

# ***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](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**

In today's Gospel we hear about Peter, the man Christ chose to be the chief shepherd of his flock. We know very well about Peter's ups and downs, his strengths and weaknesses, but we know too about the love Christ gave to him, which helped him to grow. We all have weaknesses. We all deny Christ as Peter did. But Christ forgives us and helps us go forward again.

In order to help people to grow, we must first help them to believe in their goodness and then help them to share it. This calls for patience and unselfishness.

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

Lord, help us believe that we are all ordinary people made extraordinary through your grace and forgiveness. Take our insecurities and inadequacy and give us the courage to see ourselves and others as you see us, with gifts and potential to transform your world and build your kingdom. Amen.

## **CAFOD MEETING**

Come and find out about CAFOD's work on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September at St Bedes Church hall, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX from 10:30 am to 12:30pm. CAFOD Portsmouth is hosting this meeting so that volunteers and supporters can find out more about our work. At this meeting Philippe Mougins CAFOD's Emergency Response Leader will talk about our work in Pakistan after last year's floods. Please book your place so that we have an idea of numbers, by emailing Jo at: [jlewry@cafod.org.uk](mailto:jlewry@cafod.org.uk)

## **CLOSER TO CHRIST CAMPAIGN**

The *Closer to Christ Campaign* is a fundraising initiative for the Diocese of Portsmouth. This will build upon the mission of our church, enabling us to continue our journey to become ever more outward facing and evangelistic, while meeting the immediate financial priorities of parishes, who are the backbone of our Church. Our parish is now part of this campaign and Bishop Philip has sent us a letter, which you can read on the *News* page of our parish website.

## **Week 21 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 1 (A)**

### **Sunday 27 August**

8.45am Mass (Thelma Druett, RIP)  
10.15am Mass (David Sudlow, RIP)  
2.00pm Mass in Polish  
6.30pm Mass (*Special intention*)

### **Monday 28 August**

8.30am Rosary  
9.00am Mass (*Special intention*)

### **Tuesday 29 August**

### **St Augustine of Hippo Passion of St John the Baptist**

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 30 August**

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

### **Thursday 31 August**

9.00am Rosary  
9.30am Mass (Cameron Paterson, intentions)

### **Friday 1 September**

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

### **Saturday 2 September Our Lady on Saturday**

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

## **VISIT FROM MALAWI**

This weekend we welcome to the parish Fr Charlie who works in Malawi. You will remember that we supported St Monica's School for our Lenten project in 2022. Fr Charlie is with us today to extend his personal thanks to you all.

## RCIA/JOURNEY IN FAITH SESSIONS – UPDATE

There is a slight change this year as to how this will be organised, so please ignore previous newsletter announcements. We are unable, due to other circumstances, to run a full team programme this year. Those individuals who have already expressed an interest will be given instructions by Fr Jamie himself. So, for this year only, it is open only to adults wishing to be Baptised into the Church or received into the Church. Those interested, please contact Fr Jamie via the office to register. My thanks to the RCIA team for their devotion over the years, and hopefully the RCIA journey will be available once more next year.

*Many thanks. Fr Jamie*

## VACANCY AT ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL

St Edmund's school is looking to welcome an enthusiastic, dynamic and committed **Teaching Assistant**, supportive of our school mission and Catholic ethos to join our happy, motivated children. Please contact The School Business Manager (01235 521558 or [clomas2266@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:clomas2266@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk)) to request an application pack.

Closing date: **12 noon on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.**

## CREATION PRAYER WALK

The *Season of Creation* runs from September 1st to October 4th (the feast day of St Francis of Assisi). As part of this, there will be a *Creation Prayer Walk* on **Sunday 10th September**, leaving the Parish Centre at 3pm. Starting first at the Parish Wildflower Meadow by the Parish Centre we will stop for reflection and prayer at 5 other 'green' places in the centre of town before coming back to the Parish Centre for refreshments. Everyone is very welcome.

## CHRISTIAN WALKING CLUB

This 11.5 mile circular walk, on **Saturday 2nd September** from Dorchester, passes Dyke Hills before climbing up Wittenham Clumps, legendary for a poem tree and excellent views. We then make our way to Wallingford, passing Wallingford Castle, before walking back to Dorchester Abbey along the beautiful River Thames. To join, please contact parishioner: [sheenaleeCWC@gmail.com](mailto:sheenaleeCWC@gmail.com)

## FREE CRY HEART TESTING

The mission of the charity *CRY* is to identify those youth that are at risk from sudden cardiac death. A *CRY* screening will take place on Wednesday 13 September 2023 at Peachcroft Christian Centre, Abingdon, OX14 2RT. This event is for anyone aged 14-35 years. The screening will only take a few minutes to complete and is performed by qualified cardiac physiologists. Booking is required and places are limited. To book an appointment, go to: [www.testmyheart.org.uk/private/](http://www.testmyheart.org.uk/private/) use the password **Adam23** and then search for **Abingdon, Oxfordshire 13 Sept 2023**

## PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Saturday:** Christian walking Club – details in main body of this newsletter.
- **Saturday:** Mothers' Prayers in the church at 10.15am.

## FUTURE DATES

- **Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Sept:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11.30am to 2.30pm.
- **Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Sept:** *Creation Prayer Walk* 3pm to 4pm. More details in the main body of this newsletter.
- **Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.
- **Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Mothers' prayers in French in the parish centre at 8pm.

## SVP – CASH4COINS

Going away on holiday or returning? Please consider keeping any remaining foreign cash to donate for the work of our parish SVP group. We will be collecting any donations after each Mass on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September**. Sterling currency will also be most welcome. Your donation will help to transform the lives of others. Thank you.

## KNOW ANYONE IN NEED?

For nearly two centuries the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) has been seeking and finding those in need and responding in love. Today, the SVP in England and Wales represents almost 10,000 members across around 1,000 groups. If you are aware of a need, contact us at [presidentf020723@svp.org.uk](mailto:presidentf020723@svp.org.uk) or through the parish office. As well as visits, we can offer practical and financial help where possible. We always maintain confidentiality. Our SVP members meet every fortnight on a Wednesday evening.

## OPEN DOORS – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Open Doors is a warm and welcoming space for those in the Parish and local community who are on their own or who would like more company and is run by a team of volunteers from the Parish. We offer tea/coffee, lunch and conversation most Mondays from 11.30 am to 2.30 pm in the Parish Centre. We are looking for more volunteers, who can spare a few hours on a rota basis, to join our team. We would also be grateful to anyone who can offer to cook meals at home (again on a rota basis approximately once every 4 -6 weeks) and bring them along to the Parish Centre. If you are able to help, please contact Berny Pratt on 01235 525257. Many thanks.

## WE PRAY FOR

- Maureen Logan, RIP. Funeral Tue. 3 Oct. at 11am.