

**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**

**Christmas lunch for Seniors TODAY** in the Parish Centre, 12.30 for 1pm. Raffle prizes welcome.

**Parish Office** will be closed **TOMORROW**.

**Christian Focus:** this winter edition is now available at the back of the church. The lead article is about our parish's Live Simply initiative.

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

**Marys Meals.** Only one week to go SATURDAY 16th Dec is the drop off day for your recycled contributions to MARYS MEALS, CLOTHING – TOWELS – CURTAINS – BEDDING – (no pillows or duvets) – BLANKETS – HANDBAGS – SHOES – BELTS-. Please leave tied black sacks in the parish centre on Saturday 16th between 10am – 4pm. The van will arrive during the 1st mass on Sunday at 8.45am but will be gone by 9.30. No bags can be left after that time on the Sunday. £13.90 will feed a child one meal a day for a whole year and any financial contribution made will be doubled up to the end of December you can donate at :Marysmeals.org or in the collecting mugs at the back of church next week. Marys meals is a no frills charity spending 93p in every £1 received, on its charitable activities with only 6p spent on fundraising and 1p on Governance. Most importantly we really need your prayers for the success of this project again this year. Thank you.

**Whole Parish Water Gift** - As announced last week the Parish, in the spirit of LiveSimply, is aiming to raise, in Advent, £750 to provide clean, safe water to those in need through CAFOD World Gifts. For details see the WorldGift Catalogue The collecting box will be at the back of the church for the next two weeks. Please be as generous as possible. Watch the contribution thermometer rise at the back of the Church as we aim for our target.

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Sunday 10 December**

8.45am	Mass	Rose & Derek Andrews RIP
10.15am	Mass	David Anthony Bland RIP
6.30pm	Mass	Charles Parry RIP

**Monday 11 December St Damasus I**

8.30am	Rosary
9am	Mass

**Tuesday 12 December Our Lady of Guadalupe**

8.30am	Rosary
9am	Mass

**Wednesday 13 December St Lucy**

6.30pm	Rosary	
7pm	Mass	Rose O'Brien RIP

**Thursday 14 December St John of the Cross**

9am	Rosary
9.30am	Mass

**Friday 15 December**

6.30pm	Rosary	
7pm	Mass	Hannah Gratian RIP

**Saturday 16 December**

11am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
11-11.30am	Confessions	
12 noon	Mass	Anthony & Sean Doody Intentions

**ADVENT BREAD & SOUP LUNCH** If you are able to host a simple lunch in aid of the Parish Advent Water Gift please contact the Parish Office. Thankyou

**Cake & Conversation** The last session before the Christmas break will be on Wed 13th Dec in the Parish Centre from 9.30 to 11am. We will start again on Wed 3rd Jan. Everyone whose first language isn't English is warmly welcome to this friendly, informal weekly session.

**All welcome** to come and sing and join in at the Christian Aid Christmas Carols with silver band in Abingdon Market Place on the 15th December at 10 am.

**Abingdon Scouts & Guides Christmas Post** 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.  
**Safeguarding Training** Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Jan Parish Centre.  
**Creating a Safe Environment Training – 10am–12.30pm.** The policies and procedures we employ, and the values that underpin them, demonstrate the Catholic Church's commitment to safeguarding. The Safeguarding Commission has decided that it is important that this training be delivered to parish priests alongside group leaders and others involved with the running of group activities in the parish. **Refresher Training – 1.30pm – 4.00pm.** SG Refresher Training is for volunteers who haven't attended a SG training session since 2015 or before. You can get information from your group leader or from Anne Green (parish office).

**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 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Many thanks.

**Faith Development**

**Have you signed up for Bishop Philip's weekly e-News?** Bishop Philip invites you to sign up for his FREE weekly e-Newsletter to keep in touch with the latest news and forthcoming events around the diocese. Visit [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews) to sign up.

Anthea at **Stonehill House** is pleased to make a special offer to our Church of 5 free tickets to anyone interested in attending the following day of illustrated talks at Stonehill, near Drayton.....  
**'Sacred & Folk Traditions of Russia** - Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Dec, 11am-5pm. Cultural historian, Dr. Rosamund Bartlett will unearth some of the connections between folk myth and Christian feast days, and the traditions that continued, underground, through the Soviet era. Part of the day will be devoted to the ways in which Christmas has traditionally been celebrated in the Orthodox Church, beginning with the forty-day fast leading up to the special meal eaten on Sochelnik (Christmas Eve), and ending with the ritual of the Blessing of the Water on the Feast of Epiphany (Kreshchenie)'. Anyone wishing to take up this offer should contact Anthea directly on [anthea@antrus.co.uk](mailto:anthea@antrus.co.uk)

**Parish Events for the Week**

**TODAY** Refreshments after 10.15am Mass  
 Parish Christmas Lunch, 12.30 for 1pm

**Tuesday** Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Lunch & Video 12:30-2pm  
 RCIA Session (11) 7.30pm

**Wednesday** Cake & Conversation 9.30-11am

**Thursday** Scripture Group 10am

**Friday** Baby & Toddler Group 9.30-11.15am

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

**Future Diary Dates**

**21<sup>st</sup> Dec** Penitential Service 7pm Church  
**20<sup>th</sup> Jan** Safeguarding Training, Parish Centre

**Youth Events**

*Further info please contact Melanie Parris- Dollar [tipayouth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tipayouth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)*

**Portsmouth Diocese** is sending a group of 18-30s to World Youth Day, Panama in January 2019 (21st-27th). Anyone who would like to go should express their interest by emailing [youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) no later than 15th January. The cost is in the region of £1800, and support will be given for seeking sponsorship and fundraising.

**School News**

**The winning numbers of the November draw of the Governors' 100+ Club were:**  
 1st Prize (£30) – Number 31 Mary Mulqueen  
 2nd Prize (£20) – Number 34 Anna McGarrick  
 3rd Prize (£10) – Number 30 Guy Rogers

**Vacancy**

**AdventurePlus**, the Oxfordshire Adventure Youthwork charity, is about to commence development of a brand new AdventureBase. We are looking for the right person to help us coordinate this development process. You may be recently retired with a background in architecture, building development or QS and wanting to help a local Christian charity with your skills and expertise. Could you help us bring the AdventureBase Vision to reality? Contact [Jon@adventureplus.org.uk](mailto:Jon@adventureplus.org.uk) for more details We'd love to hear from you!

**Money Matters:** 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017  
 Envelopes £364.74 Loose Plate £1386.65 Many thanks

**Counters:** B. & D. Kearney, M. Pike  
**Cleaners:** M. Kelly, M. Sheaf