

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
We live stream most services (the 10.15am Mass on the first Sunday of every month is not live streamed).
 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 Website: www.ourladyandstedmund.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: 11.00 – 11.30am or by appointment

Parish Life

Christmas Parish lunch. We wish to thank everyone that attended last Sunday. It was great to see how many attended and lovely to see some new faces. We also wish to thank all who helped on the day, donated the food and cooked it in their homes. Thanks to all who gave raffle prizes. Thanks also to Pat Mulqueen and his group who entertained us with music and song. Hope you all enjoyed the afternoon.

Parish Carol Service TODAY at 4pm followed by mince pies and mulled wine the Parish Centre. All Welcome. Come and make a singing start to your Christmas festivities.

Thank you to all those who attended the 6.30pm Mass last Sunday and co-operated in the fire drill. We will carry out another drill, during a morning Mass in the new year.

Thank you from the SVP for your generosity in the Cash4Coins collection. You gave foreign money worth £238.27 and also £290.00 in British money, a total of £528.27. This will be split between the SVP's work nationally and the parish SVP group's support of those in need locally.

FOLLOW ADVENT THROUGH OUR WEBSITE

- Daily reflections for adults on the Advent calendar in the 'What's On' section.
- Daily reflections, information and activities for young people in the 'Youth' section.
- Further reflections in the Blog on the 'News' section.

HELP REQUIRED PLEASE: CHARISMAS TREES IN CHURCH Your help would be much appreciated with setting up our Christmas trees in the sanctuary, as part of our preparations for Christmas. Could you be available on Wednesday 19th December at 10.30 if so Please contact Jo Milham (parish office).

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 16 December

8.45am	Mass	Marian Schmatz RIP
10.15am	Mass	Mike Moriarty RIP
4pm	Carol Service	
6.30pm	Mass	Gayle Belcher RIP

Monday 17 December

8.30am	Rosary	
9am	Mass	Mrs De Bono RIP

Tuesday 18 December

8.30am	Rosary	
9am	Mass	Lupita Wilson RIP

Wednesday 19 December

9am	Mass	
7pm	Advent Penitential Service	

Thursday 20 December

9am	Rosary	
9.30am	Mass	Simon Sayce RIP

Friday 21 December

6.30pm	Rosary	
7pm	Mass	Ann Watts RIP

Saturday 22 December

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

No evening Mass this coming Wednesday due to our Advent Penitential Service.

Christian Aid - there will be Carol singing at the Farmers Market in the Market Place Abingdon on Friday 21st December between 10am and 11.30am. All are welcome to come and join in!

Baby and Toddler group reopens after our Christmas break on Friday, 11th January 2019 in our parish centre in Oxford road at 9.30am.

Advent Collection for the Homeless This Advent we are collecting the following items for the homeless in Oxford SHAMPOO, TOOTHPASTE, SOAP, NEW SOCKS The items will be delivered weekly to a hostel for the homeless in Oxford. There is a box for your donations at the back of the Church. With Grateful Thanks.

Parish Lent Project 2019 Looking ahead to the Lent Project 2019, 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, through the parish office by Friday 4th January 2019. Many thanks.

Faith Development

Emmaus Oxford Emmaus Oxford is open every day of the year, and Christmas day is no exception. We give homeless people a place to live, meaningful work and a purpose. As our Companion Terry told us, "Emmaus is there for everyone, every day of the year". You can help us to make Christmas a happier time for homeless people by donating at www.emmaus.org.uk/oxford

OBERRAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY 2020 & CHURCH TWINNING Schongau, Bavaria, twinned with Abingdon, has invited 12 Christians to stay for a long weekend with them, during which we attend the famous Passion Play. They offer 2 dates of Thurs 9th – Mon 13th July OR Thurs 16th – Mon 20th July 2020. Our whole party must go on one date. The Play takes place on the Friday. We plan to book a 2-day stay (Fri - Sat) in/near Oberammergau (1 night of B&B & ticket). Accommodation, lunch and ticket costs range from 308€ to 513€ pp depending upon category/seats and has to be paid on booking. We are hosted and entertained by Schongau families on the other days. We make our own travel plans between the UK and Schongau (fly to Munich). Go to www.passionsspiele-oberammergau.de/en/home. If you are interested in participating please contact Anne or Angela (parish office) as soon as possible.

Abingdon Passion Play Following the very enjoyable and successful New Year's Eve Party in 2015; now, three years on, the event will be repeated this year on December 31st at Trinity Church Hall (Conduit Rd, Abingdon) 8:30pm to 1:00am to raise funds for the Abingdon Passion Play that will take place on the 6th April 2019 in the Abbey Grounds. The Party, offering a 3 Course Meal + Celebratory Drink, Entertainment and Dancing all for £20 per person. Tickets, available from Anne Green (parish office), The Bookshop in the Precinct Abingdon, or on-line at www.abingdonpassionplay.org.uk, must be purchased in advance.

Parish Events for the Week

TODAY Refreshments after 10.15am Mass

Friday SVP meeting 7.30pm

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

Future Diary Dates

24th, 25th, 26th, 31st Dec and 1st Jan Parish Office closed

Youth Events

Everyone (no age limit) can join us at 16:00 at Freedog in Swindon for an afternoon of trampolining fun!

Parents will need to bring their children to the venue and stay with them. Tickets for the session can be booked online or bought on the day (booking online is better to ensure they have a place). For more information and book tickets and jump socks go to <https://freedog.com/swindon/> Looking forward to seeing you there
More info: tipayouth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Association of Christian Counsellors Annual Conference: Embodied Hope.

If you are a student or qualified counsellor or working pastorally with people (including in spiritual direction or supervision roles), then this conference will offer a rich programme covering a mix of psychological, spiritual and Christian perspectives on a wide variety of different topics relevant to counselling and pastoral care. You will also find opportunities for personal development and restoration, creative practices and worship. The conference programme is split into the following streams - and it is possible to mix and match over the four days from 8 to 11 February 2019: Counselling Practice Skills & Knowledge; Hope, Faith & Spirituality; Body Work Psychotherapy; Working with diversity: LGBT+; Pastoral Care; Self-Development, Retreat & Restoration. For further information and to book, go to www.acc-uk.org.

School News

Governors' Fund 100+ Club The winning numbers were:

1st Prize (£30) – Number 90 Errol Midwinter
 2nd Prize (£20) – Number 27 Leila Brown
 3rd Prize (£10) – Number 56 Carole Sawyers

Money Matters: 9th December 2018
 Envelopes: £377.60 Loose Plate £577.60 Many thanks

Counters: A. & C. Lardner-Brown, N. Cairns
Cleaners: J. Ryan, M. Haddock