

# ***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](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**

We, the disciples of Jesus, are gathered here today in his name. We are doing what he asked his apostles to do: to wait in prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit the apostles were like a sailboat without the wind. And if they needed the Holy Spirit how much more do we need him? We who are weak and cowardly and who find it so hard to disentangle ourselves from sin and to follow Christ without counting the cost. As I passed the cherry tree in February it had a bare and forlorn look about it. It contained not a shred of beauty. In fact, it required no small act of faith to believe that it was still alive. I passed the tree again in April. When I look at it now I can scarcely believe my eyes, so great was the transformation it had undergone. It was now decked out in a robe of brilliant blossoms. From where had all the beauty come? It had come from within the tree itself. In February who could have believed it contained all this? Sometimes we write off people as having no possibilities. But every human being is a wellspring of possibilities and if they are not visible yet all that means is that for them Spring hasn't come yet.

## **PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

When asked "Where do you live?" Jesus answered "Come and See". What an invitation and they came and saw.

Jn 1:39.

God of all the nations, we thank you for those missionaries who still take your Gospel to the ends of the earth. We pray for them today. As strangers in far off places they bring their skills and talents, and traditions, but their greatest gift is their faith, the treasure of their faith. May the Gospel of Christ, which moulded and shaped them keep them strong and healthy in your service. Any may you continue to shape our lives today. Bless us with more men and women who will follow in their footsteps. May we all hear your call "Come and See" Amen.

## **SEVENTH WEEK OF EASTER: Cycle 2 (B)**

### **Sunday 12 May**

8.45am Mass  
10.15am Mass  
2pm Mass in Polish  
6.30pm Mass

**7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
(Theresa Harrold, RIP)  
(Simonini & Aldrovandi family intentions)  
(*Special intention*)

### **Monday 13 May**

8.30am Rosary  
9.00am Mass

(*Special intention*)

### **Tuesday 14 May**

**St Matthias**  
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 15 May**

6.30pm Rosary  
7.00pm Mass

(Celia Jones & Celia Edwards, RIP)

### **Thursday 16 May**

9.00am Rosary  
9.30am Mass

(*Special intention*)

### **Friday 17 May**

6.30pm Rosary  
7.00pm Mass

(*Special intention*)

### **Saturday 18 May**

11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
11-11.30am Confessions  
12pm Mass

(*Special intention*)

## **MONTH OF MAY**

The month of May is traditionally known as 'Mary's Month'. Why not join other parishioners before the weekday Masses to pray the Rosary together?

## SECOND COLLECTION THIS SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MAY

The second collection this Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May is for the *Catholic Communications Network*. There are no gift aid envelopes for this collection, but please contribute using the red boxes at the end of Mass or the electronic card payment system at the back of the church or the online link on the *News* page of our parish website. Thank you.

## ARE YOU IN NEED, OR WANT TO HELP OTHERS?

For nearly two centuries the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) has been seeking and finding those in need and responding in love. 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. If you are in need or know someone who is, do contact our parish SVP group via the parish office and we will see what we can do to help. Equally, if you would like to get involved in any way, please do contact us.

## ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL VACANCY

We are looking to welcome a KS1 Teacher (Permanent) – (part time or job share considered) who is supportive of our school mission and Catholic ethos, to join our happy, motivated children. Please visit the School Website <https://st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk/> for further details of all the vacancies. Closing date: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 12.00 noon.

## CONFIRMATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Please remember in your prayers the young people from our parish who received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral yesterday. Please also pray for the children who will be making their First Holy Communion on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May and pray for their families as well.

## ABINGDON PASSION PLAY

This will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> June in the Abbey Gardens. There will be two performances: 12 noon & 5 pm. Want to get involved? We are still looking for the following: stewards, actors (to play temple guards, soldiers and crowd) and general helpers on the day. For more information, please see the website, [www.abingdonpassionplay.co.uk](http://www.abingdonpassionplay.co.uk) or contact Ralph on 07790 498718 or Anne Green 01235 520171 or [annegreenabingdon@yahoo.com](mailto:annegreenabingdon@yahoo.com)

## HOSTS NEEDED IN JUNE

A number of people from churches in Abingdon's twin town of Sint Niklaas in Belgium and possibly Argentan in France will be coming for the weekend of Abingdon's Passion Play. Hosts are needed for their stay from Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> to Mon 24<sup>th</sup> June. There is a full programme arranged. For further details and/or offers to host please contact Anne Dodd 07938526762 or Pat Warren 07526033715

## 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.
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am *in term time*.
- **Friday:** Festive evening for new and current parishioners, at 7pm in the parish centre.

## FUTURE DATES

- **Wed 12<sup>th</sup> June:** Parish lunch in the parish centre at 12.30pm.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> June:** Parish pilgrimage to Malta & Gozo. Please keep the group in your prayers, as you will be in our prayers.

## PAX CHRISTI

Copies of the Annual Report 2023 - 24 are on the table at the back of church. Please help yourself to a copy. Pax Christi is the International Catholic Movement for Peace.

## TAIZÉ PRAYER

You are invited to St Helen's Church in Abingdon to join in Taizé prayer at 5.30pm on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 9<sup>th</sup> June and 14<sup>th</sup> July.

## THE GREAT FEAST

Next Sunday at Pentecost, 50 days after Easter, we celebrate the Advocate Christ promised. The Holy Spirit, who hovered over the chaos at the world's creation, who spoke through the prophets, who overshadowed the works of the Blessed Virgin and who filled and animated the Heart of Christ. At Pentecost that same Spirit descends on our Lady and the apostles to begin the recreation of the world and initiate the life and Mission of the Church. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you. Receive the Holy Spirit. We pray for the wind, the water, the fire the balm of the Holy Spirit.

## CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS

Everyone is welcome to a talk and discussion on *Christians and Muslims in a Fractured World* on Wed 15<sup>th</sup> May at St Nicholas' Church in the Market Square at 7.30pm. It is led by Dr Richard McCallum, Director of the Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies in Oxford and is organised by the Friends of St Helen's Church.

## DON BOSCO BOYS' CAMP

Sun 28<sup>th</sup> July to Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> August for boys of secondary school age (leaving Yr6 to leaving Yr11) at St. Cassian's, Kintbury. There will be plenty of sport, outings, competitions, and games to ensure that boys will have a fantastic week. For more information please email: [dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)