) society group is here to help those in need as best we can, and if we can. If you are in need, or know somebody who is, please don’t hesitate to contact us via the parish office. Equally, do let us know if you would like to find out more about us and what we do, or would like to become involved.

PILGRIMAGE TO CARMELITE PRIORY, BOARS HILL

The Friday prayer group are organising a pilgrimage to the Carmelite Priory at Boars Hill, with the theme of *Praying with the angels for the new pastoral area of Oxfordshire*. This is taking place on **Saturday 14th September** from about 2.30pm to 6.00pm. The journey from our church to Boars Hill is open to everybody and can be undertaken on foot, by bus, by bike or by car, with prayer integrated into the journey. Participants will engage in communal prayer at designated stops along the way, ensuring that the spiritual experience is combined with the physical journey.

Proposed times for each group will be:

- Walking group leaves at 2.30pm;
- Cycling group leaves at 4.00pm;
- Travel by bus group leaves at 3.15pm;
- Travel by car group leaves at 4.25 pm;
- Home-based spiritual companions pray from 4.30pm at home.

Please register your interest/participation either using this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/99t81F26af> or completing the form which is available in the church. Easy access to the form is also available using the QR code on the poster on the noticeboard outside the church, or from the *News* page of our website. If completing the paper-based registration form, please leave it in the parish office.

For any queries, phone Sabina on 07449825161 or contact the parish office:

abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

BECOMING A CATHOLIC: RCIA SESSIONS

What is Love? What is Happiness? What is the meaning of my Life? Who is Jesus? Who do they say that I am? I am with you always. Peace be with you. Do not be afraid. Come and see.

You might wish to find out more about Jesus, would like to receive baptism, become a Catholic, or be confirmed into the Catholic Church. "Come and See" the way we welcome people into the Catholic Church with an introduction to RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults/Journey in Faith. More details of times and date to follow in the newsletter next week.

VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

We desperately need fresh volunteers to come forward. Firstly, our Baby & Toddler group on a Friday morning needs some help to bring the toys from the garage and clear them away at the end. If you can help, please contact the office or speak to Fr Jamie directly.

Also, in order to re-launch Children's Liturgy at the 10.15am Mass for 20-25 minutes and rejoin the congregation for the Eucharistic Prayer, we really need some young mums and dads to try this. We have books and aids for the sessions. Again, please contact the office or speak to Fr Jamie.

OPEN DOORS

There will be **no session** on Monday 26th August. Weekly sessions will resume on Monday 2nd September.

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.

FUTURE DATES

- **Mon 2nd Sept:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11am to 2pm.
- **Wed 11th Sept:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.
- **Sat 14th Sept:** Pilgrimage to Carmelite Priory at Boars Hill from 2.30pm.
- **Tue 24th Sept:** *Alpha* course begins in the parish centre from 7pm to 9.30pm.

ALPHA COURSE

Alpha is for everyone. If you want to know more about Jesus, this might be the course for you. It will take place in the Parish Centre on Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 9.30pm for 11 weeks, beginning on **24th September**. The format of the evening will begin with a sit-down dinner, followed by a short video (approx. 30mins) and then a very relaxed small group discussion. Everyone is welcome and it is free! The full programme can be seen on the poster on our parish noticeboard, in the parish centre, and on our parish website, where you can also download it. Flyers are also available at the back of the church.

We are looking for a team of people to cook, to serve food, setting up and clearing up the parish centre during the *Alpha* course please. We have a small group of willing volunteers already but would like more names on our list.

If you have any questions or can let us know that you will volunteer your help, please email either Jimena: jimena.belmonte@gmail.com or Sandar: sandarwade@yahoo.co.uk

CATHY'S MOBILE CAR WASH

Parishioner Cathy Castle runs her own mobile vehicle cleaning service, and she is asking for your support to raise £1000 to roof a church in Africa which is getting damaged due to rain. This church is close to her heart and her family has helped to look after this parish since before she was even born. She will be in the car park before the 8.45am Mass, and continue until September. If you are interested, you could drop your car from 7.45am or you could book in advance by phoning her on 07511 505469. As she is mobile, she covers a wide local area, so please do give her details to others. Thank you for your support.

WE PRAY FOR

- Margaret Baskerville, RIP. Funeral at 2pm on Tues. 3rd Sept.
- Denis Brophy, RIP. Funeral Mon. 9th Sept.