

Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon
1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL

Parish Priest:	Fr. Jamie McGrath	Tel: 01235 520375
Assistant Priest:	Fr. Rob Stewart	Tel: 01235 520375
Parish Secretary:	Lisa Paterson	Tel: 01235 520375
Office Hours:	9am-12pm Monday to Friday	
Office Email:	abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk	
Youth Worker:	Melanie Parris-Dollar E: tipayouth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Tel. 07470 094818	
Safeguarding Team:	Tel. 07572 935 230	
Visits at JR Hospital:	Fr Pius 01865 221732	
Visits and Help:	Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office	
Parish Blog:	www.stedmundabingdon.blogspot.co.uk	
Parish Website:	access via www.thamesis.org.uk	
Primary School:	St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558	
Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871	www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk	

Confessions: Saturday, 11:00 -11.30am Sunday Mass Times: 8.45 am, 10.15 am, 6.30pm

Parish Life

Our Parishes Future. Many thanks for your attention in hearing about the Diocesan wide fundraising campaign being conducted in parishes. And thanks to those of you who have already returned Standing Orders. If you've been away the past few weeks please collect one of the white envelopes on the table giving more info about how to get involved. Please post the sealed envelope at the Presbytery Thank You.

Celebrating the Season of Advent – Arts & Faith Advent

We invite you to an Advent course featuring Ignatian Spirituality that will deepen your understanding of Sacred Scriptures and your experience of the Advent season this year with Arts & Faith: Advent. This course brings to life a new way of celebrating Advent and understanding the season on a more personal level. It continues, Mon 4th, 11th & 18th Dec 7-8pm in the parish centre. All are welcome. For further information contact Fr Rob.

Prayer Ministry TODAY. We invite you to come up after the 10:15am Mass for prayer with members of St Edmund's Prayer Ministry team. Give your hurts and burdens to Jesus, He cares for you.

ADVENT BREAD & SOUP LUNCH The first of these will be on Fri 8th Dec from 12am to 2pm at 67 Virginia Way, South Abingdon, off Drayton Rd. Further information from Anne Dodd 525997. Everyone welcome especially any new(ish) parishioners.

ALTAR SERVERS there will be a practice for all Altar Servers on Sat 9th December at 9.55am. If you are unable to attend please speak to Fr. Rob.

Christmas lunch for Seniors NEXT SUNDAY 10th December in the Parish Centre, 12.30 for 1pm. Volunteers to cook and help on the day are welcome. If dining or helping, please put your name on the list at the back of church or phone 534873 or 203103. Raffle prizes welcome.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 3 December

8.45am	Mass	Maurice Daly Intentions
10.15am	Mass	Deceased Benefactors of the Parish
6.30pm	Mass	Gayle Belcher RIP

Monday 4 December St John Damascene

8.30am	Rosary	
9am	Mass	Donald Macfarlane RIP

Tuesday 5 December

8.30am	Rosary	
9am	Mass	Nuala O'Shea RIP

Wednesday 6 December St Nicholas

11am	Funeral Mass	
6.30pm	Rosary	
7pm	Mass	In Thanksgiving

Thursday 7 December St Ambrose

NO Mass see www.thamesis.org.uk for other masses

Friday 8 December THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

6.30pm	Rosary	
7pm	Mass	Eithne Naughton Intentions

Saturday 9 December

11am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
11-11.30am	Confessions	
12 noon	Mass	

TO ALL CHURCH CLEANERS. I would appreciate it if ALL church cleaners would email me so that I can update my email address book. Thank you Mary. My email address is mary.j.kelly@outlook.com

Advent: Is anyone interested in meeting with a group seeking to explore more deeply the mystery of Advent? If so, contact Tessa Sheaf (parish office).

Calling all Guadalupanos and Guadalupanas! Come and join us to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Tuesday 12th December from 12:30-2pm in the Parish Centre. We'll have lunch together (Bring and share) and then watch a short film (approx. 60 mins) on the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico, its message and impact throughout the American continent and the world.

Christmas Trees. We need help to erect our church Christmas trees. Can you help on Fri 15th Dec at 10.30am? Please contact Jo Milham (parish office). Many thanks.

Mary's Meals DOUBLE THE LOVE: £13.90 will feed one child for a year and if you donate before 31st Dec 2017 that will be doubled feeding 2 children. Marysmeals.org.uk Mary's meals will be here at St Edmund's during the 8.45 mass on Sun 17th December. Your donated clothes and bedding (no duvets or pillows) can be left at the parish Centre on Sat 16th. Time to be confirmed. Thank you.

Parish Lent Project 2018

Looking ahead to the Lent Project 2018, do you wish to propose a charity? While thinking this Advent and Christmas season about those who are less fortunate than we are, please think about whom you would like the parish to help through our next Lent Project and send your proposal to the Parish Council, via the parish office by Wed 4th January 2018. Many thanks.

Faith Development

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit catholicnews.org.uk or search 'Catholic Education' to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools. **Bishop Philip.**

Abingdon Scouts & Guides Christmas Post - A

Christmas postal service run by the Scouts & Guides for delivery in Abingdon, Radley & Shippon only. Guaranteed delivery by Christmas Eve. Costs 25p per card and these may be deposited in the box at the back of the church. Collections until 18th Dec. All proceeds to Scout & Guide funds. Thank you for your support.

Vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception is on Thurs 7th Dec. Please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed, and it really does save lives. For info on the days of Prayer and Fasting www.GoodCounselNetwork.com'

Parish Events for the Week

TODAY Refreshments after 10.15am Mass
Confirmation Class 3.30-5pm

Tuesday RCIA Session (11) 7.30pm

Wednesday Cake & Conversation 9.30-11am

Thursday Scripture Group 10am

Friday Baby & Toddler Group 9.30-11.15am
SVP meeting 7.30pm

N.B. All take place in the Parish Centre unless specified

Future Diary Dates

10th December Christmas Lunch, 12.30 for 1pm
12th December Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Lunch & Video 12:30-2pm in the Parish Centre

Youth Events

Further info please contact Melanie Parris- Dollar tipayouth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

CAFOD World Gifts are a fun and meaningful way to give gifts to the people you love, and make a difference to some of the poorest communities around the world at the same time. Each gift comes with a Christmas gift card and you can choose to send a goat, build a business or help a refugee child. You can order gifts online at cafod.org.uk/world_gifts or call 0808 1400014.

School News

St. Edmund's Primary School Christmas Fayre Sat 9th Dec 11.30am-2pm. Raffle tickets will be sold outside church after each mass TODAY.

St Edmunds Primary School is looking for a Foundation Governor to complete its Governing Body. Foundation Governors must be practising Catholics as they play a vital role in ensuring the Catholic ethos of our school. Please speak to one of the current governors after mass or Father Jamie if you feel you could help in this way.

Money Matters: 26th November 2017
Envelopes £420.35 Loose Plate £669.28 Many thanks

Counters: E. Midwinter, J. Ryan
Cleaners: Michelle Anne