

# ***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](mailto: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](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**

There is no such thing as a solitary Christian. Every Christian is linked to Christ and to all other Christians by an invisible bond. This bond is very precious. It was Christ who wished it, and it was he who best described it. He said, "I am the vine, you are the branches" Also we often live as if this bond never existed. We live for ourselves. We ignore and sometimes hurt each other. We need Christ – that is no surprise. But He also needs us. Vine and branches need each other. But our need of him is the greater. "Cut off from me you can do nothing" he says. It is not he who cuts himself off from us. It is we who sometimes cut ourselves off from him, through indifference, selfishness, or pride. And when we cut ourselves off from him, we automatically cut ourselves from one another. Is it any wonder then that our lives are sometimes barren and lonely and empty? Grant that we may never be separated, so that together we may produce in the world, the fruits of faith, hope and love.

## **PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

Loving and generous God it is you who call us by name and is us to follow you. Help us to grow in the love and service of your church. Give us the energy and courage of your spirit to shape its future. Grant us faith filled leaders who will embrace Christ's mission of love and justice. Raise up dedicated and generous leaders from our families who will serve your people as Priests, Deacons, Religious and Lay ministers. Inspire us to know you better and open our hearts to hear your call. Amen.

## **LENTEN PROJECTS FUNDRAISING UPDATE**

With just a few more funds to come in, we have so far raised roughly £10,000 for our two charities – *Friends of the Holy Land* and *Helen & Douglas House*. We will announce the final sum as soon as we have it.

## **FIFTH WEEK OF EASTER: Cycle 2 (B)**

### **Sunday 28 April**

8.45am	Mass	<b>5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> (Kay Tracey RIP)
10.15am	Mass	(Patrick O'Sullivan RIP)
2pm	Mass in Polish	
6.30pm	Mass	(Pat & Geoff Castle Intentions)

### **Monday 29 April**

8.30am	Rosary	<b>St Catherine of Siena</b>
9.00am	Mass	(Mark Castle Intentions)

### **Tuesday 30 April**

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 1 May**

6.30pm	Rosary	
7.00pm	Mass	(Clementina Guarracino RIP)

### **Thursday 2 May**

9.00am	Rosary	<b>St Athanasius</b>
9.30am	Mass	( <i>Special Intention</i> )

### **Friday 3 May**

6.30pm	Rosary	<b>Saints Philip &amp; James</b>
7.00pm	Mass	( <i>Special Intention</i> )

### **Saturday 4 May**

11am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>The English Martyrs</b>
11-11.30am	Confessions	
12pm	Mass	( <i>Special Intention</i> )

## **THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MAY – ADVANCE NOTICE**

The *Ascension of the Lord* is celebrated on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May** and is a Holy Day. Masses will be at 9.30am and 7pm.

## **SECOND COLLECTION ON SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MAY**

The second collection on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May is for the *Catholic Communications Network*.

## NEW TO THE PARISH?

If you have joined our parish in the last year or so, you are warmly invited to a festive evening to welcome you, on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May** at 7pm in the Parish Centre. Do come along and share a meal with some entertainment (music and songs). You will have the opportunity to meet other parishioners and hear about the different activities and groups we run in our church. *Current and new parishioners are invited to this event.* **Please contact Eliane as soon as possible on 07932350951 so that we can cater for numbers.**

## CAR WASHING FOR OUR LENTEN PROJECTS

The Confirmation group will be washing cars to raise money for the Lenten projects. This will take place in the OLA car park this **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April** during the 10.15am Mass.

## DON'T FORGET THE FOODBANK

Please remember the foodbank either at Christ Church, Northcourt Road or at the Preston Road Community Centre at Midget Close. More people than ever are being driven to food banks and the sharp increase in people needing help is outstripping food donations. You can find out what items are particularly needed by visiting their website (search 'Abingdon food bank'), and they are also happy to receive monetary donations.

## CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

Please remember in your prayers the young people completing their Confirmation course who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

## DON BOSCO BOYS' CAMP

This camp will be going ahead again this summer from Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July to Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August for boys of secondary school age (leaving Yr6 to leaving Yr11) at St. Cassian's, Kintbury. There will be plenty of sport, outings, competitions, and games to ensure that boys will have a fantastic week. This will continue to take place within the context of the celebration of the Catholic Faith, including daily Mass and morning prayer. The cost of the camp is £230 (part bursaries may be available on application). For more information please email: [dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

## NEW GIFT AID ENVELOPES REMAINING

If you use gift aid envelopes for weekly giving the new boxes are available for you to collect at the back of church. There are also white envelopes at the back of church for those who use the special collection gift aid envelopes. There are fewer special collection envelopes this year as some of the special collections are no longer eligible for gift aid. Donations can be made in the boxes after Mass or through the card machine at the back of church when the special collection is not eligible for gift aid.

## PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Car washing for our Lenten projects, during the 10.15am Mass, in the OLA car park.
- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Monday:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11am to 2pm.
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am *in term time*.

## FUTURE DATES

- **Wed 8<sup>th</sup> May:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.
- **Fri 17<sup>th</sup> May:** Festive evening for new and current parishioners. Please see information in the main section of this newsletter.

## DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Canon PJ Smith, Episcopal Vicar for Education and Pilgrimage Director invites you to join this year's Pilgrimage to Lourdes from *Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024*. If you would like to know more, please email: [lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or you can book using the booking form link on the *News* page of our parish website.

*Calling the young People of our Diocese. Have you just finished your A-levels? Or about to finish Uni for the Summer...? Why not give something back by joining the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes? You could help by assisting some of our pilgrims by pushing wheelchairs, offering a steadying arm and a warm smile! The pilgrim fare is £780 but there is the potential for funding. You can contact [lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) for more details of this from the Diocese. The Catenians in our parish are also offering a bursary, and you can get information on how to contact them from the leaflets at the back of our church.*

## THE GREAT FEASTS

We've only recently celebrated the great feast of Easter with such holy joy. The miraculous event gives the whole Christian community the confidence to share in Christ's victory over sin and death and reassure us that life and love is eternal. The next great feast to celebrate marks forty days after Easter, when Christ finally ascends to his heavenly home with his Father. There follows an intense wait in the whole Church to finally rejoice in the coming of the one Christ promises – the comforter, the consoler, the Paraclete – the power and presence of God in the Church today – the Holy Spirit. That period between Ascension and Pentecost is the first novena – 9 days of prayer to welcome the arrival of the Holy Spirit this Pentecost into our hearts, 50 days after Easter.