

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: BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Today we celebrate the day Christ, the sinless one, joined the ranks of us sinners by accepting Baptism from his cousin John. He did so in order to help us live in the glorious freedom of the children of God. He joins us now as we meet to celebrate the Eucharist in his name. Let us draw nearer to him who is a messenger of the Father's love and mercy. Lord Jesus, touch our eyes so that we may see the sign of your presence in our lives and in our world. Touch our ears that we may hear your Word. Touch our tongues so that we may profess our faith. Touch our hands so that we may give and receive. Touch our feet so that we may walk in your paths. Touch our minds so that we may understand your ways. Touch our wills so that we may be in tune with your will. Touch our hearts so that we may bring your love to our brothers and sisters. To the praise and glory of God. Amen

VOCATIONS PRAYER

Creator God. Life is your gift to me. Through Baptism you invite me to share the gift of my life in service to others. Be with me as I choose each day to show your presence in the world. Give me the courage and generosity to respond to your love, to your call. I pray especially for those who serve you as Priests, Brothers, Sisters, Deacons and Lay Ministers. Open the minds and hearts of many other men and women that they may accept your challenge to build the kingdom. Loving God, you have made me in your image and likeness, and as for this I shall praise you forever. Through Baptism you invite me to serve as your Son Jesus served. I offer you this day all that I have and all that I am in union with his saving cross. Father in the power of the Spirit, you send us forth to build up your Kingdom. I pray especially for those you call to serve in the Church. May they hear and answer your call to discipleship. The harvest is plenty, but the labourers are few. Please provide for the Church these men and women who will help to gather in a great harvest. Amen.

Week 1 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 1 (C)

Sunday 12 January

8.45am	Mass	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Special Intention)
10.15am	Mass	(Special Intention)
6.30pm	Mass	(Special Intention)

Monday 13 January

8.30am	Rosary	
9.00am	Mass	(Special Intention)

Tuesday 14 January

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

Wednesday 15 January

6.30pm	Rosary	
7.00pm	Mass	(Maria Chung RIP)

Thursday 16 January

9.00am	Rosary	
9.30am	Mass	(Special Intention)

Friday 17 January

6.30pm	Rosary	St Anthony of Egypt
7.00pm	Mass	(Special Intention)

Saturday 18 January

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

JOURNEYING TOGETHER IN FAITH (JTIF)

A new set of sessions starts on Tuesdays, beginning on **Tuesday 14th January at 7.30pm in the parish centre** for all those who have recently joined the Catholic Church, or completed the *Alpha* course, or anyone who would like to develop their Catholic faith further and have not already attended JTIF sessions in the past. For more details, please email your interest to contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk

UPCOMING SECOND (RETIRING) COLLECTIONS

- The retiring collection for today, **Sunday 12th January** is for the *White Flower Appeal*, which supports the human rights of the unborn child. Please feel free to take a sticker(s) and information card from the table at the back of the church.
- **Sunday 19th January:** *Pax Christi*, working for justice, reconciliation and non-violence.
- **Sunday 26th January:** *St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth* (Please note that if you have the white gift aid envelopes, the date for the Cathedral collection is mistakenly stated as 19th January instead of 26th January.)

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Church in Abingdon (CiA) welcome everyone to participate in a 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity'. This year the theme adopted by the CiA for the week from 18 - 25 January 2025, will be *Serving Others in our Local Community*. There will be no United Service, but Midday Prayers (St Nics) will take place from Monday 20th to Friday 24th January at 12 noon, with refreshments provided. Each day there will be talks by various local groups who work with the hungry, the fatherless, the lonely, the bereaved and refugees. They will tell us about the work they are doing and why, their connections with churches and other community groups, as well as shared witnesses from their users and volunteers.

CAFOD INVITATION

2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? You are invited to: *A Year of Hope: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development* when there will be a lively start to the Jubilee with talks and a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse. This will take place on **Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-midday, online**. All welcome. Register for free at cafod.org.uk/jubilee

CRIB COLLECTION – THANK YOU

The Christmas Crib collection has raised just over £303, which will go to the *Knights of the Holy Sepulchre (KHS)*, who support Christians in the Middle East, and the Christians living in the Holy Land, thus ensuring that they survive and that the holy sites are still populated by Christians and do not become museums. The Knights do everything they can to help with practical projects to stabilise Christian communities, and also fund-raise to maintain schools, formation, charitable and social activities. Thank you for your donations.

PEACE SUNDAY

Next Sunday (19th) has been designated by the Bishops of England and Wales as the Sunday when the Pope's message for World Peace Day is promoted in all parishes. The theme of this year's message is *Forgive us our Trespasses: Grant us Your Peace*. There will also be an opportunity to donate to the work of Pax Christi, the International Catholic Movement for Peace.

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.
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am **in term time**.

FUTURE DATES

- **Fri 24th Jan:** Friday prayer group 'Faith in Action' meet at 7.30pm. All welcome. For info, call, text or *WhatsApp* Sabina on 07449 825161.

LETTER OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE EVANGELISATION FOR THE JUBILEE 2025 – PART ONE

The Jubilee has always been an event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church. Ever since 1300, when Boniface VIII instituted the first Holy Year – initially celebrated every hundred years, then, following its biblical precedent, every fifty years, and finally every twenty-five years – God's holy and faithful people have experienced this celebration as a special gift of grace, characterized by the forgiveness of sins and in particular by the indulgence, which is a full expression of the mercy of God. The faithful, frequently at the conclusion of a lengthy pilgrimage, draw from the spiritual treasury of the Church by passing through the Holy Door and venerating the relics of the Apostles Peter and Paul preserved in Roman basilicas. Down the centuries, millions upon millions of pilgrims have journeyed to those sacred places, bearing living witness to the faith professed in every age. The Great Jubilee of the year 2000 ushered the Church into the third millennium of her history. Saint John Paul II had long awaited and greatly looked forward to that event, in the hope that all Christians, putting behind their historical divisions, could celebrate together the two thousandth anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of humanity. Now, as the first twenty-five years of the new century draw to a close, we are called to enter into a season of preparation that can enable Christian people to experience the Holy Year in all its pastoral richness.

POPE FRANCIS ON THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

"Let us make a commitment to seek and remember the date of our Baptism; and today let us thank the Lord because since then He is not only with us, but in us."

PARISH OFFICE

The parish office will be closed from Friday 31st January until Friday 7th February.

WE PRAY FOR

Maureen McCoull, RIP