

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

This week, all over the world, Christians will be celebrating the great mystery of Christ's love for us. *"Greater love no man has than he who lays down his life for his friends."* (John 15:13) This Holy Week is the week when Christ lives out the truth of these words each time the Church gathers in faith to celebrate them. He takes on himself our sins, and the sins of all the world.

Jesus said, *"I am the good shepherd and the good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep."* Jesus did not have to suffer and die; he had a choice. He chose to suffer and die because he cared about the flock God had entrusted to him. What Jesus wants from us is not our suffering, but a life of love and service. Such a life will inevitably bring suffering, But Jesus supports all those who follow him down the road of faithful love and generous service.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

O God, Father of all mercies, Provider of a bountiful harvest, send your graces upon those you have called to gather the fruits of your labour, and preserve and strengthen them in their lifelong service of you. Open the hearts of your children that they may discern your holy will. Inspire in them a love and desire to surrender themselves to serving others in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Teach all your faithful to follow their respective paths of life, guided by your Divine Word and Truth. Through the intercession of Heaven, hear our prayers and grant your Church's needs through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SECOND COLLECTION ON PALM SUNDAY

The second collection this Sunday 24th March is for our Lenten projects. You can also make your donations online on our parish website or on the contactless system at the back of the church.

COLLECTION ON GOOD FRIDAY

The collection on Friday 29th March is for the Holy Places. You can also make a donation using the link on the *News* page of our parish website.

HOLY WEEK: Cycle 2 (B)

Sunday 24 March

8.45am	Mass	PALM SUNDAY (Michael McKenna, RIP)
10.15am	Mass	(Paul, Stella & Simon Worrallo, RIP)
2.00pm	Mass in Polish	
6.30pm	Mass	(Sheila & Peter Delany, RIP)

Monday 25 March

8.30am	Rosary	
9.00am	Mass	(Lisa Paterson intentions)

Tuesday 26 March

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

Wednesday 27 March

6.30pm	Rosary	
7.00pm	Mass	(Paul, Stella & Simon Worrallo, RIP)

Thursday 28 March

7.00pm	Mass of the Lord's supper	MAUNDY THURSDAY
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Friday 29 March

10.00am	Stations of the Cross	GOOD FRIDAY
3.00pm	Solemn Liturgy	

Saturday 30 March

3.00pm	Polish blessing of Easter food	HOLY SATURDAY
8.00pm	Easter Vigil	

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

The programme for Holy Week and Easter is available at the back of the church, on the noticeboard outside the church and on our parish website.

Easter Sunday: 8.00am, 9.30am and 11.30am
Polish Mass: 2pm
No evening Mass

Easter Monday: Mass at 10am

ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS - THANK YOU!

St Patrick's Day Celebration evening and the St Patrick's Day Irish Coffee morning were a great success. An evening of Irish music, song, dance and food was enjoyed by many on Friday evening, followed by Irish Coffees, tea and cake after mass on St Patrick's Day, 17th March. Thank you to all who organised and supported these events which raised a total of £1,368.00 towards the Lenten projects.

LENTEN PROJECTS 2024

We are supporting two charities. *Friends of the Holy Land*, helping our Christian brothers and sisters in Palestine in the Holy Land and *Helen & Douglas House*, our local hospice for children coping with life-limiting and terminal conditions. More information is available on the noticeboard and on our parish website, where you can also make donations online. So far, we have raised £3,864.10 – so we still have a long way to go! *Please think of ways you can raise money and let the PPC know through the parish office. Thank you.*

OPEN DOORS / WARM SPACES

Our last Warm Space session will be on Monday, 25th March. Open Doors will recommence on Monday, 8th April from 11am to 2pm in the Parish Centre (**please note no session on Easter Monday, 1st April**) and run every Monday, except Bank Holidays. We offer tea/coffee, lunch and friendly conversation to anyone in the Parish or local community who is on their own or would like more company.

We need more volunteers to help at our Open Doors sessions. If you can spare a few hours on Monday on a rota basis please contact Berny Pratt on 01235 525257.

LENTEN PROJECT CYCLE RIDE

One of our parishioners, David Porter, is doing a sponsored cycle ride from Preston to Abingdon (215 miles!) over three days in April, to raise funds for our Lenten charities. Please find the sponsor form on the table at the back of the church. You might like to sponsor per day, or just a total amount, and the money can be given to Fr Jamie or will be collected on the last weekend in April. Thank you for your support.

GOLF DAY AT DRAYTON GOLF CLUB

A date for your diary - our regular fundraiser for the Lenten projects will take place on *Monday 8th April*. Once again, a big thank you to Mary McKenna for letting us hold this event at no cost. We will be meeting up from 8.30am for tea/coffee and bacon roll. First time is 9.32am. There will be the usual format of 4 players per team with best 2 to score on each hole, and prizes for the best two teams plus prizes for the nearest the pins on 3 holes. The price to join in is £25. Please contact Terry Murphy on 07584 248169 or 01235 527597 or email terry.murphy62@yahoo.co.uk

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Monday:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 10.30am to 2.30pm.
- **Wednesday:** Mothers' Prayers in French at 8pm in the parish centre.
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am in term time.

FUTURE DATES

- **Mon 8th Apr:** *Golf Day* fundraising event at Drayton Park Golf Club from 8.30am.
- **Mon 8th Apr:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11am to 2pm.

GOOD FRIDAY – WALK OF WITNESS

All are welcome to join the Good Friday *Walk of Witness* in Abingdon on the 29th March. We will meet at Abingdon Library at 11.45am and process to the Market Place for a short service.

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 22nd – Friday 26th July 2024*. If you would like to know more please email: lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or you can book using the booking form link on the *News* page of our parish website.

CAN YOU HOST CHURCH TWINNING VISITORS?

A group of ladies from different churches in Schongau, Germany, one of our twin towns, will be visiting Abingdon for the first time from 4-8 April. A programme has been organised by Church Twinning, but hosts are needed. We are also looking for meal hosts on the Saturday night. German is not needed but you might like to use yours! Please contact Pat Warren (520211) or Anne Dodd (525997) for offers or further information.

CHRISM MASS ON 26th MARCH

The Chrism Mass this year takes place on Tuesday 26th March 2024 at 11am in the Cathedral and Bishop Philip invites us to it. The Mass is the special Liturgy in Holy Week during which the Bishop blesses the three Holy Oils for use in the Sacraments: the Oil of the Blessing of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens and the Oil of Chrism. The blessing of the Holy Oils is one of the most ancient ceremonies of the Church and it is always celebrated in the Cathedral with the priests, deacons, religious and lay people of the diocese. The Mass is one of the main diocesan events of the year and during it, all the priests also make a renewal of their commitment to priestly service.