

# ***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  
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Office Hours: 8.15am - 12.15pm Tuesday to Friday  
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*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**

Today's liturgy reminds us of one of the greater truths in the bible, namely, that there are really only two commandments. The first is to love God, and the second is to love our neighbour. They are not meant to be separated. But we often do separate them. We like to think we are on good terms with God, yet how many of us can say we are on good terms with our neighbour. We speak to God when we pray, but do we speak to our neighbours? Let us ask the Father to forgive us our failures to prove our love for him by loving all our brothers and sisters. The greatest tragedy in the modern world is the way we have separated the two great commandments. And that is contrary to the Gospel. There are some who attend Mass most faithfully but who are undisturbed by their neighbours' misfortunes. Those who brag about their faith are often the worst offenders. It is a strange truth: often these who have faith have no love. Whereas those who love often have no faith. Thus, the Gospel has been torn in two. Those who have rejected God are living with that half of the Gospel the believers have thrown into the dustbin. Christ teaches we are to love God with all our hearts, and to love our neighbour as well. That is the complete Gospel.

## **VOCATIONS**

Creator of our paths and caller of our souls. I stand before you seeking the light of your Wisdom in my vocation. You who accepted my being know the depths of my heart. I am a vessel longing to be filled with your purpose. Grant me ears to hear your whisper, Eyes to see your signs, a spirit submissive to your nudging, as I discern the work you have for me. May I embrace the journey, with a heart open and still confident that in my seeking your will shall be my joy. Amen.

## **THE NEW LECTIONARY**

The Liturgy Team is offering two online sessions about the new lectionary which will be introduced in Advent (next month). Each session is led by Fr. Anthony Fyk and will be identical (so you will only need to attend one), and will

## **Week 31 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 2 (B)**

### **Sunday 3 November**

8.45am Mass (Abbey Wilson RIP)  
10.15am Mass (Valerie Wasowska & Mieczyslaw Wasowski RIP)  
6.30pm Mass (*Special Intention*)

### **Monday 4 November St Charles Borromeo**

8.30am Rosary  
9.00am Mass (Karol & Franciszka Golonka RIP)

### **Tuesday 5 November**

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 6 November**

6.30pm Rosary  
7.00pm Mass (Mary Kerr RIP)

### **Thursday 7 November**

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

### **Friday 8 November**

6.30pm Rosary  
7.00pm Mass (Bridget Dyjak RIP)

### **Saturday 9 November Dedication of the Lateran Basilica**

11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
11-11.30am Confessions  
12pm Mass (Elizabeth Gayther RIP)

cover what the lectionary is, its revisions and what they mean for us. If you wish to pose a question please do so in advance to [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk). You may choose which session to attend either 5<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> November from 7-8pm. The links for each are on the Diocesan website.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION

There will be a meeting in the Parish Centre, on **THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER AT 7.30pm**, for parents who wish to enrol their children in the 2025 preparation programme. It is **ESSENTIAL** that parents attend this meeting to receive enrolment forms and a copy of the programme. If you have any queries, please contact Hilary Webb at [humwebb53@gmail.com](mailto:humwebb53@gmail.com)

## BLESSING OF GRAVES

The annual blessing of the graves in November will take place today, **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** at 10am in our churchyard, and at 1pm at the cemetery in Spring Road. May they rest in peace.

## OPEN DOORS

Open Doors runs on Mondays (except Bank Holidays) between 11 am to 2pm in the Parish Centre. We offer a warm welcome, friendly conversation, tea/coffee and lunch (served at 12.15) to anyone in the Parish or local community who would like to join us.

## NEWMAN LECTURE

Parishioner Andrew Nash will be giving a lecture on 'The Poetry of St John Henry Newman' at The College, Littlemore, on Sunday 10th November at 4pm. All are welcome.

## BAMENDA SUNDAY

Just as in the past, priests from Portsmouth Diocese went to Bamenda to serve the young Church so now we have the great privilege of welcoming priests from Bamenda who come to our Diocese for a period to help us. Today we mark the Golden Jubilee of this wonderful partnership. The twinning was initiated as a practical demonstration of the great Vatican II document "Gaudium Et Spes" – Joy and Hope. Please be generous in the retiring collection assisting all the great work of the Church in Bamenda Diocese. You may also donate electronically in the usual way.

## MIDDLE EAST HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

The conflict in the Middle East is getting worse and the families affected need our help. Please donate today to the *CAFOD-DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal* and support our local Caritas partners in Gaza and Lebanon as they continue to provide essential food, water and shelter: [cafod.org.uk/give](http://cafod.org.uk/give)

## ST EDMUND'S FEAST DAY – SAT. 16<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER

The midday Mass on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November will be in remembrance of St Edmund. To celebrate this day, we will have tea and cake in the parish centre after Mass. Please do come along.

## SERVICE OF LOSS

There will be no Church in Abingdon (CiA) Annual Bereavement Service this year, but a 'Service of Loss' will take place at Christ Church on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 1pm for anyone who would like to attend.

## PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Monday:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 11am to 2pm.
- **Tuesday:** *Alpha* course in the parish centre from 7pm to 9.30pm.
- **Thursday:** Meeting at 7.30pm in the parish centre for parents who would like to register their child(ren) for the First Holy Communion programme.
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am **in term time**.

## FUTURE DATES

- **Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.

## CHURCH TWINNING QUIZ

Tickets are now available, and going fast, for this event on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at the Conduit Centre, Abingdon. Tickets are £15 per person, which includes a welcome drink and a Ploughman's Supper in the interval. Further information and tickets from Pat Warren 07526033715 or Anne Dodd 525997.

## ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL OPEN MORNING

Are you looking for a Reception Place for your child for 2024-2025? Come to our Open Morning on 16<sup>th</sup> November from 10.30am - 12.30pm. There will be activities for the children, tours of the school, plus an opportunity for you to meet key staff, governors and current parents. We look forward to seeing you there!

## MONTH OF 'HOLY SOULS'

During the month of November, we traditionally 'remember' and pray for our dear departed brothers and sisters, those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. It is a wonderful opportunity to call to mind all the deceased members of our families and friends and to continue to offer them into the heart of God. May they rest in peace. Also, during this month the whole nation "remembers" all those who have lost their lives in wars and conflict. **NEXT SUNDAY** is Remembrance Sunday when we pray for them and renew our prayers for peace throughout the world.

## WE PRAY FOR:

- Sydney Molloy, RIP. Funeral 13<sup>th</sup> November 12.30pm
- Tapuwa Mutambara, RIP. Funeral 12<sup>th</sup> November at 10am.