

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

Most people see authority as a chance to promote their own honour and glory. But Christ saw it very differently. He saw it as an opportunity to serve others. This is not easy. We naturally think of ourselves first. Even the apostles did as we shall see in the gospel of today. We are all selfish. And every sin is a sin of selfishness. In plain language, James and John were two opportunists. Their one aim was to rise in the ranks. To achieve their end, they do not hesitate to grovel and to beg. They do not mind how much envy and resentment they arouse in their companions. Their aim is to scramble up the career ladder. But at what price to themselves? If in the course of his rise to the top, a man loses himself, his own soul whatever he does or achieves will be worthless. It's amazing what power – and all that goes with it – money, privileges, rank, status – can do to a human being, especially to his heart. If a person's heart is hardened, he is no better than a withered tree. Let us not forget: it is by giving that we receive, and it is by this serving that we grow in love.

VOCATIONS

My Lord, as the dawn breaks and a new day unfolds, I come before you with a heart full of hope. Thank you for the gift of life and the calling you have placed upon my heart. I pray for the courage to embrace my vocation, and to listen intently for your voice guiding me. May my steps be firm and my resolve unwavering as I journey towards the purpose you have designed for me. Awaken in me a passion for service, a love for your people, and a desire to bring your light in the shadows. Empower me to be a beacon of your love, a vessel of your peace and an instrument of your will Amen

ALL SAINTS DAY

The solemnity of All Saints is celebrated on **Friday 1st November**. Masses will be at 9am and 7pm.

Week 29 in Ordinary Time: Cycle 2 (B)

Sunday 20 October

8.45am Mass (Judith Osborne RIP)
10.15am Mass (Giuseppina Magnaghi RIP)
6.30pm Mass (*Special Intention*)

Monday 21 October

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (Soares & Gomes Families Intentions)

Tuesday 22 October

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

Wednesday 23 October Diocesan Day of Prayer and Reparation for Life

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Private Intention)

Thursday 24 October

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass (*Special Intention*)

Friday 25 October

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Ned Cash RIP)

Saturday 26 October

11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
11-11.30am Confessions
12pm Mass (Maria Loretta Harvey RIP Anniversary)

PARISH OFFICE

The parish office will be closed on Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd October.

FRIENDS OF HOLY LAND

Sale of Christmas cards and products on behalf of Friends of the Holy Land on Sunday 27th October.

MISSION SUNDAY

The second collection today, **Sunday 20th October** is for *Foreign Missions*. This is **World Mission Sunday**, and on this day the whole Church unites in prayer for its missionary activity, and in collecting funds to support Catholic communities across the world experiencing situations of poverty and conflict. There are envelopes and prayer cards which you can pick up from the table at the back of the church. You can also find more information and make your donation using the link on the *News* page of our parish 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

THANK YOU FROM CAFOD

Thank you for your very generous donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal this Harvest season. We have sent £1,182 to CAFOD and this will be further boosted by the Gift Aid that CAFOD will claim. With your donations we are standing in solidarity with those facing incredible hardships, as part of one global family, by helping with support like training, so that those in need can carve their way to a better future. You can learn more using the link on the *News* page of our parish website.

"CLERGY SWAP"

Our new Pastoral Area is called *English Martyrs, Vale of White Horse*. It is a large geographical area comprising 10 separate praying communities. As an exercise in 'getting to know' each other better, some of the clergy will swap pulpits on a Sunday. Therefore, on **Sunday 27th October** we will welcome to Abingdon Fr Claro Conde and I will serve the parish of FARINGDON that day. *Fr Jamie*.

OCTOBER - MONTH OF THE ROSARY

The Rosary draws its mysteries from the New Testament and is centred on the great events of the Incarnation and Redemption, with each decade referring to an event in the life of Jesus and Mary. Why not join in praying the Rosary with others, 30 minutes before all weekday Masses in our church. By praying the Rosary, we can draw closer to Jesus and Mary by meditating on the great mysteries of our salvation.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

The next Mothers' Prayers session in *French* will take place on Thursday 24th at 8pm in the Parish centre and Mothers' Prayers in *English* will be on Saturday 26th at 10.15am in the church. All are very welcome.

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:** 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.
- **Saturday:** Mothers' Prayers in English at 10.15am in the church.

FUTURE DATES

- **Thu 7th Nov:** Meeting at 7.30pm in the parish centre for parents who would like to register their child(ren) for the First Holy Communion programme.
- **Wed 13th Nov:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.

PAX CHRISTI

Pax Christi is the international Catholic movement for peace. There are copies of the current *Justpeace* newsletter on the table at the back of church. Please take one if you wish. This edition celebrates 50 years of *Justpeace* with a wide selection of articles on the work of Pax Christi over the last 50 years.

CHURCH TWINNING QUIZ

Tickets are now available, and going fast, for this event on Saturday 23rd 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.

JOIN THE TEAM FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

For a number of years churches in Abingdon have welcomed people who would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day. This year on Christmas Day we will be inviting 60 people to have a two-course lunch for free at Peachcroft Christian Centre. We need a number of volunteers. If you would like to volunteer please email Christmaslunch24@peachcroftcc.org **as soon as possible**. The roles we need include:

- Event Helpers (11.30am-4.30pm) - A variety of roles, from greeting guests, table service of food and drink, talking and eating with guests.
- AV operator (12pm-3:30pm) - On the day support musicians and operating the AV. Broadcast the Kings Speech.
- Cleaning crew - Arrive at 3.30pm to wash up and tidy up the Church.
- Finance (Christmas Day attendance optional) Write the budget, keep records of income and expenditure.